

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## ISLANDERS SAY GOODBYE TO 114-YEAR-OLD CI LANDMARK

By KAREN NANI



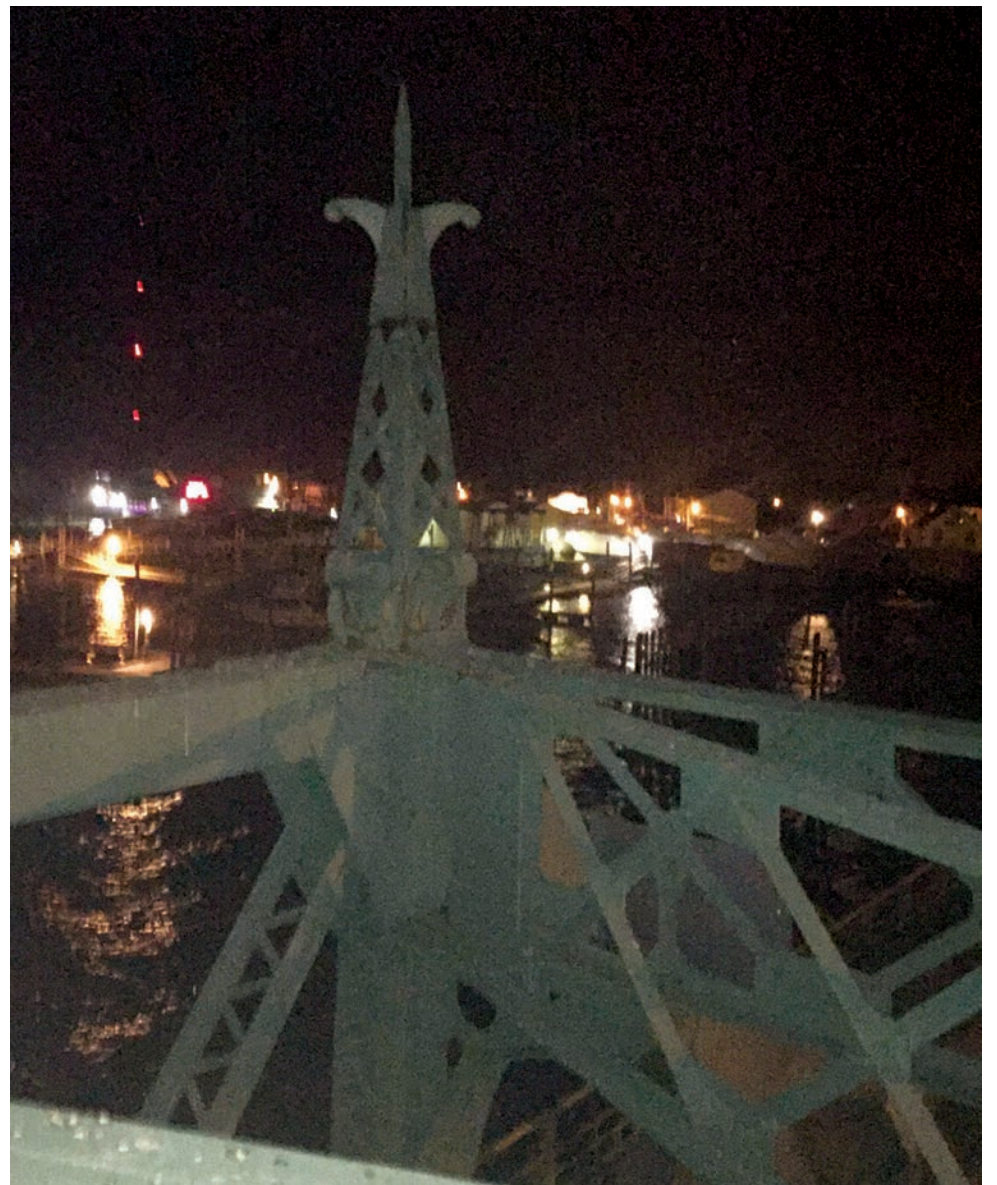
Photos by RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg held a ceremony officially closing the original City Island bridge on Dec. 18, 2015 (top photo), and then led elected officials, Civic Association board members, and Island residents for one last walk over the 114-year-old structure (bottom photo). Chamber of Commerce president Skip Giacco drove the City Island trolley over the bridge one last time (middle photo), while young Islanders re-created the “bridge climbs” popularized in the 1960s and 1970s before demolition began in January 2016.

“You are cordially invited to join the New York City Department of Transportation for a ‘Final Ride’ over the City Island Bridge on Friday, Dec. 18, 2015.” The invitation many Islanders had been dreading fi-

nally arrived, and it was time for residents to bid farewell to the structure that symbolized City Island for over a century.

Representatives from DOT, led by Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, gathered with



electd officials and workers from the contractor, Tutor Perini, near the Legion triangle at 3 p.m. for a brief ceremony and the final public trip over the bridge.

About 100 Islanders and visitors attended the ceremony with mixed feelings of nostalgia, sadness and resignation. Jackie Kyle Kall brought a photo of herself sitting on the bridge in 1942 and said “I will miss the old friend, but what can we do? We need a new bridge.”

Like many in attendance, Ann-Marie Goonan took lots of photos to commemorate her last walk over the bridge. She told *The Current*, “For 114 years, this bridge has symbolized home to thousands of clam diggers and mussel suckers. Those of us lucky enough to call City Island home would see the green archway while crossing and instantly feel home. Tonight I drove home one last time, and I was so sad knowing tomorrow would bring the new bridge.”

Commissioner Trottenberg acknowledged that the moment was “bittersweet” for the City Island community. “It’s time to retire the iconic, 114-year-old beautiful bridge. Beginning in 2017, a new bridge in keeping with City Island will be opened.” She recognized the efforts of the City Island Civic Association, especially Barbara Dolensek, for leading the charge to revise the original design of bridge so that it was more compatible with our nautical community than the huge cable-stayed bridge proposed by the Bloomberg administration.

The commissioner introduced other elected officials who had helped make sure that the community’s voice was heard throughout the process. Indeed, she noted that this was one of the first issues to get her attention even before she became commissioner in late January 2014, when an e-mail

from Councilmember Jimmy Vacca reached her desk.

State Senator Jeff Klein, who enabled the Civic Association to bring a lawsuit that delayed the construction project until after Mayor de Blasio took office, thanked DOT for disproving the notion that “you can’t fight City Hall. . . . While we have to bid a fond farewell to the City Island Bridge, Commissioner Trottenberg listened and acted on the community’s concerns her first day on the job!”

Senator Klein also helped alleviate the disruption caused by the opening of the temporary bridge by convincing DOT to reverse its original plan to block the left turn immediately over the bridge and force motorists going to the north end of the Island to make a left at the first light at Cross Street. “I called DOT and described the inconvenience this plan was going to cause north end residents and restaurant-goers, as well as causing congestion at the first light,” he told *The Current*.

DOT agreed with Senator Klein, and drivers can once again make a left turn immediately over the bridge. As resident Jon Paradiso told *The Current*, “the north end of City Island has two popular restaurants and a church, which increases the volume on certain days and at certain times. Residents and emergency vehicles would likely have had a harder time turning left onto Cross Street from City Island Avenue because traffic has built up at the traffic signal coming from the opposite direction.”

Meanwhile, residents remain wary of the temporary bridge, which had been scheduled to open at 1 a.m. in the morning of Dec. 18 but did not in fact open until 10 a.m. After the collapse of a section of the temporary bridge

*Continued on page 7*

# BRIEFLY...

**LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION:** Register for the 2016 season at the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 13, 20 or 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and on Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. T-Ball: \$65 per child. Minors and majors: \$140 per child. Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. Those who sign up after Feb. 27 will be charged a \$25 late fee.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER:** On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

**LEGION ESSAY CONTEST:** The Americanism essay contest encourages all eighth-grade residents of City Island to express in 500 words their understanding and appreciation of our veterans, our freedoms and our flag. This year's topic is the three aspects of Americanism: what freedom means to you; what you know about flag etiquette and what is the importance of our enlisted men and women. Deadline for the essay will be May 31, 2016. All essays should be mailed to the attention of Anne McIntyre at Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx NY 10464.

**P.S. 175 NEEDS YOUR HELP!** When the walls were built on the second floor to create the library, they did not receive funding for books, so the school has started a campaign to raise money for the cause. Please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/PS175CityIsland>. and show your support by making a donation. And share this campaign with friends and family on Facebook and Twitter.

**"THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK"** will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on the first two weekends in March: Friday and Saturday, March 4, 5, 11, and 12, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 6 and 13 at 3 p.m. After the last performance of the play, written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and adapted by Wendy Kesselman, the audience is invited to join a discussion group on the relevance of Anne Frank then and now, led by Rabbi David Markus of Temple Beth-El on City Island and Donna Torres, a public school English teacher who specializes in Holocaust literature. There will be a champagne reception for members of the audience and cast after the opening night production on Friday, March 4. All performances will be at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. For tickets call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Tickets may also be purchased on line at [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

# 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2015 and January 2016. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – BURGLARY

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Dec. 1, 2015, to Jan. 19, 2016.

12/2 – At 4 p.m., employees were opening a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue when they found that the front windows had been broken in an act of criminal mischief.

12/11 – An off-Island female reported an incident of criminal mischief at 9:15 p.m. She had valet parked her vehicle at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue and returned to find items missing from inside the vehicle.

12/15 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 25, on City Island Avenue and charged him with robbery at 1:35 a.m. The defendant allegedly entered a commercial establishment and reached behind the counter to remove items forcibly. An employee approached him and was knocked to the ground and kicked. The de-

fendant fled the scene, but was later arrested.

12/23 – On City Island Avenue at 11:20 p.m., a male resident reported an act of grand larceny auto when he discovered his parked vehicle was missing without his permission. Police recovered the vehicle on Jan. 6, 2016.

12/28 – Police are investigating a residential burglary that was reported on City Island Avenue at 7 a.m. Unknown person(s) entered an apartment through the side window and removed two television sets. The window frame was also damaged.

12/31 – At 8:40 p.m. on New Year's Eve, an Island female was the victim of an assault on City Island Avenue. The victim reported being struck in the face by another female, which caused pain and swelling.

1/1 – On Cross Street, an off-Island male was assaulted at 5 a.m. The victim told police that he was outside a commercial establishment having a cigarette with friends when he was punched in the face numerous times by another male. The victim fell, injured his arm and was taken to Jacobi Hospital for treatment.

1/8 – A female resident of Terrace Street reported an act of grand larceny at 8 a.m. Another female was assisting the victim with her personal finances when she discovered suspicious activity involving the victim's checking account.

1/16 – A burglary was reported at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 3 a.m. Employees were opening the business when they discovered the front lock broken and the ATM machine pried open.

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# A Bridge to the New Year: A Recap of 2015

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT, ANN-MARIE GOONAN, MATTIA PANZA and KAREN NANI

Highlights from 2015 included the bitter cold and snowy start to the year, which delayed construction of the temporary bridge until its opening on Dec. 18 (top photo); the merger of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church with Our Lady of Assumption and the arrival of a new pastor in September (second and third photos); the passing of Islanders Janet Hickey and Arthur "Ducky" Rauhauser (bottom right photos); the 50th anniversary of Eleanor and Joe Goonan (bottom photo, above right); and the possible closing of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club following damage from Hurricane Sandy (top right photo).

The year 2015 began with one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent history but ended with the warmest December on record (72 degrees on Christmas Eve)! While the weather was one of the main topics all over New York, City Island had its own unique events that will go down in clam digger history.

With mixed feelings of nostalgia, sadness and resignation, Islanders said goodbye to the City Island Bridge on Dec. 18,

2015. DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg gathered with the board of the Civic Association and many Islanders near the Legion triangle for the closing ceremony and the opening of the temporary bridge, which took nearly 18 months to build and was hampered by delays and "design flaws."

Islanders remained wary of the temporary bridge following the collapse of a section near the Park side on Sept. 21, 2015. The curved section collapsed under the weight of trucks spreading asphalt on the roadway. At several Civic Association meetings, City Islanders registered their concerns about the stability of the bridge, which will be the only means of access to the Island for at least two years as the existing bridge is demolished and the new bridge constructed.

In the winning column, City Island captured the "Curbed Cup," a competition sponsored by the real estate website *Curbed.com*. According to the website, "the Curbed Cup, our annual award for the New York City neighborhood of the year, kicked off with 16 areas vying for the prestigious (fake) trophy. City Island pushed its way into the Curbed Cup as the number 16 seed by welcoming its first new residential development in 15 years." The development referred to was On the Sound condominiums under construction on Fordham Street on the site of the former International Un-

derwater Contractors.

