

The Island Current

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One Dollar

SMSS BASKETBALL: THE LITTLE PROGRAM THAT COULD

By KAREN NANI



The Boys Varsity Gold team featured an enthusiastic group of seventh graders (kneeling, l. to r.): Donzell Mitchell, Jason Girardi, Jayden Rodgers and Matthew McGaughan. Standing: Assistant Coach Cesar Sosa, Nicholas Baratta, Ezra Oquendo, Tommy Forliano, James Shaw, Oscar Etzel and Coach Bill Whelan. Missing: Suzan Rexhepi.



Photos by CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The members of the St. Mary's Boys Varsity basketball team were once again Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Holiday Tournament champions (above photo)! They won the 2018 tournament and finished the season with a record of 26 wins and 1 loss. The repeat champions are shown above (top photo, kneeling, l. to r.): John Russell, Mark Piri, Ryan Whelan, Michael Gierum and Eric Lopez. Standing: Coach Mike Whelan, Thomas Whelan, Hazir Novaj, Aidan Hanley Piri, Ryan Amos and Coach Peter Russell. Not shown: Patrick Livingston and Marco Mazzella.

Despite fielding only three teams this season, the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program raised one tournament championship trophy and made it to the Bronx Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) championship finals. But it's up to residents to see that this historic and victorious City Island tradition continues.

In his third year as moderator of the program, Bill Whelan told *The Current* that the program needs more support from Island parents and players. "As moderator I would like to thank Father Knapp for letting our small program continue. It provided 31 children from our community a safe environment for learning about leadership, communication and, most importantly, teamwork. But I am worried that this program will not survive due to lack of participation."

Three years ago there was uncertainty about the program continuing after the closing of St. Mary's school. Although the program is smaller as a result, "we are well known around the league for our teamwork, heart and determination," Mr. Whelan told *The Current*.

The Sharks, as the City Island teams

are known, were represented by three teams during the 2017–2018 season: Boys Varsity Blue, consisting of eighth-graders and coached by Michael Whelan and Peter Russell; Boys Varsity Gold (seventh-graders) coached by Bill Whelan and Cesar Sosa; and Bantam (third- and fourth-grade boys and girls) led by coaches Lorenzo Secola and Greg Penny Jr.

The Boys Varsity Blue had an amazing run, winning the Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Holiday Tournament for the second straight time and making it to the Bronx Championship game, where they were handed their only loss of the entire season!

Mr. Whelan recognized all the coaches for their time and dedication to the children, who practiced twice a week learning the fundamentals of the game.

"We used to be able to field six teams at all levels for boys and girls. The interest is just not there any longer. I urge parents, grandparents and other Islanders to get involved with the community and sign your children up. It is rewarding at so many levels and keeps the kids off the street."

The registration for the SMSS Sharks Basketball 2018–2019 season begins in



The St. Mary's Boys and Girls Bantam team consisted of third- and fourth-graders, including (kneeling, l. to r.): Daniel DeCicco, Joseph Secola, Isabella Hauser, Anthony Ferrante and Jake Penny. Standing: Coach Lorenzo Secola, Victor Lopez, Joseph Penny, Joshua Antelmi, Thomas Riordan, and Assistant Coach Greg Penny. Not shown: Robert Delaney.

August 2018. The season runs from September to February, allowing for exercise several times a week during the frigid winter months. They practice and play many of their games in the St. Mary's school gym on Minneford Avenue.

Here are the season summaries for each team.

Boys Varsity Blue

The Boys Varsity Blue team, made up of eighth-grade boys, ended the regular season with a division best 14 wins and 0 losses. The group of young men were dedicated, paid attention to detail during game preparation and worked hard at practice every week.

They participated in the OLA Holiday tournament and were crowned tournament champions for the second consecutive year. Thomas Whelan was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP), and outstanding plays were made by John Russell, Aidan Hanley Piri, Mark Piri, Michael Gierum, Hazir Novaj, Ryan Amos, Eric Lopez, Ryan Whelan, Patrick Livingston and Marco Mazzella.

The Boys Varsity Blue team ended with an outstanding record of 26 wins and 1 loss. The team made an amazing run during the playoffs with the only loss to Santa Maria

in the Bronx CYO Parish championship. The team was complimented by officials throughout the season on their sportsmanship, teamwork, heart and determination which all Islanders should be very proud.

Coaches Peter Russell and Mike Whelan would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to all of the parents who committed their time volunteering at games and supporting their children throughout the season. In addition, they gave a special thanks to program moderator Bill Whelan for providing them with the opportunity to coach and mentor the youth of the community.

Boys Varsity Gold

It was a season of development for the Gold team. All the boys came together as a team in practice and games. This team of seventh-graders had a lot of spirit and never gave up, especially when playing against eighth-grade competition most of the season. All players showed improvement and, more importantly, had fun. It was a gratifying season to watch the boys improve each week.

Their season record was one win and 14 losses. However, as everyone who ever participated in youth sports knows, many

Continued on page 13

BRIEFLY...

AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE will be taught by the City Island Sail and Power Squadron at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, on three Tuesdays in May: May 8, 15 and 22, from 7 to 9:40 p.m. The course meets the requirements of New York State law that requires all persons between 10 and 18 years old to successfully complete an approved boating safety course in order to operate a motorized boat, and of all personal watercraft (PWC) operators who must take a safety course before they can operate a PWC on any waters of New York. Subjects include: boat handling and terminology, navigational rules of the road, emergencies and adverse conditions, boating regulations, engine trouble shooting, marine radio usage, lines and knots, trailer boating, sailing fundamentals. Instruction is free but there is a \$45 charge for the textbook and materials. For additional information and to register, e-mail Richard Welch at cityislandabc@gmail.com or telephone 347-202-5305.

RIVIERA RENAISSANCE is the theme of this year's fundraiser for the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, which will honor Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. for spearheading efforts to restore the Orchard Beach Pavilion and Michael Max Knobbe, Executive Director of BronxNet, for enthusiastically promoting the uniqueness of Orchard Beach. The event will take place on Thursday, April 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Course Clubhouse, 870 Shore Road. Tickets are \$60 if ordered by April 17, \$75 at the door. Elegant hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soda and many raffle prizes will be offered. The party will celebrate the upcoming restoration of the Orchard Beach Pavilions and the grand prize winner of Picture the Beach! photo contest. To make a reservation, e-mail fopbspringfundraiser.eventbrite.com. For information, call 718-430-4685 or e-mail friendsofpehambaypark@gmail.com.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK and get your hands dirty keeping the park clean! Several projects are planned for Saturdays this spring from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 7: Installing Trail Markers on Hunter Island; May 12: Removing invasive plants in the South Woodlands (Pelham South); June 2: Removing invasive plants in the Orchard Beach Meadow. For more information, visit www.friendsofpehambaypark.org.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY on Sunday, April 22 at Earthfest in Pelham Bay Park from 12 noon to 3 p.m. There will be activities, arts and crafts, music, live birds of prey, and old-fashioned street games. Enter at Middletown Road and Bruckner Boulevard. For more information, visit nyc.gov/parks or call 718-430-1891.

"SUITE SURRENDER," a comedy by Michael McKeever, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group during the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May. The evening performances are Friday, April 27; Saturday, April 28; Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5, at 8 p.m. Matinee performances are Sunday, April 29, and Sunday, May 6, at 3 p.m. All performances are at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

Early rehearsals of the City Island Theater Group's new production, "Suite Surrender," include a read-through by cast members (l. to r.) Camille Kaiser, Eileen Sugameli and Greg Weiss.

THE ISLAND CURRENT
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Holy Week Schedule 2018

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

RECONCILIATION MONDAY
MONDAY, MARCH 26
FROM 4:00-6:00P.M. AND 7:00-8:00P.M.