Other ground-breaking ceremonies occurred in April, when the Department of City Planning began an improvement project on Belden Point at the southern tip of City Island, and in May when the new steps to the City Island Nautical Museum were installed. Both projects were complete by the end of the year, although the Nautical Museum gate still needs to be installed.

As they have done in recent years, police and traffic agents from the 45th Precinct did an admirable job preventing jams around City Island during the bridge construction and on subsequent summer weekends. For a few months, there was even a traffic light at the end of City Island Avenue at the foot of the bridge.

A new era began at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church in 2015 when a new priest, Father John Knapp, was named to lead the merged parishes of St. Mary's and Our Lady of Assumption in Pelham Bay. Services continued at the City Island church, but Father Michael Challinor, who led St. Mary's for 10 years, was reassigned to Portchester.

After being closed in 2013, St. Mary's School was once again in use when Holy Rosary temporarily moved its 300 students from Gun Hill Road onto City Island after its building suffered damage during the bitter cold winter. In September, Holy Rosary's universal pre-kindergarten program began in the Minneford Avenue building, which also continues to house religious education classes and St. Mary's basketball program.

On a sad note, tragic accidents claimed the lives of long-time Islander Janet Hickey and Gabriella Aguilar-Vallinos, a well-liked worker at Sammy's Shrimp Box. Janet had undergone successful brain surgery and was being transported to a rehabilitation facility in March when the ambulance carrying her lost control and crashed. Gabriella was the victim of a hit-and-run accident as she was riding home on her bicycle over the City Island Bridge. The driver, Michael Moreno, is facing charges of leaving the scene of an

accident and criminally negligent homicide.

Islanders also bid tearful farewells to many clam diggers and former residents who passed in 2015, including Arthur "Ducky" Rauhauser, George A. Chadwick, "Smitty" Schmidt, "Trader John" Persteins, Dr. Harold Osborn, Dr. Oliver Sacks, Bob McPherson, Joyce Cronk Brafford, Rocco Nicoletti and Mark Whitcombe. In memory of longtime Islander Bill Clancy, who passed away in 2012, Cross Street was given an official overlay as Commander William G. Clancy Way in September 2015.

*The Current* began a new series in 2015 profiling our longest running advertisers who have supported our community newspaper for over 20 years, including Crab Shanty Restaurant, Cormac McEnery Law, Island Insurance, and Ed Heben, CPA.

Cheers could be heard in St. Mary's gym as three out of four of their basketball teams advanced to the A Division Catholic Youth Organization playoffs in 2015. And many happy toasts were given at the 50th anniversary celebrations for Islanders Eleanor and Joe Goonan and Mary and Charlie Carman, as well as the 70th anniversary celebration for Frank and Mary Trigani. Applause also radiated from Grace Church parish hall for the City Island Theater Group, whose last show of its 15th year, "Plaza Suite," drew rave reviews and large crowds.

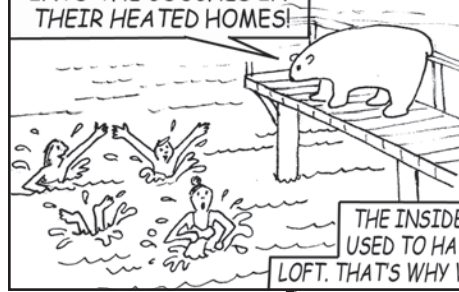

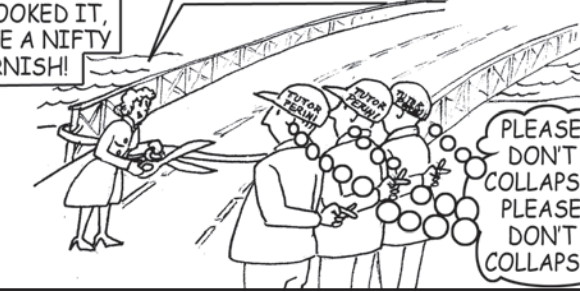

The year ended with the threat of another closure as the board of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club announced that the club was up for sale. The historic 115-year old yacht club, located at the end of Centre Street, has been in dire financial straits since Hurricane Sandy, which inflicted damage on its clubhouse, docks and seawall. As 2015 came to a close, an offer from the New York City Parks Department was being considered, which would convert the site to a NYC Parks Marina, as well as an offer from a neighbor on Centre Street.

*The Island Current* was there to cover all these events and more. We continue to be grateful to you, our readers and our advertisers, whose support will keep *The Current* flowing into 2016, our 45th year!

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<p>6 HARDY SOULS BEAR NEW YEAR'S DAY POLAR PLUNGE ON EARLEY ST.</p>	<p>TOM NYE DELIVERS BOAT BUILDING TALK TO SRO CROWDS AT NAUTICAL MUSEUM</p>	<p>CITY ISLAND'S TEMPORARY BRIDGE OPENED ON DECEMBER 18. CONCERNS LINGER.</p>	<p>RECORD-BREAKING SNOWFALL FOR FIRST STORM OF THE NEW YEAR</p>
<p>CRAZY PEOPLE! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO DIVE INTO THE COUCHES IN THEIR HEATED HOMES!</p> 	<p>SHIPBUILDING ON CITY ISLAND...</p>  <p>AND WHEN WE OVERCOOKED IT, IT MADE A NIFTY VARNISH!</p> <p>THE INSIDE STORY IS THAT WE USED TO HAVE A STILL UP IN THE LOFT. THAT'S WHY WE HAD SUCH A HAPPY CREW!</p>	<p>I OFFICIALLY DECLARE THIS TEMPORARY BRIDGE OPEN!</p>  <p>PLEASE DON'T COLLAPSE. PLEASE DON'T COLLAPSE!</p>	<p>THIS IS NOT SO BAD. WHEN I WAS A BOY ON CITY ISLAND, IT WAS NORMAL FOR THE SNOW TO BE ALL THE WAY UP TO HERE ON ME.</p> 



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

**Temporary Bridge Fears**

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

Dear DOT Press office,

I and most of the other residents of City Island are not worried about the new bridge or the old bridge. The issue is the temporary bridge and whether it can hold up until the new bridge is ready, whenever that will be. Because if it can't, there will be major life-threatening issues to deal with, likely over an extended period of time.

The reasonable fears of most City Island residents have not been adequately addressed by DOT officials and the community's elected representatives, despite today's

ceremonial photos and canned quotes. This bridge, temporary or not, is a lifeline for the 5,000 residents of City Island, not to mention the many thousands more who come to the Island occasionally or regularly for recreation or business. The opening of this new temporary bridge should have been handled with more serious decorum and real answers for the residents, not a press release that seems to regard the bridge and our concerns with the same tone that would be given to a statement about a ribbon cutting for a "tot lot."

**Bill Stuttig**  
City Island resident

**Missing Holiday Spirit**

To the Editor:

I always enjoy seeing all the holiday decorations that City Island businesses, homes and the Garden Club display. It makes the holiday season more festive for our residents and off-Island visitors. I was disappointed that our Chase Bank branch looked void of the holiday decorations that they always had in past years; I missed them.

Season's greetings and Happy New Year to all in 2016.

**Irene Penny**

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# FIRST SNOW OF 2016



Photo by MARK NANI

As *The Current* went to press, City Island was hit with the first major snowstorm of 2016. View of a house on Horton Street early on in the storm.



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN and COURTESY OF TOM NYE

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Tom Nye presented his talk on the boat-building history on City Island at the Nautical Museum for the second time, again to an overflow crowd. Tom is at the right in the photo above. Below it is a picture from the 1930s of workmen overhauling boats in the spring at Nevins Yacht Yard, one of the most famous yards on the Island.

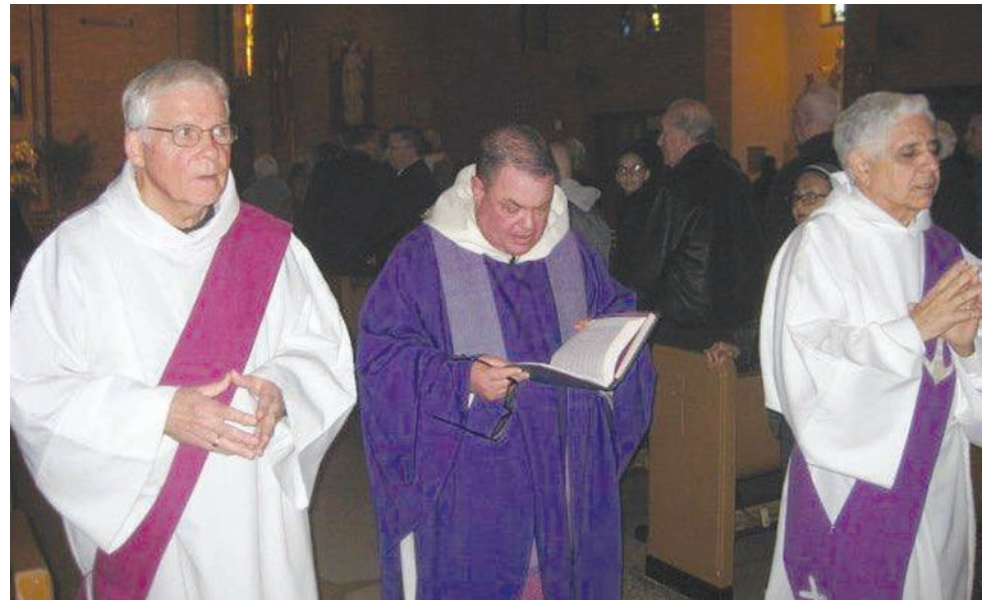
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# Fr. John Knapp Installed as Pastor at St. Mary's

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

After the Mass of Installation, Fr. Knapp (center) proceeded up the aisle accompanied by Deacon John Murphy of OLA (at left) and St. Mary's Deacon Bill Mueller.



Following the Mass a reception was held in the parish hall. Among the attendees from St. Mary's were (l. to r.) Rose Dietz, Angela Mueller, Fr. Knapp and Sr. Bernadette Hanaway.

On Sunday Nov. 29, 2015, Fr. John Knapp was formally installed as pastor of the newly combined parish of Our Lady of the Assumption and City Island's St. Mary, Star of the Sea. The ceremony took place at the noon Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Mahon Avenue where he resides. Choirs from both churches sang at the service, with St. Mary's music director Ken Farnum at the organ.

A letter from Timothy Cardinal Dolan was read at the beginning of the liturgy thanking Fr. Knapp for his 29 years of faithful service and gratitude "for all that you do, and particularly for all that you are: a priest forever, blessed with gifts that enrich the souls of the People of God." Fr. Knapp's six-year term became effective Sept. 1.

Msgr. John Graham, pastor of St. Raymond's Church and East Bronx vicar, led the service accompanied by Fr. Augustus

Onwubiko and Deacon Bill Mueller from St. Mary's. Msgr. Graham characterized Fr. Knapp as "a Bronx boy, which works in his favor, and a hardworking parish priest."

St. Mary's parishioner Teri Kurtz said: "I was very pleased to hear Fr. Knapp speak of St. Mary's and Fr. Augustus and Sr. Bernadette so often at the Mass, and I felt very welcomed by all of the OLA parishioners".

As for the future of both churches, Fr. Knapp said that he doesn't want to rush into anything, but will take the time to select the right people from both churches for a parish council. Early in the new year, Fr. Knapp expects to hold a "town hall" meeting at each church so that there can be "a healthy communication between pastor and parishioners. I want to get the facts straight before I say anything. There needs to be a lot of dialogue if we are going to move forward." He ended by saying "please pray for me and other priests as we take these steps forward."

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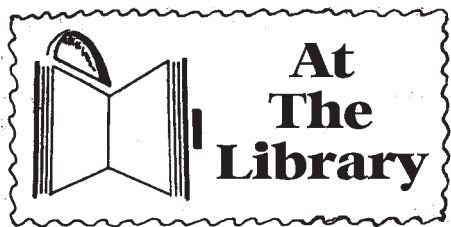


Current activities at **City Island Mixed Martial Arts** (formerly the Dragon's Path Academy) at 229 City Island Avenue, include Body Blast Cardio Kickboxing Monday through Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. and Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. City Island Mixed Martial Arts for children are available Monday through Friday from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. and for teens and adults Monday through Friday from 6 to 7 p.m. Private classes are also available. For more information call 347-945-3172 or visit [cityislandmixedma.com](http://cityislandmixedma.com).

**McClellan Sotheby's International Realty** is pleased to announce that Island resident Annette Triano is joining the firm as a licensed real estate salesperson. Annette and her husband, Jim, moved to City Island from the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania; her background in real estate and construction enables her to offer her clients a unique and broad perspective. She believes that if you can't find the perfect home, you can create it! Annette loves living on the Island and plans to focus her real estate career on listing and selling properties here, but she also plans to expand her real estate career into the nearby communities in Westchester. Annette can be reached on her cell phone at 570-994-4051 or by e-mail at [annettriario@gmail.com](mailto:annettriario@gmail.com) or at the offices of McClellan Sotheby's International Realty (914-738-5150).



Annette Triano



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**Puppet Play Time:** Join Nicola McElDowney and her puppets for a fun-filled (also educational!) session of songs, stories and surprises. Suitable for children ages 0 to 4 with their parent or caregiver. Feb. 10 at 11 a.m.

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

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

Every Friday at 11 a.m.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 1 through 4. Feb. 12 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

**FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**After-School Lounge:** Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Every Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Friday After-School Activities:** 3 p.m. Feb. 5: Agar.io Competition; Feb. 12: Valentine's Day Cards; Feb. 19: Wii and board games.

**Bleach Stamping:** Create a one-of-a-kind t-shirt with the use of two simple items: stamps and bleach! (Shirts must remain overnight to dry.) Presented by Jailin Acevedo. Recommended for ages 12 to 18 years old. Friday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m.

**NEW! Homework Help** every Wednesday, from 3 to 5 p.m. John Konrath will be available to assist students with basic tutoring. There will be two one-hour sessions; each with a limit of four students. Registration required in person.

**FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Afternoon Computer Classes:** These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics and are ready to begin tackling more spe-

cific questions. Every Thursday from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 4: What is Social Media?; Feb. 11: Tune Into YouTube; Feb. 18: Trouble With Tablets; Feb. 25: Using USB flash drives.

**Island Writers' Creative Writing Group.** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out. It's free and special! Meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Computer Q & A:** Tuesday mornings are all about the basics. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I use a mouse?" "How do I get on the Internet?" If you have asked yourself any of these questions, then we can help you! Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** 1 p.m. Feb. 6: "The Walk"; Feb. 13: "Jurassic World"; Feb. 20: "Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation"; Feb. 27: "Self/less."

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



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below, supplied by Janie Blanks, represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
56 Marine Street	10/8/15	\$750,000	1 family
182 Fordham Street	10/8/15	670,000	1 family
504 Minneford Ave.	10/26/15	640,000	1 family
41 Centre Street	10/29/15	575,000	1 family
321-329 City Is. Ave	11/12/15	2,000,000	comm.
68 Tier Street	11/18/15	250,000	1 family
60 Hawkins Street	11/24/15	325,000	1 family
170 Schofield St. 3N	12/01/15	216,000	condo
450 City Is. Ave.	12/8/15	775,000	comm.
626 King Avenue	12/16/15	1,200,000	1 family
187 Fordham St.	12/16/15	324,450	1 family
80 Earley Street	12/22/15	750,000	1 family
23 Schofield Street	12/31/15	199,000	1 family

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Kid's Table Seats 4 \$12

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Photo by KAREN NANI

A postcard created by DOT was distributed at the ceremony on Dec. 18. Demolition of the original bridge began in January 2016.

## Bridge Farewell

*Continued from page 1*

on Sept. 21, 2015, City Islanders repeatedly registered concerns about the stability of the bridge, which is now the only means of access on and off the Island. The NYC Office of Emergency Management is currently working with DOT and the NY Fire Department to develop a contingency plan should it become necessary at any point to close the temporary bridge to traffic.

At the ceremony, which took place as cars came over the temporary bridge in the background, Robert Collyer, DOT Deputy Commissioner, and Roland Regos, DOT Community Liaison, answered questions about the testing of the temporary bridge. "We had the City Island fire trucks pass closely [side by side] over the temporary bridge several times and we took stress readings," Mr. Regos told *The Current*. DOT claims that the two trucks together weigh close to 150,000 pounds and that the stress readings were low at the points where the bridge had previously collapsed. According to DOT, the test confirmed that the "design flaw" which resulted in buckling of the pie-shaped sections where the temporary bridge changes direction had been corrected.

Meanwhile, residents are trying to adjust to the changes in direction and are worried that visitors may have difficulty negotiating them, especially as the warm weather brings increased traffic to the Island. "The sharp turns getting on the temporary bridge in both directions take getting used to," said Paul Nani, former Civic Association traffic chairperson. "I worry that if someone is speeding and hits those blind turns, there is going to be a head-on collision. On the positive side, the temporary bridge roadway is freshly paved, so the driving is very smooth."

Islander and longtime marathon runner Mike Rauh ran over the temporary bridge the morning it opened. "The bike and walk-

ing paths are made out of metal plates. I am concerned that they might be slippery when wet." Still, he is glad that there are paths on both sides of the temporary bridge leading to the bike and running paths on the mainland.

After final consoling remarks by other elected officials, including Councilmember Vacca and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, those in attendance were invited to take one last walk over the bridge. The Chamber of Commerce Land Ferry was used for those Islanders needing a ride. Complimentary refreshments were provided upon return to City Island to commemorate the event at the new mini-mart at the north end of the Island (stop by and see the colorful mural of City Island on the inside wall).

It was a final journey filled with nostalgia and fond memories of lifetimes of trips over the bridge. For those who couldn't attend the closing ceremony, the bike paths stayed open a few days before the demolition began in earnest in January 2016. Some younger Islanders have since recreated "bridge climbs" that were popular in the 1960s and 1970s before the wire fencing was put in place. Reflecting the 21st century, many photos from these last hurrahs have been posted on Facebook and other social media sites.

So into history goes the green span that was built by the city of New York in 1901, soon after City Island officially became part of New York City. The bridge, which cost about \$200,000 to build, replaced an earlier wooden bridge, constructed in 1873 by the shipbuilder David Carll from timbers of the *USS North Carolina*. The steel bridge, which opened to traffic after a ceremony held on July 4, 1901, has five fixed spans and a central swing section, which was converted to a fixed span in 1963.

Many Islanders have expressed interest in the fate of the sign and the finials and other steel sections that have been an integral part of the steel bridge and made it eligible to be placed on the National Register of Historic

Places. (That placement and the community's request to have the bridge designated a city landmark were rejected when the Bloomberg administration decided to condemn the bridge.) DOT has not yet responded to community requests and questions about these pieces, which will be removed in the coming weeks and placed in storage until their fate is determined. The City Island Nautical Museum and the East Bronx History Forum have expressed interest in preserving some of the

pieces, which will probably not be made available to the public, according to DOT.

In spite of the sadness felt by many Islanders, Ann-Marie Goonan takes a more positive outlook. "It's not just the bridge that welcomes us home. It's the salty air that you can't help but inhale deeply. So for my last ride, I put the windows down, turned off the radio and soaked it all in. The future bridge won't have the green arch, but we'll always have the salty air."

## ABC's "The Family" Features City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Crowds of film-makers and technicians gathered at various points on City Island over the past five months to film episodes for the new forthcoming ABC television series "The Family," which will debut in March 2016.

Now that the huge trailers and hordes of lighting and camera crews have left City Island, having filmed in various locations here since last September, those who are curious about the result will want to know that ABC's new series "The Family" will air in March. The pilot, filmed in Vancouver, will make its debut on Channel 7 on Thursday, March 3, at 9 p.m., and the subsequent episodes, in which City Island plays a role, will begin on Sunday, March 6, at 9 p.m.

"The Family" follows the story of the Warrens, as Claire (Joan Allen), the matriarch and the mayor of the fictional town of Red Pines, Maine, and her family members deal with the return of her son Adam (Liam James), who had been kidnapped 10 years earlier. The series also stars Andrew McCarthy, Alison Pill, Rupert Graves, Zach Gilford and Margot Bingham.

"Everyone has a secret, everyone has an agenda and everyone has a version of the truth—and it's about where they all convene," actor Andrew McCarthy, who plays the role of a murder convict, recently announced to the Television Critics Association. He was initially offered a different part in the political drama series but decided to take on the complex role of a sexual pariah who has spent 12 years in jail for the murder of the Warren boy. And then the Warren boy suddenly shows up, and a DNA test confirms that he is the missing son, although a subsequent test throws that identification into doubt. After his release from prison, Andrew McCarthy's character moves to a house opposite the Warren house, both of which are located at the west end of Tier Street.

Jenna Bans, executive producer and writer of "The Family," reports that the series is about much more than that first central dilemma. "By the time we get to episodes four and five, there are 10 more plot threads than there were in the pilot. The stories spiderweb throughout the first season." She has also dis-

closed that by the time viewers get to the season 1 finale, half of the show's mysteries will be resolved and half will be ongoing. "The question you ask yourself at the end of the pilot might not be the main question you care about by the finale," she told the press conference.

Ms. Bans has worked for years with Shonda Rhimes and served as producer and writer for many episodes of "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal," "Private Practice" and "Off the Map." Between 2004 and 2007 she also wrote and edited many episodes of "Desperate Housewives." She lives on the West Coast, which may explain why the shore of Eastchester Bay bears little resemblance to the coast of Maine in "The Family." Because the Warren house in the pilot bore a close resemblance to the house at the end of Tier Street, that became the primary location for the series, although many scenes were shot across the street, on Bay Street, at the Sunoco station, the Diner and the Alehouse.

Many residents and business owners on the Island were seriously inconvenienced by the parking restrictions imposed by the film company, which had obtained permission of the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting. Conditions improved when Seafood City opened its parking lot to the film makers in November. In the meantime, ABC donated funds to the City Island Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Association and to Trinity Methodist Church, as well as paying fees to the owners of various locations used in the filming.

Early notices indicate that the series will be a successful one, but the City Island community may have reservations about that, since it could lead to a second season here. In the meantime, however, residents can enjoy watching actors going in and out of local houses and shops thinking they are in Maine rather than the Bronx.

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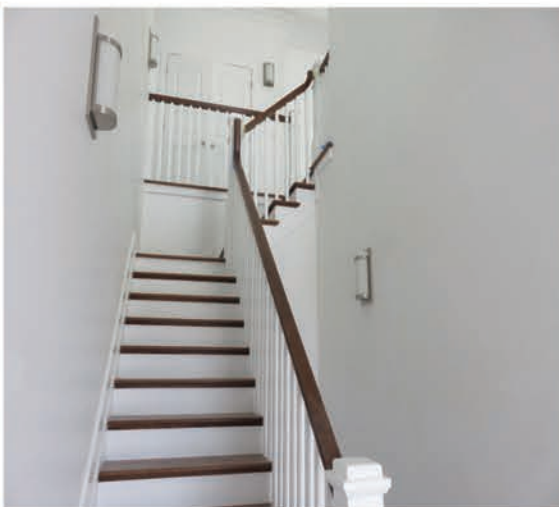
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# Kaleidoscope Gallery Reflects on Mid-Island Businesses

By BILL STUTTIG

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

The old cliché “a high tide floats all boats” seems particularly appropriate to City Island, specifically the struggling mid-Island business community, which is trying hard to create a cohesive consortium of businesses and attractions that can take advantage of the high volume of visitors, most of them attracted by the big name restaurants at each end.

Paul Klein, the owner of Kaleidoscope Gallery, one of the longest serving storefront gallery owners on the Island, says that the Island’s center has become more marketable in the last few years, but much more needs to be done if businesses like his are going to survive and the ugly vacant storefronts filled once again.

Paul moved to City Island with his partner in 1994 and fell in love with the Island shortly after that. “I had been to City Island a decade earlier when I took a boat ride and ended up eating in a restaurant here,” he recalls. “I said to myself ‘where am I?’ thinking it must be Connecticut. A few hours later, we took a car service home, and I was surprised when I reached my Manhattan apartment in 20 minutes.”

A few years later, in 1994, Paul’s partner introduced him formally to City Island, and he realized that he had been here before. “It was my dream location, a perfect small town that is still part of New York City,” he says. At that time he operated a store called Exotica on Columbus Avenue in Manhattan that specialized in international arts and crafts. In December of 1998, he brought the same concept (and name) to a little storefront on the northeast corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue. The shop proved successful at first, so much so that he closed his Columbus Avenue store in 2000.

“I used to travel a lot to Africa and Asia

and pick up artifacts, interesting art objects and other items,” he recalls. “On our last trip to Zimbabwe, we purchased 4,000 stone sculptures, which we distributed not only through our own store but also through St. John the Divine and other churches. The churches would buy some of the stone carvings that were indicative of subjects such as the mother and child or other family figures.”

Paul explains the Exotica concept of making unusual gift items from varying cultures available to City Island shoppers proved workable for more than a decade, until 2008’s economic downturn. The recession saw discretionary spending take a dive and with it the fortunes of a small business like his that offered unique but not very practical items.