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 29
9:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
Procession to Repository
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

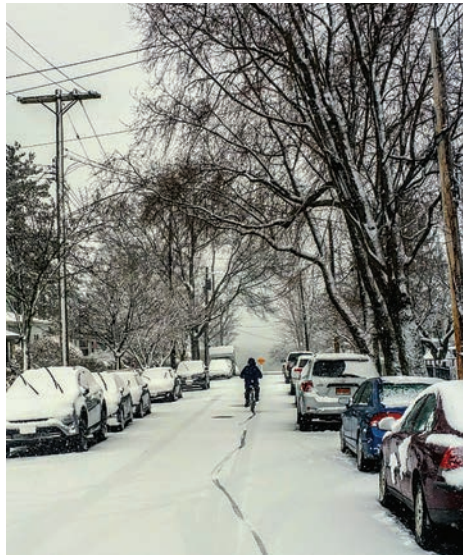
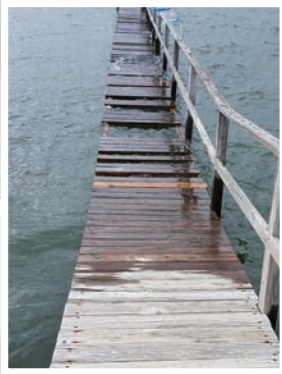
GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 30
9:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-3:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY-MARCH 31
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
(No 5:15 pm Mass)

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

EASTER SUNDAY-APRIL 1
Masses- 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A. M.

THE LION IN WINTER & SPRING



Photos by CARLA CHADWICK, RICK DeWITT, SALLY HAGY-BOYER and MATT PANZA

The old English proverb "March comes in like a lion..." was never more evident than in 2018, when four separate nor'easters wreaked havoc across the northeast with snow and high winds that downed trees and caused widespread power failures. Although numerous City Island fences and trees, including the long-standing "holiday tree" in Hawkins Park, were felled (top left), only a few homes on Minneford Avenue and in the Boatyard Condominium were without power for an extended period. The accompanying high tides and rough seas also caused flooding and damage to some Island jetties, like the one on Earley Street (top row, middle).

Bridge Construction Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

According to representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT), the north end of City Island Avenue should be repaved with asphalt by the end of April, with no barriers, steel plates and traffic agents stopping and slowing traffic.

DOT reported that Con Edison has completed its work transferring electrical and gas lines at the north end of the Island, and that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will soon activate the water line after removing it from the temporary bridge. DOT will then remove the temporary bridge and complete the expanded Legion triangle.

Representatives of the Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce met on Tuesday, March 20, with DOT and the contractor Tutor Perini to discuss the aspects of the bridge project that must still be completed. The sea wall that supports Catherine Scott Promenade must be rebuilt, which may take about two months, and then the park itself will be restored with new bench-

es, pavers and shrubs, hopefully within the next six months.

Many residents have wondered about different colors of the chain-link fencing over the bridge, and DOT plans to paint the silver portion green during the summer months. The chain link of both the green and the silver fences is the same size, so painting is the most efficient way to coat the silver sections.

Objections to the size of the Legion triangle were raised at the meeting, as this expansion was a DOT decision and not one requested by the American Legion Post. Concerns were expressed about the ability of large trucks and buses to make the left-hand turn after the bridge on to the northern end of City Island Avenue, but DOT representatives felt certain that this would not be a problem. The curb extension of the sidewalk in front of Dunkin Donuts was a safety measure that has been implemented throughout the city for pedestrian safety, and again DOT does not believe that this will interfere with traffic movement. Bollards on the sidewalk in front of Dunkin Donuts were suggested and will be examined. If the left turn results in problems for residents and businesses, DOT agreed to review the situation.

It was generally agreed that moving the "Welcome to City Island" sign from its present location on the promenade to the park side of the bridge, where everyone could see it before crossing the bridge, was a good idea. Originally installed several years ago by the Garden Club of City Island, the sign will be either removed or replaced when the staging area in the park has been restored.

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45 BLOTTER

Due to scheduling conflicts, *Blotter* information for the April issue of *The Current* was not available at press time.

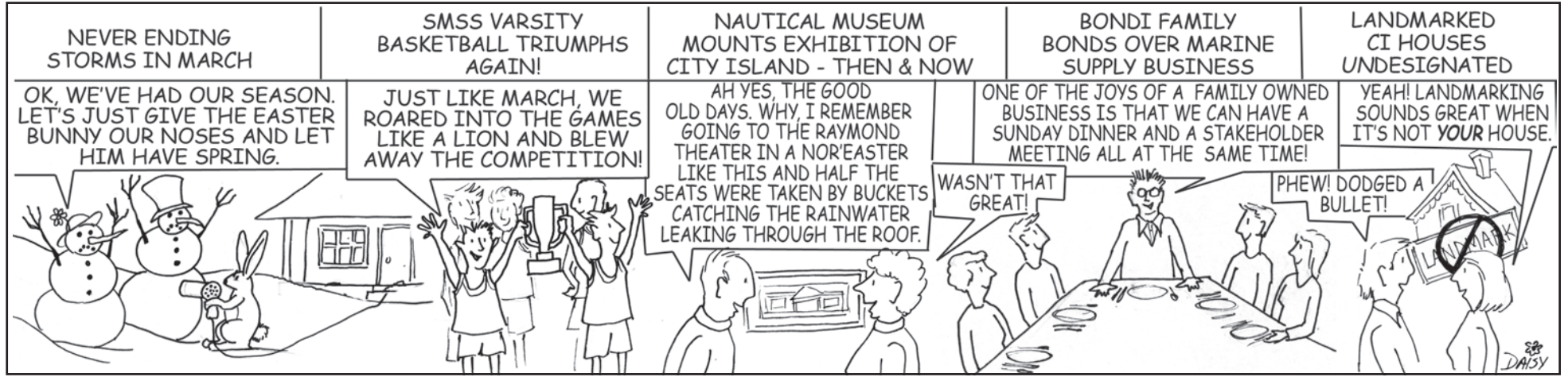


Photo by RON TERNER

"A Taste of Italy," the Community Center fundraiser on March 4, 2018, organized by Francesca Vitale, was enjoyed by many Islanders.



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.

Grazie

To the Editor:

The Community Center fundraiser on March 4, "A Taste of Italy," which included a wine tasting with products brought to us directly from the wholesaler, enjoyed an amazing turnout and was even better than I had expected. The ambiance was amazing. We transformed

the Center into an Italian village!

Thanks to our fantastic board members and to City Island resident Joanne Valletta for her support and great photos; artist Beth Pian Geisel for her art work; Linda Cerbone Calabrese for her amazing PR work; and Wayne Ciano for being at the door. All were a tremendous help. A special thank you goes to Cheech Sipas and Joseph Goonan for their wonderful community service and to our one and only Ron Terner of Focal Point Gallery who captures the best in everyone!

City Island's Joseph J. Gelsi on accordion, guest tenor Freddie Lando and surprise guest Dan D'Allara on mandolin performed in the traditional Italian style. Thanks so much to you all for helping to make this event a success and to all of the establishments that displayed the flyer in their storefronts. And, of course, we are grateful to everyone who came, from on and off the Island, including a nice turnout of newcomers.

Francesca Vitale

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Good Friday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Trinity will join
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Saturday, March 31, 8 a.m.
Trinity will join St. Mary's
morning Worship Service

Sunday, April 1, 6:30 a.m.
Sunrise Service led by George Cavalieri
at Pelham Cemetary
10:00a.m. - Easter Sunday Worship at Trinity



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Flapjack Fundraiser includes set breakfast menu only; no additions or substitutions allowed. Valid only on date listed above. No rainchecks, refunds or cash value. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Photo by MATT PANZA
 Cheryl Riordan and the City Island Girl Scout Troop 1115 held a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's in the Bronx on March 11, 2018. Many City Islanders showed up to support the enthusiastic scouts and fill up on flapjacks.

A Current Review UP WITH THE "RABBIT HOLE"

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group presented a moving drama, "Rabbit Hole" by David Lindsay-Abaire, in March, with this very talented cast (l. to r. seated): Jaime Arciniegas, Sarah Eismann, Carol Dooner; (standing): Steven Bendler, Elizabeth Paldino and Maria Provenzano (director).

You could have heard a pin drop during most of the first act of David Lindsay-Abaire's "Rabbit Hole," the first 2018 production of the City Island Theater Group. The play was masterfully written and the acting was superb, but the subject matter of the play, the accidental death of a four-year-old son and the parent's struggle to cope left a normally effusive crowd of theatergoers nearly dumbstruck, as though they were viewing personal agonies they shouldn't really be looking at.

The utter silence at the close of each scene was disturbing in and of itself; a few hands clapped, almost furtively, and then stopped, as if they had been rebuked. "Rabbit Hole" is as far from a comedy as it is possible to be. It plumbs the depths of grief and explores responses to it, as it illustrates the reality that each person faces as they progress at their own pace and in their own way.

The story line of "Rabbit Hole" doesn't simply dump the full extent of the tragedy in our laps but very gradually lets the audience in on each aspect of the disaster. For instance, we first learn that Becca's mother's dog is getting fat, because she won't pay for low-calorie dog food, and then she says she really didn't want the dog but had to take it because Becca didn't want it around any more. And then we learn that Becca couldn't stand to look at it because her son, Danny, was killed when he chased it into the street. The show is aptly named, as each successive event on stage seems to lead further down into a rabbit hole of traumas.

"Rabbit Hole" was originally commissioned by South Coast Repertory Theater and presented at its Pacific Playwrights Festival series in 2005. The show got attention and eventually premiered on Broadway, at the Biltmore Theatre, in February 2006, with an excellent cast. Directed by Daniel Sullivan, the show starred Cynthia Nixon as Becca, John Slattery as Howie, Tyne Daly as Nat, John Gallagher Jr. as Jason, and Mary Catherine Garrison as Izzy. The play won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and received Tony nominations for Best Play, Best Direction, Best Performance by a Featured Actress and Best Scenic Design. Cynthia Nixon took home a Tony that night for the Best Performance by a Leading Actress.

A little known (at least to me) movie adaptation of "Rabbit Hole" was directed by John Cameron Mitchell; it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2010 and received a limited theatrical release later that year. The film starred Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart, Dianne Wiest, Tammy Blanchard and Giancarlo Espos.

At a discussion held after the City Island show at the Sunday performance on March 4, one audience member declared that while she normally had a favorite character in each play, she couldn't pick a favorite in this show, that she liked each character equally. I tend to agree with her, in some ways, as the contributions of each character, positive and negative, were crucial to the ultimate on-stage outcome. Perhaps I'm going down a rabbit hole of my own here, but coping mechanisms abounded on stage over the course of the evening.

Mentioned throughout the show, but never seen onstage, is four-year-old Danny, whose tragic death is the catalyst for the events in "Rabbit Hole." Steven Bendler, as Howie (Danny's father), seems at first to be the anchor of the family. Though sometimes angry and spending a lot of time watching home videos of his son, Howie attends support groups

faithfully. He seems to have recovered his interests and gives the impression of being ready to move on with his life. Only later in the show do we realize that Howie may be coping by not really facing his loss.

Sarah Eismann as Becca (Danny's mother) handles the tragedy quite differently. She is obviously grieving for her son, and although she is obviously a kind and thoughtful person, she spends much of the play wrestling with her emotions, a step away from explosion. Rather than avoiding her grief, Becca seems to be actively processing it, to the occasional detriment of those around her.

Carol Dooner as Nat (Danny's grandmother) copes by rattling on a little and possibly drinking too much, but she provides sorely needed humor to an incredibly dark situation and ultimately grants some wisdom that may bring light to the end of this tunnel. Without the presence of Nat and her other daughter, Izzy, I would still be depressed about this show.

Elizabeth Paldino as Izzy (Danny's aunt) copes more actively, by having bar fights and challenging strangers, although some of that may just be her usual personality. Either way, Izzy (like Nat) helps dilute the central tragedy of the story line by introducing subplots of her own and sending tensions in different directions.

Jaime Arciniegas as Jason, the driver of the car that killed Danny, is the wildcard character of the story. He increases tensions exponentially each time he drops by the house, hoping somehow to make amends, and he develops different relationships with Howie than with Becca, which, in turn, increases the tension between the mother and father.

The magical point of the evening came at almost the very end of the show, after two acts filled with agonies of parents wrestling with sorrow, when Howie and Becca's healing process suddenly seemed to fall into sync. An audible sigh swept through Grace Church Parish Hall, as Becca reached for Howie's hand for the first time in the show. I'm not sure I've ever seen an audience so personally involved in a production, which says a lot for this production.

Maria Provenzano did an incredibly thoughtful job of directing this play, taking full advantage of the material, and Nick Sala assumed the myriad duties of show manager.

The costume design for "Rabbit Hole" was by Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker; the costumes were tasteful and appropriate to the characters, but muted and didn't distract from the intensity of the story. Lighting and set design, with the set built by Dan Srdoc, were particularly effective, based on the director's vision of presenting a home drained of warmth and matching the mood of the show. Interestingly, warm colors were present only in Danny's room.

In keeping with the concept of a cold home, the City Island Theater Group rented many of the props (metal and glass furniture, photographs of trees in winter and the phases of a cold moon). Pam Johnston once again served as production stage manager responsible for the goings-on backstage. Denis Zepeda handled sound design for "Rabbit Hole" and Hannah Glick was sound operator.

The City Island Theater Group is in the process of scheduling auditions for "Suite Surrender," the group's second production of 2018. Thank God it's a comedy.

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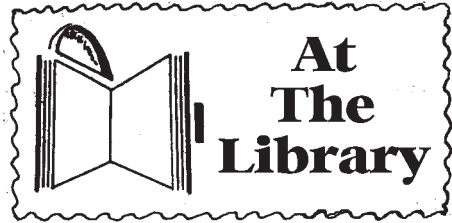
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What's Going On In There?

Mary Colby Studio/Gallery, 276 City Island Avenue, will present "Tarot Cards: The Magic of Ancient Symbols" with art therapist Christine Randolph on three Sundays: May 6, 20 and June 3 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Learn the meaning of all the symbolic tarot cards and how to read them. Call Mary Colby to register at 917-804-4509. The cost is \$105 for three sessions.



At The Library

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APRIL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Bilingual Birdies Spanish Class: This spring we'll bring families on an out-of-this-world experience where we teach new vocabulary related to different modes of transportation, spring colors and a big celebration of Myla Birdie's birthday! For children ages 0 through 5 years and their caregivers. Monday, April 9, at 11 a.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:15 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys, and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, April 6, at 11:30 a.m.

APRIL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays, at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of

the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! April 6: Wii and Board Games; April 13: Spring Wreaths; April 20: Wii and Board Games; April 27: Writing Round-About.

APRIL ADULT PROGRAMS

Thursday Writing Club: Welcome back spring with the Thursday Writing Club at the City Island Library! Picking back up on April 12h, join the group that combines instruction with adventure. No registration required. All are welcome. April 12: "The road to success is paved with mistakes well handled"; April 19: "Memories that are safe to share"; April 26: "The Know-It-All New Yorker."

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 16 participants, registration required. Thursday, April 5 and 19, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, April 16 and 30, at 5 p.m.