It was around that time, Paul told *The Current*, that he decided to have a going-out-of-business sale. However, other Island craftspeople and artists approached him with the idea that several artists could share the space and offer a diversity of locally produced work. That idea gave birth to the concept that became the Kaleidoscope Gallery. Paul recalls that it took a few months to redesign the shop and to reopen it as a shared gallery. He leased space to some local artists, but continued to sell many wares himself, including his own jewelry, and he offered jewelry repair along with custom-

ized designs.

Today six or seven local artists along with Paul feature their work in the storefront at the corner of City Island Avenue and Hawkins Street. “Everyone seems satisfied, and things are going well. Right now City Island Bridge items are selling very well,” he reports.

Paul, who also serves as vice president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce and president of City Island’s Temple Beth-El, hopes that City Island’s once thriving mid-Island business strip can thrive once again with a little ingenuity and some creative marketing.

“Retail on City Island is very difficult,” he explains. “It is hit or miss when it comes to the traffic. You get unending vehicular traffic in summer but unless those people park their cars and walk, I am not going to see them. When I first opened the store, Rhodes was a big attraction, and on Friday and Saturday nights, I would be open to midnight,” he remembers. But the heyday of the once popular restaurant bar is gone, and nothing quite that busy has ever taken its place. “There was a lot of foot traffic back then, but in the last five or six years people have stopped walking,” he says. “People drive to the restaurants, park their cars, have their meal and get back in their cars and drive home.”

He reports that this past holiday season has been a better one than in recent years with a 15 percent uptick in sales, thanks largely to some marketing tools such as a new loyal customer rewards program that has created a repeat customer base of approximately 200.



Paul Klein in front of his shop.

But he admits that the only marketing that is going to work long-term for everyone is to make City Island a shopping destination, as has been done successfully in other communities and districts in the tri-state area. “I would love to see a parking pad put in Pelham Bay Park near the bridge that would allow people to walk across the bridge and experience City Island,” he says. “You see this concept being very successful in Europe, and I would love to see that here.”

Paul adds that other recent marketing ideas launched by the Chamber of Commerce have had a beneficial effect on business, such as reaching out to hotel concierges to help promote the Island, the recent establishment of a “land ferry,” a shuttle bus that transports shoppers and visitors to the Island from the Bronx Marriott, and the free trolley shuttle on first Fridays in spring and summer that loops between Pelham Bay, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and City Island. The twice annual art and craft fairs along the avenue have also been a boon for those two weekends.

But even with these concepts in full effect, creating a consistent mid-Island retail market will require much more. “Realistically, it is hard to make a living from a small retail space on City Island, so we have to find business people and artists willing to operate a business as a second means of income,” he said.

“I have lived on City Island for over 20 years now,” Paul told *The Current*, “and it seems to have all this potential, but nothing seems to click. Businesses come and go. It’s just not an easy place to do business.” He sees the numerous vacant storefronts on the mid-Island blocks, storefronts that were thriving 30 or 40 years ago, as one of the major obstacles that keep City Island from reaching that full potential as a shopper/visitor destination.

“To try to fix this, the Chamber is working on ways to turn those storefronts into living and work spaces for artists. The city is okay with it as long as it meets the air and light requirements. We are working with Assemblyman Michael Benedetto to obtain a grant for this, putting apartments into the storefronts—a kitchenette, a bathroom and a place to sleep—with the rest being a workspace. If the artists open their studios or galleries to the public just a few days a week, it would attract business to the central Island area. The winter is slow here, but the summer is fine, so we just need to find ways produce a more consistent business environment.”

“I am optimistic,” Paul adds, “but we need to work with the landlords to get them to lease the spaces that are now empty and also to get the occupied storefront space to be used more effectively as retail rather than for storage. From Schofield Street to Bay Street is downtown City Island, and that is what we want to create. Open more galleries and add a few restaurants and cafés and it might work.”



Photo by MARC HOHENSTEIN

Last November, the Chamber of Commerce launched its new trolley, which it calls the City Island Land Ferry, a converted school bus that will shuttle hotel guests from the Marriott Residence Inn at the Metro Center on Eastchester Road to City Island. The ferry, decorated with designs by local artists with space for ads from local restaurants and shops, runs on Tuesdays only from 5 to 10 p.m., but the Chamber president, Skip Giacco, hopes to expand service in the spring when the weather is warmer. Two visitors who made the inaugural journey to City Island on Nov. 17 are here joined by Skip and Louise Giacco at the left and Chamber officers Maria Caruso and Paul Klein at the right.

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 9, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 13, 20 and 27, **City Island Little League Registration**, Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tues., Feb. 23, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Feb. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Baked ziti.

#### MARCH

Sat. March 5, **City Island Little League Registration** (see above).

#### Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx again partnered with the Sons of Italy Uguaglianza Lodge #83 to bring holiday joy to the special needs children of P.S. 811x, St. Joseph's School for the Deaf and the New York Institute for Special Education, all in the Bronx.

Bronx Rotary sends a multitude of thanks to the managers in the Five Belows in both Co-op City and Pelham for their assistance in the purchase of more than a thousand gifts for the children. Bronx Rotary member Lilyanna Pekic orchestrated the mammoth undertaking with the help of the loan of Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's mini bus to transport the gifts.

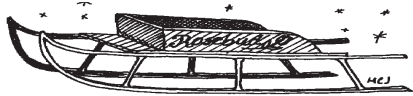
Members from both clubs assisted in the distribution to the children at the three different schools. Bronx Rotary member Jim Lanfranchi played Santa at P.S. 811x and was the recipient of many hugs from the children as he walked with the volunteers from room to room. As he would say, "There is no better feeling!"

During the season of giving, Bronx Rotary never rested. At the packed annual holiday party on Dec. 15, the Bronx Opera Company entertained once again, as they have for more than 40 years at Bronx Rotary.

At the celebration, grants were given to the Bronx Opera Company, AidsFreeAfrica and the Boy Scouts of America Bronx Council.

As always, we welcome visitors to our weekly meetings at Sammy's Shrimp Box at 12 noon on Tuesdays (except for the first Tuesday of the month when meetings start at 6 p.m.).

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner



#### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

The Souper Bowl of Caring fundraising lunch will be Sunday, Jan. 31, after the worship service. We will serve soup and sandwiches and other treats. All proceeds will go to City Harvest.

The Budget Shop is now open. It is open the first and third Tuesdays each month, and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

#### City Island Republicans

The New York presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, April 19. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### Garden Club

At the December general meeting of the Garden Club, Daryl Beyers of Poundridge Nurseries gave a presentation on fall and winter container gardening. His talk gave the members wonderful ideas and valuable gardening advice for the planter boxes on City Island Avenue. As usual, Daryl was very interesting and informative, drawing on his experience as an instructor with the New York Botanical Garden. His slide presentation drew many "oohs" and "aahs" from the audience.

Thanks go to Garden Club members who cleaned out the planter boxes on the avenue and added winter greenery. The members also decorated fir wreaths purchased by the Beautification Committee and then hung them at the Legion Triangle, the American Legion, local churches, Pelham Cemetery, Hawkins Park, the Nautical Museum, the firehouse, and on other properties on the Island. Five of the wreaths were donated to the Veterans Home in Montrose, NY, as part of the Ninth District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State.

Members enjoyed getting together at the holiday luncheon, which took place at the Harlem Yacht Club. It was a beautiful, sunny day in the club's atrium, which contributed to everyone's good spirits. After the grab bag, Judy Judson, the club's president thanked the members for their hard work throughout the year.

At the January meeting, plans were discussed for the annual luncheon, which will be held on Thursday, May 19. The luncheon is always a fun event and all are welcome. This year's theme will be lilacs. The Garden Club is making plans for its annual Beautification Fund Drive, which will begin in April and encourage residents and local businesses to make tax-deductible donations. The monies go toward purchasing holiday wreaths and new plant material for the planter boxes, as well as for professional cleanup of the tree pits and other spaces on City Island Avenue. We hope we can count on your donation again this year.

If you enjoy gardening and wish to meet others who share your enthusiasm, we invite you to become a member of the Garden Club of City Island. We meet the first Monday of the month (except August) at the City Island Yacht Club at 10 a.m.; after the meeting, we enjoy coffee, tea and baked goods provided by the hospitality committee.

Carol Hansen

#### Temple Beth-El

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

#### Temple Services

(Friday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea):



Photo by MANDALENA OFORI

Grace Church parishioner Sandy Dunn is leading a new volunteer ministry that includes performances for residents of hospitals, nursing homes and other places where the sound of music is welcome. Their first performance was on Jan. 16, 2016, at the Workmen's Circle nursing home in the Bronx. Shown above is Ms. Dunn on guitar leading the singers Barbara Dennis, Bruce Weis, Joan Mamara, Francine Alheid and Ellen Badome. If you would like to join the group, see Grace Episcopal Church Organization News in this issue for more details.

Feb. 5: Join Rabbi David for Kabbalat Shabbat

Feb. 12: Join Captain Bob

Feb. 19: Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David

Feb. 26: Join Captain Bob

Monday, Feb. 15, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join Daniella, a nationally certified instructor in spiritual breath and body work, for profoundly transformational instruction. Suitable for all persons, ages and experience levels. Suggested donation \$10. For information and confirmation of time, e-mail us at: [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David for this second session of our 2016 Adult Education Series entitled "Mitzvah and Mysticism," a deep dive into the traditional roots and mystical wings of the mitzvot (sacred acts) of Jewish spiritual life. With study, discussion and spiritual experience, we will explore deeply where core mitzvot of Jewish life come from and how mystical tradition, including the Zohar, make of those traditions. Free for members. \$10 for non-members. (Save the dates: Sessions will continue on third Tuesday of each month March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21).

Saturday, April 2, 7 to 11 p.m. Annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. Join your TBE family for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea and honor our former interns, Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder, Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper, Rabbinic Pastor Aliza Erber and the Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative. A highlight of our year! If you can offer auction items, volunteer or support the dinner dance in other ways, please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com) or stop into Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

#### We are seeking:

Musicians: If you are an instrumental musician interested in supporting TBE's spiritual music, Rabbi David would love to speak with you. We are especially looking for high-quality string, wind, brass and percussion players. For more information or to express interest, please contact Rabbi David via [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Computer geek: TBE is seeking a congregant or City Island resident experienced in website and database management for volunteer support. To offer assistance, please email us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com). Thank you!

Oneg sponsorships: Anyone with a special occasion to honor for yourself or another (e.g. birthday, anniversary, new job, recovery, achievement, yahrzeit or memorial) is warmly invited to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-

885-0978 or [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com). Thank you!

#### Outreach:

Hebrew School Partnership. Enrollment continues for TBE's Hebrew School partnership with Sinai Free Synagogue in nearby Mount Vernon. To enroll a child or obtain more information, please contact Rabbi Shohama via [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Ellen Ruth Topol

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The shop will be opened each Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and shop for winter clothes, shoes, boots, hats, gloves and scarves. Join your fellow shoppers for a complimentary cup of coffee and crumpets, and be sure to watch out for our New Year's sales and specials.

Arlene Byrne

#### City Island Theater Group

The group is pleased to present "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman, the first two weekends in March. See BRIEFLY for dates, times and information about tickets.

The board is pleased to have acquired the rights for all plays for the 2016 season. Following "The Diary of Anne Frank" in March, CITG will present "Love, Sex and the IRS," a comedy by William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore in May as well as the musical "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler for three weekends in November.

Mary McIntyre

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

#### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

#### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

#### Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Make 2016 the year to focus on your health. Take a look at all the activities below to help you do just that including the Community Supported Agriculture beginning a little later in the spring. A new Weight Watchers begins Tuesday, Feb. 2, and yoga is offered three times a week. In addition, there are aerobics, Zumba and/or Kickbox classes offered everyday.

Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs below and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

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

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome volunteers and donations.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Weight Watchers**, Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. New series begins Feb. 2.

This is a terrific Weight Watchers program and supportive group with six lifetime members.

**Family Bingo**: Friday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games with outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**Ballroom Dance**: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Learn to salsa, fox trot, rumba, waltz and you name it with instructor Maurice Bonilla. Soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

**Kickbox Aerobics**: Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 10:15 a.m. (following Zumba). Cardio for all levels, plus an ab workout with Maria Marino. Call 347-267-0591 for more information.

**Natural Tones Meditation**: Thursday at 7 p.m. Nada Yoga, the yoga of sounds, relieves stress and promotes wellness with John Martino. Classes will resume when participants contact John at [naturaltones-meditation.com](mailto:naturaltones-meditation.com).

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Irish Dance for Children**: Mondays: Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com). or call 914-262-4517.

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

**Hip Hop, Jazz and Ballet**: Fridays, ages 4-5, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. ages 6-8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 9 and above, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Have fun with professional dancer Kara Tremel. For information, e-mail [kara-tremel@gmail.com](mailto:kara-tremel@gmail.com) or call 281-799-9869.