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

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

Mobile Adoption Van: Saturday, April 28, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length. At 1 p.m. April 7: "All Saints"; April 14: "Dunkirk"; April 21: "Mother!"; April 28: "American Made"

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

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CELEBRATING
Mother's Day

JOIN BON APPETIT CATERING AT THE CITY ISLAND YACHT CLUB

Sunday, May 13th
Brunch from 10am-3pm
Seatings at 10-10:30am and 12:30-1pm

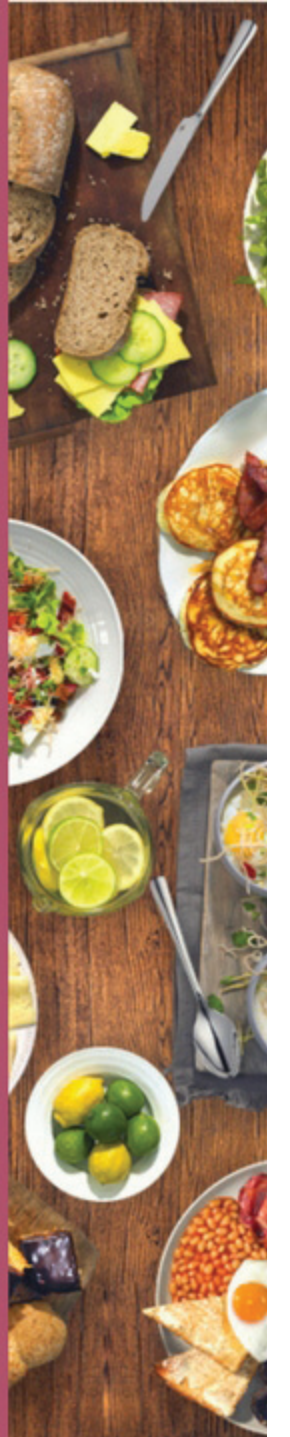
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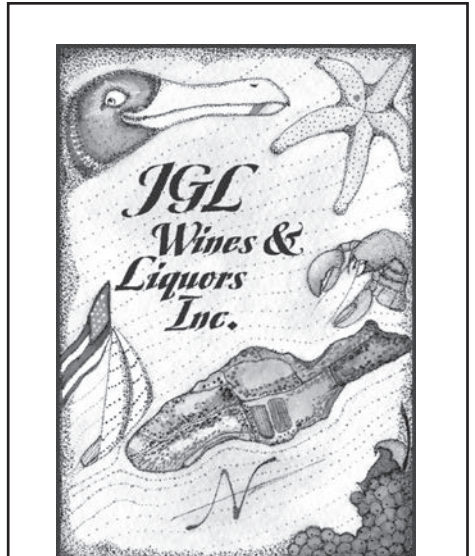
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Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Week Schedule
March 25th, Palm Sunday:
Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM

March 29th, Maundy Thursday: 7:30 PM
March 30th, Good Friday: 7:30 PM
April 1st, Easter Sunday: 10:00 AM

All are Welcome!

The Rev. John E. Covington, Pastor
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City Island—Then and Now

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

The City Island Nautical Museum will reopen on Saturday, April 7, with a new exhibition, "City Island Avenue: Then and Now," organized by Cheryl Brinker and Ron Terner. Can you tell what is now located at these three places: the building at the corner of what eventually became Tier Street, Miller's grocery store and the Raymond Theater?

When the City Island Nautical Museum opens on Saturday, April 7, after being closed for the winter months, visitors will be greeted by a fascinating display of images showing the shops along City Island Avenue as they used to be and as they are now.

Thanks to the talents of Ron Terner and Cheryl Brinker, the exhibition will include pictures of the City Island Diner when it was just Brown's ice cream parlor and then the Donut Shop; of Early Ruth's antique store when it was Sam Miller's grocery store; of the City Island branch library when it was a different building altogether.

One of the most interesting histories involves the building at the northwest corner of City Island Avenue at Tier Street, which began as a livery stable, was converted to a silent film theater in the 1920s, was used to promote the presidential run of Governor Al Smith in July 1928, became a Post Office in the 1930s and opened as the Original Crab Shanty Restaurant in 1977. (It was also featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not as the smallest post office in the United States that took up a whole city block, in this case between Tier Street and Pond Place, now a parking lot.)

Everyone remembers Trader John's



marine store at the corner of Schofield Street, now 239 Play!, but did you know that the building originally housed a meat market? Or that Dragon Path Academy, the karate studio at 229 City Island Avenue, was Roger Roberge's Mooncurser record store from 1991 to 2006, and before that was a branch of Irving Trust and then a uniform store?

The exhibition is being mounted to help celebrate the history of City Island in coordination with the volunteer event being sponsored by Viacom and the City Island Historical Society on Friday, April 20. On that day, employees of Viacom will be coming to the Island to participate in Viacom Community Day by working on various projects along City Island Avenue, such as cleaning the street, helping to install large historic

photographs in store windows and on fences, renovating and renewing the boat models at the school and planting the vacant area in front of the office building at Carroll Street.

The theme of the event is a celebration of City Island's nautical history as a yacht-building and sail-making center, and the organizing committee, headed by Maria Caruso, hopes that the photographs and other displays will be of interest not only to visitors but also to City Island residents who may not be aware of local history.

After April 7, the Nautical Museum will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. and by special appointment. Visit the museum's website at www.cityislandmuseum.org or call 718-885-0008 for more information.

CALLING YOUNG SAILORS!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although City Island has offered sailing programs for youngsters in the past, there is no such program at the present time. That is about to change, however, thanks to the determination of City Island Yacht Club member Ira Bigeleisen, who has developed a summer camp for kids that will be launched in June this year.

College teams from Fordham and Columbia Universities have trained here on City Island at the Morris and City Island Yacht Clubs, respectively, but children from 8 through 16 will be the focus of the new program, which will also include kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and other water-related activities.

Mr. Bigeleisen is a longtime sailor with experience on both coasts. He was a member of the Great South Bay Yacht Racing Association on Long Island and later of the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club in Oxnard, CA, where he spent 10 years on the board of directors. After he moved back east, he joined the City Island Yacht Club over two years ago and immediately began working on the development of the new sailing program for juniors.

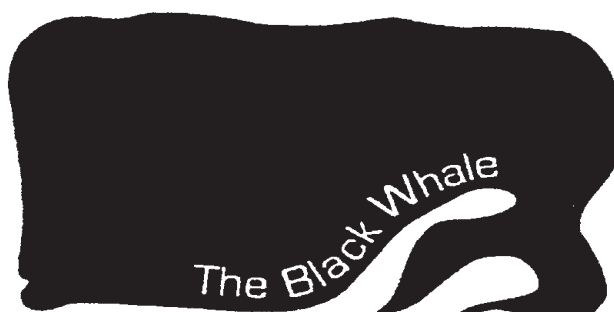
With the help of the yacht club's administration, Mr. Bigeleisen applied for

and received permits from New York City's Health Department. He also made certain that all of his counselors were certified by the United States Sailing Association, the national governing body for sailing in the United States, founded in 1897 and headquartered in Bristol, RI.

There are sailing programs for youngsters at the Huguenot Yacht Club in New Rochelle and at SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler, and at other locations in the city, but Mr. Bigeleisen felt it was important for City Island, with its nautical history, to have its own program here. His plan is to teach the children the physics of sailing but also to provide educational programs about such subjects as tidal wetlands and navigation, as well as nautical crafts, such as scrimshaw, macramé and lanyards.

The 2018 session will have three parts—an introductory session from June 26 through 29 and two longer sessions, July 2 through 20 and July 23 through Aug. 10. The program will begin at 8:45 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. with extended coverage for those who need it. Scholarships will be available.

For more information, send an e-mail to city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com or call 347-692-0696.



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City Island Landmarks Undesignated

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Monday, March 12, the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses voted to reject the designation of two individual landmarks on City Island, the Samuel H. and Mary T. Booth House on Centre Street and the Stafford House on Pell Place (see January/February issue of *The Current*). The news quickly spread, thanks to an angry editorial posted on line by Simeon Bankoff, executive director of the Historic Districts Council.

The reason for the rejection was the opposition of City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, who supported the owners of the two houses, who had requested that the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) withdraw the designation. The owners of the house on Centre Street, Wes Rodstrom and Krista King, had complained to the Councilmember's office that they objected to the designation since it would put restrictions on them for any future development of the property. The subcommittee invariably defers to the local councilmembers in a situation like this. Interestingly, a similar situation occurred in Brooklyn recently, where an owner had not agreed to the designation and Councilmember Gjonaj supported her. However, the local councilmember in that district voted in favor of designation, and the Council supported him.

Neither the councilmember nor the property owners appeared at the hearing to protest the designation, but the statement submitted by Councilmember Gjonaj reads as follows: "In a city that has played such a critical role in many events and movements that have shaped history, I appreciate and champion the need to preserve locations and properties that embody the values and principles that make New York so special. Having said that, I don't believe that a compelling case has been made to why these specific properties should be designated as landmarks over the wishes of the property owners."

Mr. Bankoff argues that the power of the City Council to reject designations is detrimental to the purpose of the landmarks law, which is to preserve historic structures and districts in New York City. He wrote: "The Landmarks Law states that preserving New York City's historic buildings benefits all New Yorkers by creating a stable framework for ensuring that our shared history remains recognizable into our future. Our elected officials must remember that preservation is a public necessity, not a private nicety."

The Landmarks Preservation Commission was established in 1965, largely (though not entirely) in response to the demolition of Penn Station, and since then has designated more than 36,000 historic buildings and sites. These sites are identified by LPC through surveys and other research, although some designations result from suggestions made by members of the public. The law in New York City does not require the owner's permission, and it is this issue that led to the position taken by Mr. Gjonaj.

Some supporters of the Landmarks Law argue that community benefits should take precedence over individuals, as when the owner of an historic building chooses to demolish it in order to gentrify an area by building high-rise apartment buildings that would benefit developers and increase NYC tax income. However, others feel that putting restrictions on individuals with landmarked buildings amounts to a takeover of private property by a government institution.

It is interesting that the landmarking process does not guarantee the permanence of a building, and according to a study published by an attorney at NYU, many "designees have been lost to decay, demolition, and legal maneuvering. Today, a surprising number of official New York City landmarks

are abandoned, having been left to rot for decades, and are in danger of becoming victims of demolition by neglect."

City Island has five landmarked buildings, only one of which was designated without the owner's approval (the old P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street). Each of these buildings has historic significance, although they are unique in being excellent examples of specific architectural styles in the Bronx.

The two undesignated buildings certainly have architectural interest and their designation was originally proposed, along with other Bronx buildings, a few years ago by Island resident and former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. Because the owners were not inclined to allow the designations, the buildings stayed on the rolls under limited protection without a ruling until 2015, when the City Council reduced the timeframe, forcing LPC to move ahead with designation.

Both owners told *The Current* that they had not been in favor of designation, and it seems clear that Landmarks did not make a sufficient effort to persuade them or to make concessions of any kind. Owners of designated landmarks do not get any financial advantage for owning a landmark (although low-cost loans are available through the New York Landmarks Conservancy), and studies have shown that granting landmark status usually increases rather than diminishes a property's real estate value.

However, landmark owners are required to obtain permits for any permanent structural changes, and many are not aware in advance that the LPC does not designate only the building on a site but also the entire lot. Permits are required for any changes to "hardscape features," including paths, fences, railings, swimming pools, garbage can enclosures, tree pits, and so on. This is detailed in the "Permit Application Guide" on the LPC website but is not explained to owners considering landmark status. And obtaining permits can be an expensive and time-consuming process and may lead to unforeseen expenses or decisions that owners might not want, as well as violations if permits are not obtained.

In the case of the old school building at 190 Fordham Street that houses Nautical Winds Condominiums, the City Island Nautical Museum and the Community Center, the application process for the new steps in front took well over a year and involved the preparation of architectural drawings and attendance at a hearing before the LPC commissioners. When the museum applied for permits to replace windows that had failed, LPC required that the replacement windows be the same as those visible in a 1908 photograph, even though these new windows are different from all the other windows in the building.

In spite of the bureaucratic regulations, landmarking has definite advantages for those who believe that New York City is too eager to replace historic structures with new developments. Who among us would be happy to learn that the Empire State Building was slated for demolition because the owner decided that a new, taller, more massive structure would bring in more income? And, closer to home, if the City Island Civic Association's request to have the old 1901 bridge landmarked had been approved, it could not have been replaced by a modern bridge.

The owners of the properties on Centre Street and Pell Place reassured *The Current* that they would not do anything to compromise or diminish the character or quality of their buildings. And it is to be hoped that future owners of these houses will take the same approach, with or without landmark status.

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY AT BRIDGE BOAT SUPPLY

By BILL STUTTIG



Photos by BILL STUTTIG

Bridge Boat Supply was founded in 1992 by Joe Bondi (center) with help now from his sons, Joe (left) and Dan.

The following is another in a series of profiles of City Island businesses and long-time Island Current advertisers.

With more than 50 years of experience in the marine supply business on City Island, Joe Bondi has seen it all, from the 1970s, when City Island was one of the leading marine industry destinations on the East Coast, to the last few years, as the remaining boatyards, marinas and clubs have tried to hang on to what is left of a once thriving industry.

After working for several City Island yards and suppliers during the '70s and '80s, Joe said he decided to open his own business, Bridge Boat Supply, in 1992, and for over 25 years he has made it work by catering to his customers' specific needs and helping them find what the need no matter how obscure or outdated.

"When we first started in 1992, we called it the store with no name," Joe told *The Current*. "We were first across the street from here, business was actually better then." But as the overall marine industry began to decline locally, Joe realized he needed to reach out and market his business regionally, nationally and in some cases internationally, in order to continue to thrive.

Now operating out of 673 City Island Avenue (an immediate left off the bridge when you can), Joe brought in his twin sons, Joe and Dan, about 11 years ago to help run the business. "They expanded the business," Joe says in explaining the contributions of his sons, "with more electronics, more outboard parts. Sales are way up. We sell everything from screws to radar, but we mainly cater to power boats. We do some sailboats, but that is a difficult business. We have some commercial accounts going back to the very beginning. Our customers come from all over New Jersey, Connecticut, even the Caribbean, Barbados, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, even as far away as Guyana."

Asked about the local business, Joe says, "City Island is not the same, but there are marinas that still have lots of boats. They are all customers of ours, and if they need parts we stock those parts. The big chain supply stores skip over a lot of the non-technical stuff. If customers are looking for shoes, we send them there. Our customers come here with all sorts of problems and all sorts of questions and we solve them."

Joe's son Dan explains the formula for their long-running success: "We treat people right and we are honest. We try to satisfy everyone, and that is why people keep coming back. If you need a dollar part, we will search for three hours for that part if we have to, and that is why people keep com-



ing back.

"If people are looking for a part, and we don't have in stock," Dan explains, "we will find it and 95 percent of the time, it will be here tomorrow. The secret to our success is that whatever it is our customers need, we find it and charge them a fair price. We get a lot of hard-to-find parts. If we can't find it, it is not made." Joe adds: "New technology is a big part of the business. We sell \$20,000 high-tech items and my sons know all about that. You have to know and keep up with it."

As it is with many businesses today, on-line sales are vital to success, and the Bridge Boat Supply website has been recently updated to take orders from all over the country. "People find us on the internet (www.bridgemarinesupply.com). I'll get calls from the Carolinas and New Hampshire. If they see something that we have and we are selling it for a good price, they will want me to ship it to them. It could be engines from the late '60s or one bolt from an engine. If it exists in this country, we will get it."

Even though this winter has seemed to drag on forever, Joe and his sons know that April will bring the warmer weather and the store tucked in anonymously just north of the Lobster House will be hopping despite the obscure location and the continuing bridge work, which makes it harder for customers to reach the store by car. Beginning in late March, the business will remain open seven days a week, 9 to 6 on weekdays, 9 to 4 on Saturdays, and 9 to 2 on Sundays.

"After Labor Day, things slow down," Joe says. "We sell a lot of shrinkwrap and winterizing supplies, but the winter is our chance to take Sundays off and be with our families."

In recent months, the family has expanded. Dan has a new baby boy just five months old, and Joe Jr. has a brand new addition, a boy just one month old, as well as a three-year-old boy, so the future of the business is more important than ever.

"The future of the business is to keep plugging along, expand where you can, and just try to keep up with the times," Dan told *The Current*. "We love the business," Joe Jr. added, "and we love helping our customers any way we possibly can."

"We plan on being here a long time and I plan on being here a long time too," says their father, who started the business more than a quarter century ago, "I have no place else to go."

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

APRIL

Sat., April 7, **Temple Beth-El Gala Dinner Dance**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

Sat. April 7, **City Island Little League Opening Ceremony**, Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175, 9:30 a.m.

Sat. April 14, **Spring Fair**, Trinity Methodist Church at the corner of Bay Street, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

MAY

Thurs., May 17, **Garden Club Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street, 12 noon.