**Art for Children**: Saturdays 10:30 to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture. Study art from the 15th to 21st centuries with Lorraine Cantori. Try one session, \$20. Register for winter sessions at [ceasardante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasardante@optonline.net) or call 914-552-5268.

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

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Aerobics with Mary**: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin**, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 3:30 p.m. \$20 per class. Call Kristin Amezcuita 646-625-1575 for information.

**Chair Yoga with Michael**: Friday, 10 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

**Chess Club**: Meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

**City Island CSA**: Sign up now for Community Supported Agriculture providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, e-mail [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club**: First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. Monday, Feb. 8: Appetizers. Bring your favorite appetizer recipes to share and collect some new ones. Monday, Feb. 22: Enjoy tasting those recipes. Coming up on March 7 and 21, Irish cooking. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Drawing Society**: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

**Orchard Beach AA**: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Open meetings. All are welcome.

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

**Weight Watchers Meetings**: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

**Yoga with Jo Ann**: Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail [joanngny@aol.com](mailto:joanngny@aol.com) or call 917-853-4719.

**Zumba with Julia / Kickbox with Maria**: Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call 917-601-5514.

**Zumba with Lettie**: Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### PSS City Island Center

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

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

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

#### Highlights:

Are you a caregiver of someone over 60? We will be opening a Circle of Care support group on City Island. You, as a caregiver, do not need to be over 60 to take part in the benefits of this group. Please call 718-885-

0727 and ask to be added to our list to be notified when more information is available.

The history club on Fridays at 1 p.m. is now off and running! Current discussion: The History of City Island.

Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. Learn CPR and how to utilize an AED machine (DVD and Patty).

Feb. 5 at 12:15. Go Red for Women. Wear red today. Presentation: Aging Gracefully. Blood pressure offered after the presentation.

Feb. 15: Closed for Presidents' Day.

Feb. 16 at 12:15: "I Don't Want To Talk About It": Planning Ahead Presentation.

**Physical Exercise**: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays at 9 a.m.: Tai Chi for Arthritis; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Learn Tai Chi at 9 a.m. Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 10:30. Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch and Tai Chi classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

**February Programs**: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Sing Along also at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on Feb. 24 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Valentine's Celebration before and during lunchtime on Feb. 11; Bingo at 1 p.m. on Feb. 18; Birthday Party on Feb. 25; Fridays: History Club at 1 p.m.

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

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

**Transportation Services**. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers' Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**

#### Ladies Auxiliary

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. The meetings will be as follows: Feb. 2, March 1 and April 5 at 7 p.m. at the Post. Thank you to all who helped out at our flea market. It was a great success.

The Cancer Bingo will be on April 22 at the Morris Yacht Club. Reservations will be needed and information will be available in the near future. Keep a look out for our flyers.

**Laura Booth**

#### American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 11:30 a.m. You will still have time to rest up before the Post Super Bowl Party.

Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

Kudos to Mike Jawski, Dianne O' Sullivan and all the others who helped to make the New Year's Party a success and also the December fundraiser. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for their generous donation to the Post. Thank you to Ann McGuire for her donation to Operation Comfort Warriors. Operation Comfort Warriors is an American Legion Charity where 100 percent of donations go to the charity. All donations are gladly appreciated.

The Cancer Bingo will be held on April 22 at the Morris Yacht Club.

The Post is in need of a webmaster. Anyone interested should contact the Post.

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

We have several members on sick call. Brian Sullivan is currently going for cancer treatment. Buddy Pontecorvo is recovering from a recent fall after leaving church and David Ball is recovering from eye surgery. Member Jack Sullivan died at the end of December. He will be sorely missed. Thanks to the family for inviting everyone back to the reception after the memorial service.

The Post Super Bowl party will be held on Sunday, Feb. 7, starting at around 5 p.m.

The Pig's Knuckle Party will be on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. The price is \$30.

Save the date. The Saint Patrick's Day party will be held on Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. The price is \$30 per person. It will be the usual Irish setup, which also includes beer, wine and soda.

Fred Ramftl is the first winner of the Queen of Hearts game at the Post. You can win it, too. Drawings are held every week and you could win a substantial amount of money. Proceeds will go toward different projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

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

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

**John Muhlfield**

#### Grace Episcopal Church

##### Worship Schedule:

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

##### Events

Sunday, Feb. 7, at 12:15 p.m. Grace Church New Music Ministry meets on the first Sunday of each month with members of the Church Choir and singers from on and off the Island rehearsing hymns and popular music to perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. We had our debut show at Workmen's Circle in the Bronx on Jan. 16, where we were well received! It felt good singing for the residents and staff, and we look forward to performing there again in the spring. If you like to sing and want to lend your voice to this "feel-good cause," please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com). Men and women, boys and girls of all ages are welcome. You don't have to sing like an angel; just bring your desire to lift others' spirits! Rehearsals are held at Grace Church in the sanctuary.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 5 p.m. Shrove Tuesday. Join us for a pancake supper in the Parish Hall. Shrove Tuesday falls in February this year, preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent, the season of penance and prayer before Easter), and in the United States and other countries is celebrated by consuming pancakes. This is a delightful event, thanks to certain parishioners who love to make pancakes, whipping them up as fast as guests can eat them! Please bring your families and your appetites.

Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service to observe the first day of Lent.

Monday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crocheting Ministry for Calvary. Hearts and Hands is a group of parishioners who create comfort items (hats, gloves, blankets) for use by patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall and invites other crafters interested in this project to join them. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

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

**Sandy Dunn**

*Continued on page 13*



### Dame Judi Dench

Although Dame Judi Dench began acting in 1960, she didn't get a leading role in a film until **Mrs. Brown** (1997), when she was 63 years old. In that film, for which she received her first Academy Award nomination, she starred as Queen Victoria, who is inconsolable after the death of her beloved husband, Albert, with whom she had nine children. The court appoints one of Albert's former servants, John Brown (Billy Connolly), to help her recover from her grief. Brown's eccentric ways delight the queen, and he becomes her sole confidant. However, their closeness causes rumors about the nature of their relationship.

From 1975 to 2012, Dame Judi appeared as "M" in seven James Bond movies. The character is based on Stella Rimington, the real-life head of MI5 between 1992 and 1996. With Pierce Brosnan in the lead, she was in **Golden Eye** (1995), **Tomorrow Never Dies** (1997), **The World is Not Enough** (1999) and **Die Another Day** (2002). Daniel Craig took over for **Casino Royale** (2006), **Quantum of Solace** (2008) and **Skyfall** (2012). It is said that the actress wept when she learned she was being removed from the role when she turned 80.

**Shakespeare in Love** (1998) is a romantic period piece set in the 1590s. It inventively describes an amusing tale behind the creation of one of the greatest love stories ever told. When a young William Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes) finds himself penniless and suffering with writer's block, he meets his ideal woman, Viola De Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow), who inspires him to write "Romeo and Juliet."

Judi Dench is on screen for all of nine minutes as Queen Elizabeth, and that powerful performance earned her an Oscar as Best Supporting Actress.

**Tea with Mussolini** (1999) is set in 1930s Florence, where adolescent Luca (Charlie Lucas) has just lost his mother. Mary Walsh (Joan Plowright) is a British expatriate, who works as the secretary for Luca's father, Paolo Innocente (Massimo Ghini), a callous businessman. Luca is sent to be taken care of by Mary, and her cultured friends—including artist Arabella (Dench), young widow Elsa (Cher) and archaeologist Georgie (Lily Tomlin). They all take care of the boy, but their lives take a dramatic turn when Allied forces declare war on Mussolini.

In **The Last of the Blonde Bombshells** (2000) Dame Judi plays Elizabeth, a recently widowed woman whose love of music is rekindled when she starts playing her tenor saxophone again. During World War II, she was a member of an all-girl swing band, the Blonde Bombshells, and she decides to organize a reunion. She is assisted by Patrick (Ian Holm), the band's drummer, who during the war dressed as a woman to avoid being drafted. The film features Olympia Dukakis and Leslie Caron as two of their former musical buddies in this wistful comedy.

In **Chocolat** (2000), Judi Dench has a scene-stealing supporting role. When mysterious Vianne (Juliette Binoche) and her child, Anouk (Victoire Thivisol), arrive in a tranquil French town in the winter of 1959, Lent is about to begin. Within days, Vianne opens an unusual chocolate shop across the square from the church, much to the consternation of the town's mayor, Comte De Reynaud (Alfred Molina), who often edits or writes sermons for Father O'Connor (Pere Henri). The film features Johnny Depp as Roux, Vianne's love interest. Vianne's chocolates contain magical ingredients that solve a plethora of problems for the townspeople. Even Armande (Dench), Vianne's opinionated old landlady, melts under the influence and ends her estrangement with her daughter, Caroline (Carrie-Anne Moss), in this charming film.

In **Iris** (2001), Judi Dench and Kate Winslet share the title role as both the old and young novelist Iris Murdoch, who succumbed to Alzheimer's disease in 1999. She was one of the most important and prolific British novelists of her century, having written 28 novels. The film is based on two novels written about her by her husband, John Bayley, played by Hugh Bonneville and Jim Broadbent (who received a Best Supporting Actor Oscar as Iris's aging husband). It is a very sad and accurate account of the ravages of Alzheimer's, with superb performances.

**The Shipping News** (2001) recounts the story of Quoye (Kevin Spacey) and his young daughter, Bunny (Alyssa, Kaitlyn and Lauren Gainer), from Poughkeepsie, NY, where he works as an ink man for the presses of the local newspaper. After the death of his blatantly seductive wife, Petal (a barely recognizable Cate Blanchett), they accompany his Aunt Agnis Hamm (Dench) to the family home in Newfoundland. There they become involved with Wavey Prowse (Julianne Moore), a widow who runs the local day-care center and her slow-witted son. As Quoye learns of his brutal family history, he begins to heal from a lifetime of abuse.

**Mrs. Henderson Presents** (2005) is set at the famous Windmill Theater in London beginning in the 1930s and continues through the beginning of World War II. It stars Dame Judi as Laura Henderson, a bored widow who decides to revitalize the theater by having the showgirls appear without clothes. She hires Vivian Van Damm (Bob Hoskins) to be the stage manager, and the conflicts between the two are often hilarious in this ultimately poignant film.

Cate Blanchett received an Oscar nomination for her role as Sheba, a married art teacher who has a penchant for teenage boys in **Notes on a Scandal** (2006). Judi Dench is brilliant as Barbara, a spinster teacher at Sheba's school who wants to be more than just friends. This is a riveting tale of obsession and desire, with performances by two of today's most prominent actresses.

**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2012) is the story of seven financially strapped men and women of retirement age who are

lured into spending their declining years at a hotel in Jaipur, India, which is run by the young and enthusiastic Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel). The rest of the stellar ensemble cast includes Judi Dench as Evelyn Greenslade, a widow whose husband has squandered their savings; Dame Maggie Smith as Muriel Donnelly, a racist retired housekeeper in need of a hip replacement; Tom Wilkinson as Graham Dashwood, a gay high court judge with a haunting secret; Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton as Douglas and Jean Ainslie, a bickering couple who sank their life savings into their daughter's unsuccessful business venture; and Celia Imrie and Ronald Pickup as Madge Hardcastle and Norman Cousins, adventurous older singles on the prowl for romance. The sequel, **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2014), which is not up to the fine standards of the first film but still enjoyable, includes Richard Gere as Guy and Tamsin Greig as Lavinia, one of whom is a secret hotel inspector, which is difficult for Sonny, who wants to expand the hotel into a second property.

Dame Judi has the title role in **Philomena** (2014), a true story of an Irish teenager who became pregnant out of wedlock at age 15 and was sent to a convent. When her son, Anthony, was a toddler, the merciless nuns put him up for adoption in the United States, and she spent the next 50 years searching for him. When former BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan) learns of the story, he comes to her aid, and they travel together to America to find her long lost son.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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## PRESENTS

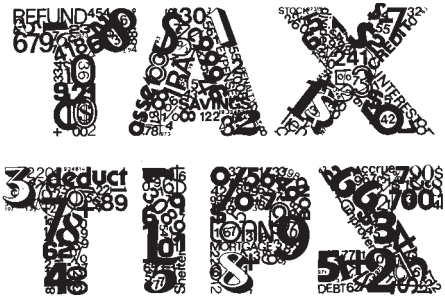


## CATERING

At a beautiful Waterside location on City Island our elegant but casual style of catering can be tailored to your event of any size or budget...