City Island Republicans

Petitions are out. If someone comes around, please sign and help get our federal candidates onto the ballot.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 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. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. At other times, services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with celebratory music by Your Band by the Sea.

April 6: Rabbis Shohama and David

April 13: Community-led

April 20: Rabbis Shohama and David

April 27: Community-led

Come celebrate with us at our Gala Dinner Dance commemorating our 84th year on Saturday, April 7, from 7 to 11 p.m. The event, honoring Bob Berent, Daniella Haney and the Steinberg family, with a special welcome to Pastor Dave Jolly and Father John Covington, will be held at the beautiful Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Course clubhouse. Please register under events on our website, www.yourshulby-thesea.org. To donate silent auction items, please call Paul Klein at 718-885-3090.

Adult Education: Join Rabbi David on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. for the second of five sessions on Jewish ethics according to Pirkei Avot, the Ethics of the Fathers. The cost for all five sessions is \$72 for members and \$100 for non-members. Books and materials are included. If you need financial assistance, please let us know.

TBE invites the City Island community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons,

ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes. Participants can take the session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served afterward. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

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

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

Ellen Ruth Topol

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our tentative schedule will be presented at our regular meeting on April 4, and dues will be collected for 2018. Don't forget your AARP cards when paying dues. Plans are being made for a trip to the dinner theater in Hunterdon, NJ, on April 18. Be sure to sign up for this wonderful outing. Since we've had winter issues in February, and the beginning of March, we are looking forward to our spring meetings with plans for trips, luncheons and speakers for all to enjoy. So come and bring your friends.

Rosetta Woods

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post 156's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner, hosted by the Auxiliary, was held on Sunday, March 11. Thanks to the Auxiliary, SAL, Legion family and community for supporting and attending. It was a successful event.

On Saturday, March 10, Meaghan Clancy, Jane Gelsi and Joanne Valletta raised awareness for our national poppy program. They worked with our youth to submit poppy posters for the ALA National Contest. Good luck to all!

On April 22, we will be celebrating Purple Up Day, a time for Americans to show their support for military families. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy blue. The goal of Purple Up is for military youth to see the support in their school, youth groups and the community. Meaghan Clancy, Jane Gelsi, Jen Sortino and Joanne Valletta will be sponsoring a craft and information event on Sunday, April 22, at 11 a.m. In conjunction with Earth Day, we also will have an educational demonstration on beekeeping at the Leonard Hawkins Post. Students from K through 8 are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

The next ALA Meeting is Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. If you'd like to research your eligibility to become a member, please e-mail Doreen Gallagher at americanlegion-membership156@gmail.com.

Joanne Valletta

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule during the month of March: Lenten Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments

and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, takes place every Sunday after service during coffee hour.

Sunday School: It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. The children will begin rehearsing soon for a Family Service in May, where the Sunday School students lead the worship, including all the readings and the homily.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is beginning our third year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. On April 15, we will sing on the Island at the Starving Artist at 3 p.m. We will also entertain the residents of Bayberry Care Center in New Rochelle on April 21. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2018 dues (\$30). Every member was sent a postcard from the commander. Please fill it out and return it to the Post with your updated information, which helps us keep everyone informed on future events.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates established by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club's annual beautification fund-raising drive has begun! Funds collected are used for the upkeep and planting of the garden club planter boxes along City Island Avenue, contracting with CJS Property Care to maintain the tree pits on the avenue and working on special beautification projects. Club members will be delivering solicitation letters this month to every local business and Island resident. Thank you to those who have donated in the past; we hope you will continue to support our efforts. If you have not donated before, please consider helping us to beautify our Island.

The Garden Club's March meeting began with committee heads presenting their plans for the upcoming year. Beautification Committee chair Kathy Gibbons is planning colorful spring plantings for the avenue planter boxes. Membership Committee chair Maggie Higgins has placed our new brochures at businesses around the Island. These brochures describe the club's activities and explain how to become a member. Jane Protzman, Program co-chair is busy planning tours to gardens in the New York area.

Our annual luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 17, at the City Island Yacht

Club. Committee chair Francine Alheid is working with the new steward to create a special menu for the luncheon. The theme this year is "Spring Bouquet." Special baskets created by club members, under the direction of Linda Kyriakos, will be raffled off, along with a small framed Mark Whitcombe etching. For reservations, please call ViVi at 718-885-1442. Everyone is invited, and we are looking forward to seeing you!

Interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club of City Island? Please join us at one of our meetings. We meet the first Monday of each month (except August) at City Island Yacht Club. Our next meeting is on April 2 at 10 a.m. Meetings conclude with refreshments and home-baked goods served by the Hospitality Committee. We invite you to join us for special projects, presentations and field trips.

Sharynne Wilder

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

On Easter Sunday, April 1, Masses will be held here at St. Mary's at 9 and 11 a.m. Alleluia, He is Risen.

Our monthly Holy Hour will take place on Friday, April 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory on Sunday, April 8, following the 9 a.m. Mass. Come and enjoy light refreshments with your fellow parishioners.

On Tuesday, April 24, students from our Religious Education Program will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. We congratulate all our confirmandi on this special event in their lives.

Rose Dietz

City Island Theater Group

We are pleased to present Michael McKever's classic farce "Suite Surrender" as our second production of 2018. This comedy is the story of two of Hollywood's biggest divas, who are locked in a year-long feud but who have now agreed to appear together in a wartime performance. Unknown to them when they arrive at the Palm Beach Royale Hotel with their assistants and baggage they find that the hotel has mistakenly booked them into the same suite. What follows is a tip of the hat to the classic farces of the 1930s and '40s. The cast includes Carol Dooner, Jean Eifert, Phil Garfinkel, Scott Harwood, Camille Kaiser, Thomas Losito, Susan Rauh, Eileen Sugameli and Greg Weiss. Amanda Livingston Martin will direct, and Pam Johnston will act as stage manager.

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.

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

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.

We are grateful for memorial donations in honor of a deceased member or donations for a special family event. Thank you to all who think of the Center in this way.

Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent the Center for family events at reasonable rates. To join or to request our brochure and up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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 and really need volunteers and donations.

COMING UP

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: It's time to join for the weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables beginning June 4. Contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

NEW PROGRAMS

Ballroom Dance: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Maurice Bonilla returns on a new day to teach us how to "Dance with the Stars." It's great fun and good exercise. For information, call 718-502-2825.

Belly Dance: Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Join Ezma and Amira for this unique fun-filled dance experience and enjoy the benefits of feeling fit and limber. Beginners and all levels welcome. For more information call Amira at 917-251-1269.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information and meeting dates, contact Michael Morrison at michammorrison@hotmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

SCHEDULE OR TIME CHANGE

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Saturdays, Teens/Adults at 4 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

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

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesdays and Thursdays after school

classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. All skill levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolxperience.com.

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.

Chess & Card Club: Tuesday at 7 p.m. Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. 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 Culinary Club: Mondays, April 9 and 23, at 7 p.m. It's Italian cuisine this month. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of The Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to C.I.C.C. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join our unofficial WW meetings while we build up membership to become official. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: 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 Julia at 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. Suggested donation: \$2. 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.

Highlights

April events are not finalized yet. If there is a specific program/class you'd like to join and you haven't attended yet, please call ahead.

April and May: Join our singing group, taught and led by Benjamin Spierman, General Manager of the Bronx Opera Company.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On March 18, Pastor Dave Jolly and the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church prayed over and blessed the church's organist, Joy Jieun Kim, before she left for a two-week mission trip to India.

Aging Mastery Program

As part of PSSLIFE! University program, we are pleased to announce that we are the first in the area to offer an innovative new ten class health and wellness program to residents 60 and over. The Aging Master Program (AMP) was developed by the National Council on Aging. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in and reap the benefits of this cutting-edge program. We are currently recruiting adults ages 60+ to participate in the 10-class program. Not all classes are required, but we encourage you to attend at least seven.

AMP is a fun, innovative and person-centered education program that empowers participants to embrace their gift of longevity by spending more time each day doing things that are good for themselves and for others. The program encourages mastery and developing sustainable behaviors across many dimensions that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being and that increase societal participation.