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- BIRTHDAY & RETIREMENT
- PICNIC & BOX LUNCHESES
- HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
- COMPANY EVENTS

For Reservations, contact Stephane Kane at  
917-519-1756 or skanel967@gmail.com



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

**Deducting Non-Dependent Relative Medical Expenses**

As taxpayers, most of us know all about dependents and what defines a dependent. The most common dependents reported have been our children, but they can be other family members such as parents, brothers, sisters and so on.

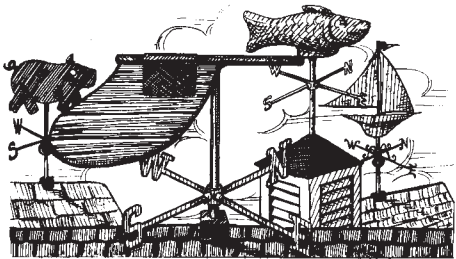
**Qualifying Children**

Most of us are somewhat familiar with the general rules about children dependents:

- Relationship: the taxpayer's child or stepchild (whether by blood or adoption), foster child, sibling or stepsibling, or a descendant of one of these.
- Residence: has the same principal residence as the taxpayer for more than half the tax year.
- Age: must be under the age of 19 at the end of the tax year, or under the age of 24 if a full-time student for at least five months of the year, or be permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year.
- Support: did not provide more than one-half of his/her own support for the year.

**Qualifying Relative**

With dependents other than children, there is another hurdle, and that is they must make less than the amount of the exemp-



tion, which is \$4,000 in 2015. If someone other than a qualifying child makes more than that, no matter how much support you provide, they cannot be your dependent.

**Medical Expense Exception**

Most people don't know that there is an exception when paying medical expenses. For example, if you have a parent who makes \$7,000 or more from an annual pension (Social Security does not count in this equation), they cannot be claimed as your dependent. However, if you can prove the relationship test (which the IRS interprets fairly broadly), and you provide support over and above their pension for such items as rent, medical expenses, utilities, etc., you can then claim any medical expenses for that person. Keep in mind though; the deduction for medical expenses has been increased to 10 percent of your adjusted gross income in 2015, so every little bit helps.

**The Bottom Line**

If you have a relative (under IRS interpretation) who could be claimed as an exemption, except for the fact they make more than \$4,000 in income other than Social Security, you can still deduct their medical expenses on your tax return.

**Organization News**

*Continued from page 11*

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

We would like to remind all members that 2016 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.



Photo by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

City Island's Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts sang with enthusiasm for the residents of Pilot Cove Manor at the annual Holiday Sing on Dec. 18, 2015.



**Public School 175**

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten and first-grade students attended a performance at Queensboro College by Arts on Stage of "Santa Meets the Wizard." Second-graders, as part of their work in social studies, visited the City Island Nautical Museum. Seventh-graders visited St. Paul's Church as part of their study of the Revolutionary War.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Eighth-graders began a new tradition called "Eight Plus 1 Equals Holiday Fun" in which each of our eighth-grade classes teamed up with a first-grade class to do a holiday craft. Students in both grades loved the experience, which will be repeated in the years to come. Thank you to eighth-grade homeroom teacher, Karen Heil, for coming up with this wonderful idea!

Finally, on Dec. 22, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in grades K through 8 all sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at PS 175. This ended our year on a high note!

January has been just as exciting. Our fifth-graders continue to prepare for their spring performance of "The Lion King," and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production! The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program has resumed

for sixth- through eighth-graders. Students are participating in a variety of activities, including art, athletics, games and homework help. Teaching Artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble have been working with our school chorus, comprised of third- through eighth-graders for their spring performance. They sound great!

Our Character Education program continues to thrive. Community service projects aimed at teaching students that we can all contribute in positive ways to our small City Island community and to the world as a whole will take place in all grades, with eighth-graders once again doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-graders "Rewards Trips" program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits.

**IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NEWS:**

Kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. This process is done solely online. Please see the Department of Education website for more information. Should further assistance be needed please call the school at 718-885-1093.

December Citizens-of-the-Month are Evan Wolf and Daniel DeCicco (kindergarten); Isabella Schibeci and Joseph DeSantis (first grade); Ariana Jefferson (second grade); Campbell Wepler and Sarah Goonan (third grade); Abigail Hayes (fourth grade); Kimberly Ventura and Kenzi St. Clair (fifth grade); Hazir Novovic and Samantha Kucerak (sixth grade); John Bernardo and Yu Xin Chin (seventh grade); Adrian Kuka and Paul Mazzella (eighth grade).

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# WARMEST HOLIDAY WISHES



Photos by RICK DeWITT, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, MATTIA PANZA and PAUL NANI

Record high December temperatures prevented a white Christmas, but the holiday spirit was alive at all City Island houses of worship in 2015, including Temple Beth-El's menorah lighting on Dec. 6 (top left photo), St. Mary's pageant on Dec. 15 and Lessons and Carols concert on Dec. 20 led by Ken Farnum (middle and bottom left photos), Grace Church's Fair on Dec. 12 featuring Mrs. Santa (Eileen Marcus with Lori Travers) and the children's nativity (top photos), and Trinity Church's pageant on Dec. 20 featuring Laci, Vincent and Robert Howard; Sharon and Melody Kim; Olivia and Ben Chadwick; Anthony, Nicholas and Vienna Zeppleri; Ronan, Osin, and Cian Daly; Carly and Gavin Roberts; Marc and Lillian Browning; and Jessica and George Melicharek (bottom photo).



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## What Really Matters to Us?

By JOHN SCARDINA

If you are like me, when someone asks "what are your values?" you might answer with a good list of positive attributes. Simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, service and stewardship might be on my list—as taught by my faith tradition—and yours might include other values such as love, hard work and compassion.

You can think of your values like a garden to be tended, a place of beauty and abundance when cared for and nurtured. Just as we may bring cut flowers from the garden to brighten our homes and vegetables from the garden to feed our families, we can bring the fruits of these values into our daily lives when our "garden of values" is vibrant and thriving.

Lists are easy. We often have little trouble here, but practice can be harder. As we go through our days, it's what we spend time doing that represents our values to the world at large.

Take a moment to look at your schedule for today. Surely some of the time you are attending to basic needs: food, shelter, rest, getting from here to there. Some of the time you are fulfilling your role as a parent/employee/friend/neighbor, clearly places in your day where values come into play. But is there also time for you to be tending your garden of values? A time for reflection, sharing with others, providing service to the needy or communing

with nature? What works for you to bring energy and life to your garden of values? What sustains you as a person who makes a difference in this world?

Take a quiet moment for reflection and inspiration. Read a story with a child. Spend time with a friend who is struggling. Participate in a local service project. Take a walk in the sunshine. Then your life will speak your values.

*City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, school psychologist, and parent educator. Check out his website at [www.ThinkLaughLearn.com](http://www.ThinkLaughLearn.com) and join his parent support groups at the CI Community Center (usually the last Tuesday of the month).*

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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

26 Tue	0102	7.41	0718	-0.14	1313	7.52	1943	-0.30	Tue 26
27 Wed	0138	7.29	0751	0.13	1345	7.23	2008	0.05	Wed 27
28 Thu	0209	7.14	0812	0.40	1411	6.94	2016	0.33	Thu 28
29 Fri	0234	7.00	0834	0.63	1442	6.68	2042	0.55	Fri 29
30 Sat	0304	6.88	0911	0.84	1521	6.43	2121	0.76	Sat 30
31 Sun	0343	6.77	0957	1.03	1608	6.22	2207	0.96	Sun 31

**FEBRUARY 2016**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0429	6.71	1051	1.15	1703	6.07	2259	1.11	Mon 01
02 Tue	0522	6.71	1157	1.16	1810	6.05	2355	1.16	Tue 02
03 Wed	0620	6.81	1331	0.98	1933	6.19			Wed 03
04 Thu	0057	1.07	0719	7.03	1433	0.64	2028	6.47	Thu 04
05 Fri	0202	0.82	0814	7.33	1521	0.22	2109	6.82	Fri 05
06 Sat	0302	0.44	0903	7.68	1604	-0.22	2147	7.21	Sat 06
07 Sun	0355	0.01	0950	8.01	1644	-0.63	2227	7.60	Sun 07
08 Mon	0444	-0.41	1036	8.27	1724	-0.96	2309	7.94	Mon 08
09 Tue	0532	-0.74	1122	8.41	1805	-1.16	2353	8.18	Tue 09
10 Wed	0620	-0.93	1209	8.38	1847	-1.20			Wed 10
11 Thu	0038	8.28	0710	-0.96	1259	8.18	1933	-1.07	Thu 11
12 Fri	0127	8.22	0804	-0.81	1351	7.82	2022	-0.77	Fri 12
13 Sat	0219	8.02	0907	-0.53	1448	7.35	2119	-0.37	Sat 13
14 Sun	0318	7.70	1026	-0.23	1558	6.87	2233	0.06	Sun 14
15 Mon	0432	7.39	1147	-0.06	1735	6.57			Mon 15
16 Tue	0002	0.32	0609	7.26	1259	-0.09	1856	6.57	Tue 16
17 Wed	0116	0.33	0724	7.35	1403	-0.26	2001	6.77	Wed 17
18 Thu	0220	0.17	0826	7.56	1500	-0.47	2058	7.05	Thu 18
19 Fri	0317	-0.06	0922	7.76	1552	-0.66	2150	7.32	Fri 19
20 Sat	0408	-0.27	1011	7.91	1640	-0.75	2237	7.53	Sat 20
21 Sun	0456	-0.40	1057	7.95	1724	-0.72	2320	7.65	Sun 21
22 Mon	0539	-0.42	1139	7.89	1804	-0.57			Mon 22
23 Tue	0000	7.67	0618	-0.33	1217	7.74	1840	-0.34	Tue 23
24 Wed	0035	7.60	0653	-0.15	1250	7.52	1907	-0.06	Wed 24
25 Thu	0103	7.48	0717	0.07	1312	7.28	1914	0.18	Thu 25
26 Fri	0118	7.36	0726	0.25	1329	7.09	1928	0.32	Fri 26
27 Sat	0139	7.30	0751	0.40	1357	6.92	2001	0.46	Sat 27
28 Sun	0211	7.24	0828	0.58	1435	6.75	2041	0.66	Sun 28
29 Mon	0251	7.16	0913	0.77	1519	6.58	2126	0.87	Mon 29

**MARCH 2016**

01 Tue	0337	7.08	1002	0.96	1610	6.44	2217	1.07	Tue 01
02 Wed	0428	7.02	1059	1.06	1707	6.38	2314	1.17	Wed 02
03 Thu	0525	7.03	1203	1.03	1810	6.46			Thu 03
04 Fri	0016	1.11	0628	7.15	1319	0.79	1917	6.73	Fri 04
05 Sat	0124	0.85	0731	7.41	1433	0.36	2019	7.14	Sat 05

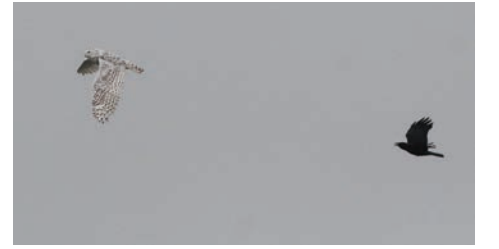


**Another Year, Another Bird Count**

This year's Christmas Bird Count was the Audubon Society's 116th. The first, way back in 1900, was the brainchild of ornithologist Frank Chapman. Mr. Chapman did not approve of the tradition before the bird census, and with good reason: it was a hunting competition. The idea then was for participants to use Christmas as an occasion to shoot as many feathered and furry creatures as possible. The "biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won."

According to the Audubon Society, the data that has been collected from the counts since 1900 has been used "to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America." For example, the data has shown that three of the top 20 birds in decline in North America are the common grackle, common tern and greater scaup. All three are common to our area, but apparently not as common as they used to be.

On this year's count, we had a few uncommon encounters. The first was a great horned owl perched on a limb out in the open. It was so obvious that we almost missed it. Then there was the not-so-uncommon red-tailed hawks engaged in a very noisy hunting lesson. Finally, there were two ravens, which reminded our leader, Jack, of



the rising population of fish crows in our area. Listen, he said, for the more nasally caw caw caw of the fish crow as compared to the more familiar American crow's call.

The most exciting observation of the day, however, was made by our partners counting birds in Soundview Park, of all places. A participant, Mike Russo, photographed a snowy owl being chased by a crow, probably an American, above the Soundview Park skies, on Dec. 27, the day of the 2015 bird count. For our money, the snowy owl is the holy grail of birds and birding. It is extremely uncommon to our area—although not impossible to find—as well as being breathtakingly beautiful. The owl pictured below was photographed in 2013 at Jones Beach by the City Island birdman himself, Jack Rothman.