Below is the tentative schedule for April/May classes. If you are interested in a particular class, please call ahead.

- April 6: Advance Planning: Five Wishes
- April 13: Fall Prevention
- April 20: Medication Management
- April 27: Exercise and You
- May 5: Financial Fitness, Anthea Perkinson, CFP
- May 18: Sleep
- May 25: Healthy Relationships

April Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Self-Defense class at 9:15; Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; A Matter of Balance Class at 1:15 p.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

April Programs: Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m., Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Learn Piano, 10:30 a.m.; Blood Pressure Monitoring 11:30 to 12 noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; Crafters Corner 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 at 1 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month; please call to sign up; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party on April 26 with guest comedian; Fridays: Aging Mastery Classes at 1:15 p.m. (see above).

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. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:00 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's 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 \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, April 8, at 12 noon. We will be conducting both the Post-Everlasting for our members who have gone before us and inducting our Life Members who have completed 50 years or more as part of the Post 156 Legion family.

Dues (\$55) are past due. Please drop the dues off at the post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post. Our latest project was the installation of new steps outside the bar door into the parking lot.

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

The following are dates of upcoming events: April 1: Happy Easter and April Fools' to all; April 7, at 9:30 a.m., we will be providing a color guard at Opening Day of the City Island Little League. Please come out a cheer our baseball players on! On April 10, we wish Happy 99th Birthday to our American Legion Auxiliary; April 16: Happy Patriot's Day.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

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



The Amazing Meryl in the 20th Century

Meryl Streep is the most Oscar-nominated actress of all time, with 21 nominations (thus far). Before 1978 she was best known for her acclaimed New York stage work with one Tony nomination, and her only big-screen appearance was a small, albeit memorable turn opposite Jane Fonda in **Julia** (1977). Streep's name recognition increased significantly in 1978. First, there was her much-heralded performance in the epic NBC miniseries "Holocaust," which resulted in an Emmy Award.

Streep received her first nomination for a small role in **The Deer Hunter** (1978), a grueling film about the Vietnam War's effect on American working-class steelworkers. This epic war drama stars Robert De Niro as Mike, Christopher Walken as Nick, John Savage as Steve and John Cazale as Stan (in his final role). Set in Clairton, PA, a small working-class town near Pittsburgh, and in Vietnam, the film begins with the celebration of Steve's wedding and a deer hunt before their departure to become soldiers. In Vietnam, the men are captured by Vietcong soldiers, who force Mike and Nick to play Russian roulette. Mike returns home alone and finds solace with Nick's old girlfriend, Linda (Streep).

Alan Alda wrote and starred in the title role in **The Seduction of Joe Tynan** (1979), a story about a respected liberal senator who is asked to lead the opposition to a Supreme Court appointment. This involves betraying an old friend and his own scruples to make the necessary deals,

as well as putting ambition above family. Helping him prepare the case is a pretty married Southern lawyer, Karen Traynor (Streep), with whom he has an affair that jeopardizes his marriage to Ellie (Barbara Harris), and possibly also his career.

Kramer vs. Kramer (1979) is the classic film starring Dustin Hoffman as Ted Kramer, whose seriously depressed wife, Joanna (Streep), leaves him and their young son, Billy (Justin Henry), to fend for themselves. It is wonderful to watch Ted transform from a workaholic to a devoted dad. Streep's performance in this film won her first Oscar as Best Supporting Actress.

The French Lieutenant's Woman (1981) stars Streep along with Jeremy Irons in dual roles, first as actors Anna and Mike, who are having an extramarital affair in the 20th century, and then as Charles and Sarah, the 19th-century couple whose story they are filming. Charles is a paleontologist engaged to Ernestina (Lynsey Baxter), but he becomes smitten with the disgraced Sarah, who has had a scandalous affair with a French lieutenant. The stories move back and forth in time with Anna and Mike playing the roles of Charles and Sarah in the film they are making.

Still of the Night (1982) is set in Manhattan, with several scenes near the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in Central Park. It is the story of psychiatrist Sam Rice (Roy Scheider), who inadvertently jeopardizes his life when he falls in love with the mysterious Brooke Reynolds (Streep), who works at a renowned auction house. The tension in this taut thriller begins when he starts suspecting that she might have murdered one of his patients. Jessica Tandy is on hand as the lovely Dr. Grace Rice, Sam's psychiatrist mother.

Sophie's Choice (1982) set in 1947 New York, is the story of aspiring author named Stingo (Peter McNicol), who is befriended by research chemist Nathan Landau (Kevin Kline) and Polish concentration camp survivor Sophie Zawistowska (Streep). Stingo is witness to Nathan's violent mood swings, while Sophie is wracked with guilt over a horrible secret. William Styron co-wrote the script based

on his novel. Streep's Oscar-winning performance is by far, the very best by any actress I have ever seen and has been unsurpassed in the 36 years since it was filmed.

Based on the true story of an employee at an Oklahoma nuclear facility, **Silkwood** (1983) is the sad account of Karen Silkwood (Streep), who died under suspicious circumstances while on her way to meet with a reporter to expose safety hazards where she worked. The excellent cast includes Kurt Russell and Cher as her co-workers Drew Stephens and Dolly Pelliker, with whom she shared a house. Expertly directed by Mike Nichols, this slow-paced drama garnered five Academy Award nominations.

Plenty (1985) is a British drama in which Streep plays Susan Traherne, a young English fighter in the WWII French Resistance, whose life after the war is one of boredom and discontent. This thought-provoking work covers two decades in the life of a young idealist, whose exhilarating experiences in France during World War II cannot be matched in postwar England. The supporting cast includes Charles Dance as Raymond Brock, the man she marries; Sting as Mick, a young man whom she uses to deal with her boredom; and Sam Neill as Lazar, a soldier from the war with whom she spent a memorable night.

Out of Africa (1985) won seven out of eleven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Streep stars as Danish author Isak Dinesen, who in 1914 enters into a marriage of convenience with Baron Bror Blixen-Flecke (Klaus Maria Brandauer) and moves to a plantation in Nairobi. When her husband leaves to drink and be with other women, Karen falls in love with a hunter, Denys Finch Hatton (Robert Redford), who does not want to be tied down. Although the acting is terrific, the real star of the film is the sumptuous cinematography and score.

Written by Carrie Fisher, the semi-autobiographical **Postcards from the Edge** (1990) stars Streep as Suzanne Vale, a drug-abusing actress (like Carrie), whose famous actress mother, Doris Mann (Shir-

ley MacLaine), is herself a maintenance alcoholic. This is a rather satirical poignant film with some entertaining musical numbers.

Defending Your Life (1991) stars Albert Brooks as Daniel, who accidentally dies and wakes up at the way-station between earth and heaven. (In this film there is no hell; one either goes to heaven or gets sent back to earth again.) At the way station, he must go on trial and review his life in order to graduate to heaven. He is defended by Rip Torn and Buck Henry and "prosecuted" by Lee Grant. While there, he falls in love with Julia (Streep), who, it seems, has led an exemplary life.

The Bridges of Madison County (1995) is the story of a romance between Francesca Johnson (Streep), an Iowa housewife brought to the United States from Italy after WWII by her husband, and National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid (Clint Eastwood). When Francesca's family goes off to the county fair for four days and Robert comes to town to photograph the covered bridges, the two meet, fall in love and experience a life-changing connection. The story is told in flashbacks as Francesca's grown children, Carolyn (Annie Corley) and Michael (Victor Slezak), read the diary she has left behind.

Music of the Heart (1999) is a dramatization of the true story of Roberta Guaspari (Streep), who co-founded the Opus 118 Harlem School of Music and fought for music education funding in New York City public schools. When Guaspari's husband leaves her and their sons, her soon-to-be boyfriend Brian Sinclair (Aidan Quinn) introduces her to school principal Janet Williams (Angela Bassett). Guaspari's life takes a turn upward, as she teaches violin to dozens of children whose lives are deeply affected by her dedication. It is interesting to note that this movie was directed by Wes Craven of "Nightmare of Elm Street" fame; no one would ever have a clue that he created this touching film.