Be honest, wouldn't a chance encounter with a bird like that take your breath away?

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## Is My Child Being Bullied?

By EDWIN CASTRO

One of the worst things we parents can experience is that our children are being bullied, but it is very important to know that we can do something about it! What can you as a parent do if you think your child is being bullied, and what should you tell your child?

The first step is to confirm your suspicions: Is your child the victim of a bully? Unfortunately, kids may not offer this information voluntarily. There are many reasons why a child may be afraid to tell their parents and get them involved. Bullies may instill a sense of shame in victims. The kids may internalize the names they are being called or feel as if they should be able to handle the situation themselves.

Other factors may include the way they feel their parents will react. If parents tend to overreact to problems or if children think parents are burdened with enough issues of their own, they may not want to upset them. Every parent responds differently.

What signs should you look for that might indicate your child is being bullied?

### Physical Signs of Bullying

Children are prone to getting cuts, scrapes and bruises, but if your son or daughter has more than you think is "normal," you may want to find out why. Your child will probably be embarrassed to tell you that someone is hurting them, but being physically hurt cannot be tolerated. Find out what's going on!

Another sign to look for is torn clothing. Every child is going to tear their favorite shirt or rip a hole in the knee of their jeans from time to time. But, if it is happening more than you think it should, this could be a sign that the child is being physically abused by a bully.

Complaints about headaches and stomachaches can be another sign of bullying, especially if this happens right before the child is leaving for school. Both of these symp-

oms may be an attempt to get out of going to school, but they also could be very real. A lack of appetite can also be a sign. The stress of worrying about a bully can lead to real physical symptoms.

### Social Signs of Bullying

The reluctance to go to school is a major signal that your son or daughter is the victim of a bully. Most bullying occurs on school grounds, and this can affect every aspect of a child's education. A decline in their grades, not wanting to participate in school activities, or wanting to quit an activity in which they already participate should be looked into. If your son or daughter does not seem to have many friends, find out why! Children try to hide from the bully by staying in the safety of their own homes.

A child who is always losing money at school could be a victim. How many movies have you seen where the bully is taking other kids' lunch money? This really happens! Children being bullied can become very angry. This may be taken out on anyone that is around, including parents and siblings. If you notice that your child is angry, looks depressed or is aggressive, this could be a sign as well.

Once you know what to look for, what can you do? This will depend on whether the abuse is physical or verbal. If it is physical, parents need to become involved immediately. Tell school authorities and be prepared to press legal charges. Bullying that involves any form of touching is considered battery in most states.

If the abuse is verbal, start by talking with your child. Most bullying acts start off as verbal attacks but may then escalate. Use a casual, curious tone when you ask your child questions so that he or she doesn't feel you are angry with him or her. "Was he mad at you?" "Did she say something to you before things got really bad?"

Then empathize with your child's reaction: "I can see why that made you so upset." The less critical that parents are of a child's feelings, the more details they will get about how things got started and how serious the situation is.

What is the worst thing a parent can do? Do not jump to conclusions without finding out as much as you can about the situation. It is easy to both overestimate and underestimate the seriousness of situations.

Many parents who find out their child is being picked on want to tell them to fight back, but be cautious. You don't want your

child just to sit back and take it, but he or she needs to know that there are right and wrong ways to stand up for yourself. Do not tell children it's okay to fight without knowing what the battle is all about. Children need to know how to pick their battles and learn appropriate ways to stand up for themselves that don't backfire or create more problems. By the same token, don't tell children to just ignore it. Most children are not able to do this without having very hurt feelings.

*Edwin Gonzalez is head of City Island Mixed Martial Arts (www.cityislandmixed-ma.com).*

## "Anne Frank" Comes to City Island

By MARY MCINTYRE

*"Because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."*  
Anne Frank

The next production of the City Island Theater Group (CITG) will be the moving drama "The Diary of Anne Frank," a play that still resonates with audiences of all ages.

The play was originally written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and later adapted by Wendy Kesselman, based on "The Diary of a Young Girl," written in the Dutch language by Anne Frank while she and her family were in hiding for two years during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The diary was later retrieved by Miep Gies and given to Anne's father, Otto Frank, the family's only known survivor. It has since been published in more than 60 different languages.

Nic Anthony Calabro will direct CITG's production, and the cast will include Danny Conover, Penelope Golden, Emma Hennessy, Gary Krigsman, Phyllis Lindy, Ann Liski, Amanda Livingston Martin, Robert Mulroy, Michael Sanacore, Lior Shaham and Steven Shera.

After the opening night production on Friday, March 4, the CITG board invites the audience to a champagne reception.

On Sunday, March 6, following the matinee, there will be an informal discussion about the relevance of Anne Frank then and

now, to be held with the cast and the audience, led by David Markus, co-rabbi of Temple Beth-El on City Island and Donna Torres, a New York City English teacher with who specializes in Holocaust literature.

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**A Current Review**

**The Point Is: Birth, Death, and Everything in Between**

By LINDA REVILLE EISENBERG

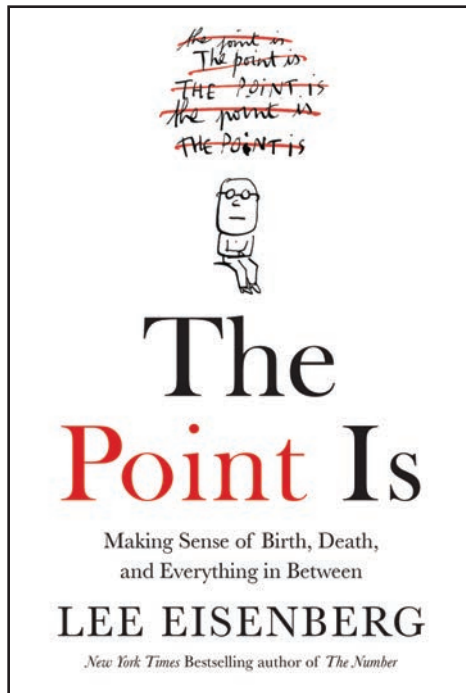
As a girl growing up on City Island in the 1950s, I didn't spend much time pondering what made my life meaningful. My pressing concerns back then ran more along the lines of how to cajole my mother into handing over the 15 cents required to buy a Creamsicle from Johnny the ice cream man, or winning the three-legged race with my BFF Patty at our annual Fourth of July Earley Street Beach party, or making sure my homework was done so as not to incur the wrath of Sister Marie De Montfort, my first- and fourth-grade teacher and personal nemesis at St. Mary, Star of the Sea school.

I suspect that like many City Islanders of my generation, we often draw upon such memories, telling tales of our adventures to our own children and grandchildren. My children always liked the story of how, during the mild days of summer before school let out, a classmate and I would sail my little catamaran across the bay from City Island to our high school, Villa Maria Academy, arriving in our school uniforms.

But now, as Frank Sinatra put it, I'm in the autumn of my life. And as I reflect on the memories I've stored, I can't help but wonder why one memory gets filed securely away and remains accessible, while so many others have simply faded away. It is always a delight and surprise when a childhood friend recalls an event from my childhood that I'd completely forgotten about. The editor of this newspaper, still a dear friend, can tell you the color of the dress I wore to my senior prom, a detail that for years was lost on me.

So what role do memories play in how we come to create our life story, our personal narrative, so to speak? Why do we remember certain things and forget others? And what role do our memories serve in our quest to find purpose and meaning in our lives?

These are some of the questions addressed in a new book, "The Point Is: Making Sense of Birth, Death, and Everything in Between," by Lee Eisenberg. (Full disclo-



sure, the author is my husband of 30 years.) The book, which Publishers Weekly named one of the top 10 books in the lifestyle category for 2016, is an engaging look at the role memory plays in how we "write" —in our heads— our ever unfolding life story. To illustrate his theory, the book draws upon personal and pivotal events from Lee's own life, some of which are amusing and others tragic. (A few are downright embarrassing, too.) The book also contains a wealth of illuminating and entertaining theories on the meaning of life, from the ancient Greek philosophers to modern literary figures. Kirkus Review lauds "The Point Is" as "challengingly thought provoking," adding that it "will encourage anyone to further ponder the meaning of life."

I admit that I'm hardly an objective reader in this case. But I sincerely believe you'll both enjoy this book and take something away that may change how you think about your own life story, how it developed, and where the story may go from here.

"The Point Is: Making Sense of Birth, Death, and Everything in Between," published on Feb. 2, is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and all other online booksellers, as well as in bookstores. More about the book can be found at [www.LeeEisenberg.com](http://www.LeeEisenberg.com).

**IN THE GARDEN**

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Allium sensation, campanula lactiflora and orange wallflowers

viburnum dawn, camellia, witch hazel, mahonia and snowdrops were all flowering gloriously. These plants are expected to bloom in winter, yes, but they were very early except for the cherry. That's a great list for a winter garden, and no harm came from their untimely blossoms.

As February arrives, with it come seed catalogs and armchair gardening. This is a favorite activity among seniors, and any sensible person who works out in a garden for three seasons. Spring will come again, and then the flurry of activity will be on. It is then that we will dream of winter and its welcome reward of rest.

Aside from seed catalogs, other books of interest include Andrea Wulf's "Founding Gardeners." In this crazy political climate, I found it interesting to read that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both believed that no man should run for office without owning a farm of his own, for they were "the true representatives of the great American interest. Unlike those with no country they were immune to moral corruption." Her other books include "Chasing Venus" and "The Other Eden." Very good reads that blend history and gardening.

Back to the seed catalogs, I am thinking of planting a purple scheme. This would include shades of maroon, crimson, purple, lavender and light washed-out pinks. A velvety rose in the darkest red for accent, David Austin's Braithwaite, or a good moss rose like William Lobb. Catmints, salvias and geraniums could form the purple belt, and white daisies sparkle between them. Maybe the nice chartreuse green of a euphorbia to soften the picture further. The wonderful vinis vinifera, which colors up richly in autumn, could intermingle with a smoke bush in dark dusky purple and a forest pansy with heart-shaped leaves towering above. These shrubs would give a garden structure. Astrantia's pincushion creamy white flowers and a few globe thistles in amethyst, and "Bob's your uncle." And there you have it. New inspiration in the depths of winter.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 176 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.

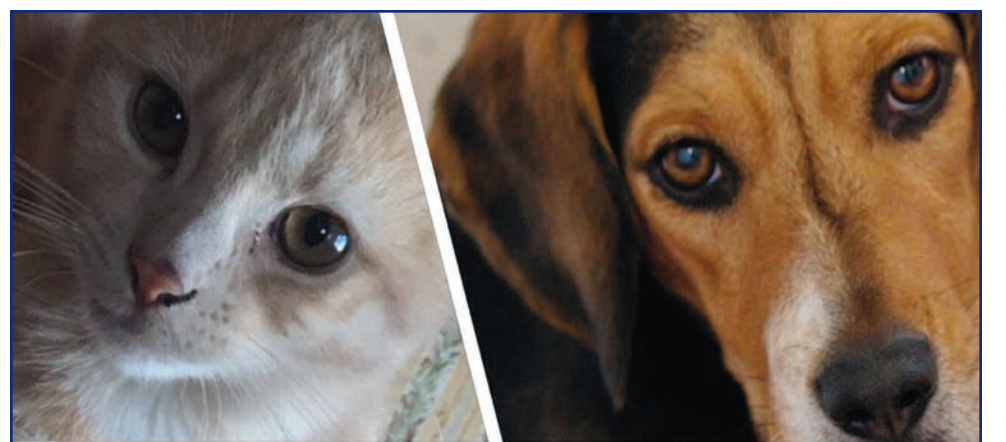
**A Midwinter Night's Scheme**

This year finds us in a most unusual weather pattern. El Niño, climate change or just sheer luck has brought us a winter that gardeners can revel in. This year I'm sure gardeners in the Northeast are making lists of premature flowers. Jan. 5 was our first real freeze, so if spring is early, winter may only be two months long. The bullet has been dodged, or has it?

Roses were open and lovely until Jan. 5, budding with asters and anemones. Winter jasmine was early. Overcoat plants were budding (overcoat because you must wear one to see the plant). I am always surprised at plants flowering out of turn. Hopefully the plants like rhododendrons and hydrangeas did not form substantial buds and will not experience bud blasting come spring.

In 1916 a volcano erupted violently in Indonesia, causing 90,000 deaths. It also was responsible for the year of no summer. Freezing temperatures ensued, as dust and ash, 100 cubic miles of it, rained down globally. A hundred years later we have a year without winter so far, my fingers are crossed. Great for us but for the planet?

Facebook sent me a reminder of what was blooming on Jan. 10 in 2010. Besides a cherry tree, the paper bush (edgeworthia),



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## Obituaries

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



### Miriam Sedlow Kleinberg

Miriam Sedlow Kleinberg, a City Island resident and teacher at P.S. 175 for many years, died on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2015, at the age of 83.

Miriam Sedlow grew up in Throggs Neck, where her father ran a drug store. She graduated in 1953 with a BA degree from Hunter College. At that time she met and later married Harry Kleinberg, and the couple moved to City Island in 1955. Although Miriam had originally dreamed of going into publishing, Harry's career as a teacher led her in the same direction. It was his love of boats that led them both toward City Island, where they raised three children and where she taught for four decades until her retirement about 1995.

Mrs. Kleinberg was an avid traveler but she also loved New York City, with its museums, orchestras, ballets and operas, many of which she attended with Teresa Teto, another teacher at P.S. 175. This interest in cultural creativity enabled Mrs. Kleinberg to bring a special kind of enrichment to her students, and over the years she opened the worlds of art and music to many children who might not otherwise have experienced them.

Most teachers also gravitate toward particular age levels, but Mrs. Kleinberg taught all of the grades at P.S. 175. For 10 years she helped students publish "The Best School in the Whole World Magazine," which won many awards. Working with each grade, she encouraged students to create poems, essays and pictures for publication. She had many kind words for the principal of P. S. 175, Mrs. Ena Ellwanger, praising her support of the teaching staff and her excellent administration. Mrs. Ellwanger in turn had nothing but praise for Mrs. Kleinberg: "She was intelligent, bright and extremely literate and just when you thought you had completed whatever work needed completion, she would have more to add. She understood the children and brilliantly prepared them to be ready for learning."

Mrs. Kleinberg also mentored many teachers at the school, including Ruth Eisen and Ellen Funck. Judy DiMaio, another City Island resident, who retired from P.S. 175 in 2008. Mrs. DiMaio told *The Current*: "Miriam Kleinberg was a highly intelligent woman who used her talents to become a master teacher, knowledgeable mentor and loyal friend. She inspired her students and fellow teachers with her practical advice, her no-nonsense approach to problems, her willingness to try new ideas and her loving, caring ways. All her students and fellow staff members were enriched by her presence." She also served 10 years as an American Federation of Teachers union shop steward. During that time she diligently and with determination worked to protect the rights of her colleagues.

Mrs. Kleinberg loved City Island, which she believed was a wonderful place to live and raise children. She took off 10 years from teaching to raise her three children; as she put it "The city had a lot of teachers, but my kids only had one mother." The day she registered her son for kindergarten in City Island, she was told of a teaching position at the school, and she

took it. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to get back into her chosen profession, where her hours were the same as her children's.

She watched City Island change a great deal over the years, but as she put it, "the world has changed and City Island is part of the world." She felt that the community combines the intimacy of a small town with the mindset of a city. "People know who you are and they talk about what you do, but they don't interfere." The only problem with working here, she says, is that "I can't do an errand without worrying about my appearance. It's a natural law that the messier I look when I go into town, the more students I meet!"

Miriam Kleinberg was predeceased by her husband; she is survived by her daughters, Deborah Kleinberg of Silver Spring, MD, and Nancy Schmeichel of Lancaster, PA; a son, David Kleinberg, of Pennsylvania; four grandchildren, Joshua, Timothy, Emily and Abigail Schmeichel, and one great-grandchild, Arahlynn.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held in the spring. Donations may be made in her memory to Jumpstart, whose mission is to improve educational possibilities for young children; the website is [jstart.org](http://jstart.org); the address is 308 Congress Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02210.



### William Pfleeger

William (Bill) Pfleeger of Easton, MD, died peacefully at Shore Regional Hospital on Christmas day, 2015. He was 94 and still lived independently in the home he had shared with his wife, Addie (Dimples), until she predeceased him in 2010.

Bill was born in Norwalk, CT, on May 29, 1921, to the late Helen and William Pfleeger. In 1932 he moved with his family to Bay Street on City Island. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute before enlisting in the Naval Flight School at Pensacola during World War II.

By 1943 Bill was on his way to the South Pacific as the pilot of a PB4Y Catalina or "Black Cat," which was an amphibious aircraft used for patrol bombing and air sea rescue. His Squadron VP34 entered the thick of the war and played a significant part in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Bill came home with several citations including a Presidential Citation and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Before his deployment, he had met Dimples Wickman, a clam digger who lived on Buckley Street. While he was in the South Pacific, they carried on a long-distance romance by letter for two years. He married her on Jan. 29, 1945, and then began his career working for the Penn Dixie Cement Corporation in Manhattan. In 1972 they moved to Chicago with the Marquette Cement Corporation, which later moved their headquarters to Nashville. Bill became president and CEO of the firm in 1980. They genuinely missed City Island, however, including the scent of salt water and their friends and memories.

The Pfleegers retired to the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1983 after the merger of Marquette Cement Corporation and Lone Star Industries. They built their dream house and spent many happy years exploring the beautiful Chesapeake Bay on a succession of boats called *Dimples*. In 1997, Mrs. Pfleeger had a stroke and he devoted himself to her care for many years. After surviving a cardiac event

at age 90, he gave up smoking, regained his health and traveled to visit family on both coasts. He was a true example of the "Greatest Generation."

Bill Pfleeger is survived by his two children, Candace A. Taubner and husband, Frank, of Pelham Manor, and William J. E. Pfleeger and wife, Jennifer, of Kelso, WA; four grandchildren, Frank K. Taubner, Julie A. Taubner, William W. Pfleeger and Larissa A. Ritzman; and five great-grandchildren, Jack F. Taubner, Lyla J. McEntee, William J. Pfleeger, Gavin R. Pfleeger and Maddox H. Pfleeger.



### Donald Schmahl

Donald Kenneth Schmahl, longtime City Islander, passed away on Oct. 21, 2015, after a long illness. Born on April 19, 1928, he was the first child of Frederick and Ruth Schmahl.

He graduated from P. S. 17, Christopher Columbus High School and New York University's School of Engineering.

Donald's first home on the Island was aboard a custom-built houseboat moored off of Jacobs Shipyard. Before he started school, his family moved onto City Island, where they bought a house on Earley Street.

As a young licensed captain, Donald skippered fishing boats berthed at Vidals, 521 City Island Avenue. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and served two years in Germany.

In 1959, he married Marjorie Cranford (deceased), and they had four children, Kenneth, Michael, Victoria (Land) and Richard, all graduates of City Island's elementary schools. He was proud of his six-year tenure as Cub Master of Troop 211.

In 1995, after he retired from the Port Authority as a mechanical engineer, he and his second wife, Jane Taylor, sold their Buckley Street home and moved with their son Kit to Cape Cod, where he again skippered fishing boats. He was 87 years old at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife; his sisters, Fay Jordaens and Lynne Connelly; and four grandchildren, Nicholas and Andrew Land and Ryan and Kristen Schmahl.

### Frank McKenna

Former Islander Frank T. McKenna Jr. died peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016, at his home in Waldwick, NJ. He was 86.

Frank was born on City Island and lived with his parents, Frank and Kitty McKenna, on Earley Street. He graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. Frank served in the United States Marine

Corps from 1946 to 1949 and again in 1950, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

After he married Mary G. Fluhr, he and his wife lived on Centre Street until they moved to Waldwick, where he served in many public offices over the years, including the board of education and the planning and zoning boards. He was a councilman for 13 years and mayor of Waldwick for four. He was also appointed to the Bergen County Open Space Advisory Board and served as vice chairman for two years. He volunteered with the Waldwick Jaycees, served as a Little League coach for 17 years, and delivered meals for Bergen County Meals on Wheels. Frank was also a member of the Lion's Club of Waldwick and the Knights of Columbus.

Frank was predeceased by Mary, his wife of 45 years, on Sept. 3, 1995. He is survived by his four children, Kathleen Walton and her husband, Les, of Silverthorn, CO; Frank T. McKenna III of Mahwah, NJ; Marianne Bausinger and her husband, Mark, of West Chester, PA; and Jeanne Macko and her husband, Christopher, of Ramsey, NJ. Frank is also survived by eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, his sister, Rita Lynch of City Island, and his two brothers, Robert McKenna of Tappan, NY and Thomas McKenna of Pine Hurst, NC.

Donations in Frank's memory may be made to the Waldwick Public Library, 19 East Prospect Street, Waldwick, NJ 07463 or the Waldwick Ambulance Corp., P.O. Box 244, Waldwick, NJ 07463.



### Thomas P. Cleary

Thomas P. Cleary, who worked as a postal carrier for many years on City Island, passed away in Calvary Hospital on Nov. 18, 2015.

He was born in the 1970s to Thomas and Mary Cleary of the Bronx. His mother was a well-known stepdancer, who died when he was only seven years old. His father had been a noted hurler in Tipperary, and he passed away in March 2010. Thomas was raised by his mother's mother, Mrs. Anne Quinn.

He graduated from St. Luke's Grammar School in the Bronx and from All Hallows High School and Iona College.

Thomas worked as a postal carrier on City Island for over 25 years. He and his wife, Maryjean Sullivan, were caregivers to many stray dogs and cats.


He is survived by his wife; his father-in-law, Leo Sullivan; his cousin, Bernie Ball of upstate New York. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Rosary Church on Eastchester Road, the same church where he and Maryjean had been married in 1983.

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

Birthday greetings on Feb. 1 to Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday wishes to Lisa Clarke, who celebrates on Feb. 26.

Good luck to Islander Maura Mandrano, who is starting a new position as naturalist at the Weinberg Nature Center in Scarsdale. Maura has been caring for injured animals, especially Island squirrels, for many years. In her new position, she will be caring for a number of other species, including snakes and insects. Don't get bitten, Maura!

Wishing the happiest of birthdays to Rudy Etzel on Jan. 18 and Oscar Etzel on Feb. 28 with love from Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to Dusty Prohaska for



Dusty Prohaska

doing an amazing job competing in Miss Teen New York, representing City Island.

Best wishes for continued happiness to David and Marjorie Kos, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii and running in the Honolulu Marathon.

Keep up the good work to Tomasz Wasik, who received a NYC Health and Hospital's



Dave and Marjorie Kos

City Doctor's Scholarship to St. George's University School of Medicine. Tomasz is a graduate of Macaulay Honor College at Hunter College where he received a B.A. in chemistry. He volunteered at NYU Presby-



Tomasz Wasik

terian Hospital/Weill Cornell and worked as a research assistant at the Hiroshi Matsui Lab at Hunter College and also as a research intern at Einstein Medical Research Institute, working in pancreatic cancer research.

Many thanks to the folks at City Island Gold Honey, Drs. Nancy Kheck and Patrick Gannon, who participated in a Macy's Sustainability Event free of charge.

It's a boy! Congratulations to Lauren and Scott Briggs on the Christmas Eve birth of their son, Hagen Scott Briggs.

Happy birthday wishes go out to our son, Anthony Ribardo, who turns 37 on Feb. 3. Love, Mom and Dad.

The Booth Family is celebrating a trio of February birthdays: Rose Booth turns 88 on Feb. 4; Angela D'Allara on Valentine's Day and Laura Booth on Feb. 5. Happy birthday to all!

Happy 10th birthday to our sweet Abigail Rose. We love you to the moon and back and to infinity and beyond! Love, Mom, Maddy, Mema, Papa and Sadie and Emma, too!

Happy fifth birthday to Fordham Street's very own princess, Priscilla Piri. May God bless you each and every day. We love you so much, Mommy, Daddy, Mark and Sonny.

And a very happy Valentine's Day to all you lovebirds!

Maria Swieciki



Photos by REINA BRILL

Although the weather and water weren't nearly as cold as in years past, a hearty group of Islanders took the annual "polar plunge" on Jan. 1, 2016, off Earley Street beach, including (bottom photo, l. to r.) Rupert Deese, Natasha Reilly Moynihan, Lauren Nye, Sean Dennehy, Dan Treiber and Jesse Osborn.



Patrick Gannon presented at Macy's Sustainability Event.



Photo by PAUL NANI

On to our 45th year! Karen Nani thanked (and roasted) the staff of The Island Current and their guests at the annual gathering on Jan. 10, 2016, at the home of longtime editorial board member Barbara Dolensek. Shown are the best volunteers in the newspaper business (l. to r.): Maria Christina Swieciki, Barbara Dolensek, John Scardina, Donald Kolb, Lucille Rivin, Matt Panza, Jane Protzman, Sandy Dunn, Rose Kolb, Karen Nani, Tom Smith, Maria and Bob Swieciki, Margaret Lenz, Ed Heben, Cheryl Koller, Bruce Weis, Betty Heben, Judy and Mike Rauh and Ginger Dannegger.

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