And until next time (when we move with Streep into the 21st century), happy viewing. . .

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

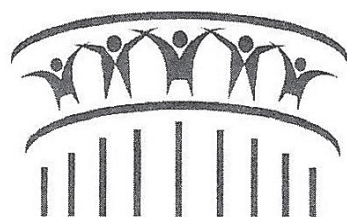
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Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

City Island Sail and Power Squadron was awarded the Prince Henry the Navigator award, which is an alabaster statue (left) donated to the USPS by the government of Portugal. Past Commanders Barbara Mandarano, and Gary Mandarano, each passed the advanced grade Navigator course this year and were designated Life Time Members. The Squadron also received the Harvey A. Collins JN Memorial Award as the squadron with the highest percentage of new members who passed at least one advanced grade course and earned a merit mark within a two-year period. Pictured above holding the award are Michael Croce and Cathi Swett.



Basketball

Continued from page 1

losing seasons are followed by winning seasons as the players learn from adversity (a life lesson as well). The coaches hope these players will be back next season and continue to grow in their skills and love of basketball. The persistent players on the Varsity Gold team were Donzell Mitchell, Jason Girardi, Jayden Rodgers, Matthew McGaughan, Nicholas Baratta, Ezra Oquendo, Tommy Forliano, James Shaw and Oscar Etzel.

Coach Bill Whelan thanked Assistant Coach Cesar Sosa for his time and dedication. He also thanked all the parents for volunteering at home games and getting the boys to practice and the games.

Bantams

The Boys and Girls Bantam team, the only co-ed team in the program, included third- and fourth-graders Daniel DeCicco, Joseph Secola, Isabella Hauser, Anthony Ferrante, Jake Penny, Victor Lopez, Joseph Penny, Joshua Antelmi, Thomas Riordan and Robert Delaney.

The team showed progress from last season. They finished the regular season with a record of eight wins and eight losses. They made it to the CYO playoffs and won their first game 31 to 17 versus Mount Carmel. They fought hard, but then lost in the second round 38 to 30 to Villa Maria Academy.

Coach Lorenzo Secola thanked Assistant Coach Greg Penny for his support and diligence. The coaches hope many players return next season to continue improving and eventually hoist their own trophies.



Public School 175

There has been a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March. Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, March 15. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. Students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

We also had a grant from former City Councilman Jimmy Vacca with an arts organization called Publicolor. Over the course of five Saturdays (and a few Thursday afternoons), the first floor of our school was transformed, thanks to the hard work of Publicolor employees, college student volunteers, P.S. 175 student volunteers and teachers. This weekend painting work was overseen by our fabulous Parent Coordinator, Tina Gisante, who worked diligently to ensure that this was a great experience for students and staff!!

Our students also attended some exciting trips. The first grade visited Lehman Center for the Performing Arts to see a performance of the Chinese Acrobats; the seventh grade made its annual journey to Philadelphia and visited many iconic sites including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the Franklin Institute of Science Museum; deserving seventh- and eighth-graders went to see the movie "Black Panther" for a Reward Trip. We also had an exciting in-school event for kindergarten, first-, second- and third-graders, who listened to fabulous stories from visiting storyteller Lou Ann Adams.

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Many arts activities are taking place right now. Fifth-grade students and teachers are continuing to work with our drama teacher, Steve Bloom, in preparation for their spring musical production of "The Grunch," which will culminate in two evening performances in May. In addition to working with classes across the grades, our music teacher, Joan Schwartz, took the P.S. 175 Glee Club to Pilot Cove on Friday, March 16, for a fabulous St. Patrick's Day performance. The residents and students had a great time together! The Glee Club also did a wonderful performance for the whole school, which was a great hit. We are also working with a visual arts teacher from Bronx Arts Ensemble, who will have an opportunity to work with all classes by the end of the year.

Our phenomenal Parent-Teacher Association held its annual fund raising event, a new one this year called Pocketbook Bingo at the Morris Yacht Club. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success! Many thanks to all the parents who helped coordinate the event. Also, a huge thanks to all the teachers who "donated" an activity to the silent auction. We are very pleased that the funds raised will enable the PTA to continue to assist us in providing exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students and teachers. Many thanks also to the businesses in our community that supported the party.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2018, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for Kindergarten, can come into school to do so now. Please see the NYCDOE website for registration information. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 22, at 9 a.m.; the Eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 13, at 6 p.m. The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 21, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

March Citizens-of-the-Month were Camila Abreu (kindergarten); Sarah Ramirez and Makayla Srikishun (first grade); Khloe Brown and Alexander Moynihan (second grade); Alyssa Sciara and Joseph Secola (third grade); Isabella Hauser (fourth grade); Michael Sgobbo and Leila Rexhaj (fifth grade); Miguel Castanos (sixth grade); Taylor Schnatz and Jania Perry (seventh grade); Christina Lachman and Angel Cotty (eighth grade).



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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving 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

APRIL 2018									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0056	8.39	0729	-1.06	1322	8.01	1944	-0.59	Sun 01
02 Mon	0137	8.27	0812	-0.83	1405	7.75	2022	-0.24	Mon 02
03 Tue	0215	8.04	0854	-0.46	1446	7.43	2054	0.19	Tue 03
04 Wed	0251	7.75	0934	0.00	1528	7.10	2117	0.62	Wed 04
05 Thu	0327	7.43	1015	0.48	1613	6.79	2143	1.01	Thu 05
06 Fri	0406	7.12	1058	0.92	1709	6.57	2223	1.37	Fri 06
07 Sat	0456	6.85	1155	1.27	1816	6.46	2315	1.67	Sat 07
08 Sun	0620	6.69	1301	1.45	1920	6.51			Sun 08
09 Mon	0023	1.82	0737	6.69	1400	1.46	2016	6.69	Mon 09
10 Tue	0207	1.74	0835	6.82	1452	1.33	2106	6.93	Tue 10
11 Wed	0305	1.47	0923	7.01	1536	1.09	2148	7.19	Wed 11
12 Thu	0351	1.08	1003	7.20	1614	0.81	2221	7.46	Thu 12
13 Fri	0431	0.65	1032	7.40	1644	0.50	2242	7.74	Fri 13
14 Sat	0506	0.21	1057	7.60	1712	0.19	2306	8.06	Sat 14
15 Sun	0541	-0.19	1129	7.78	1745	-0.07	2340	8.36	Sun 15
16 Mon	0618	-0.51	1207	7.90	1822	-0.25			Mon 16
17 Tue	0020	8.58	0658	-0.69	1249	7.92	1904	-0.29	Tue 17
18 Wed	0102	8.67	0742	-0.70	1334	7.83	1948	-0.18	Wed 18
19 Thu	0148	8.60	0830	-0.54	1424	7.63	2037	0.07	Thu 19
20 Fri	0238	8.37	0924	-0.24	1518	7.35	2131	0.43	Fri 20
21 Sat	0334	8.00	1031	0.12	1621	7.06	2237	0.80	Sat 21
22 Sun	0437	7.58	1204	0.38	1746	6.90			Sun 22
23 Mon	0021	0.99	0603	7.26	1325	0.37	1926	7.05	Mon 23
24 Tue	0152	0.78	0752	7.30	1432	0.18	2034	7.41	Tue 24
25 Wed	0259	0.35	0901	7.53	1530	-0.07	2131	7.81	Wed 25
26 Thu	0358	-0.14	0958	7.76	1623	-0.31	2223	8.14	Thu 26
27 Fri	0451	-0.56	1050	7.92	1712	-0.45	2310	8.36	Fri 27
28 Sat	0540	-0.84	1137	7.97	1757	-0.46	2354	8.44	Sat 28
29 Sun	0626	-0.93	1222	7.90	1840	-0.34			Sun 29
30 Mon	0035	8.38	0709	-0.83	1304	7.74	1918	-0.09	Mon 30
MAY 2018									
01 Tue	0113	8.22	0750	-0.58	1343	7.53	1952	0.23	Tue 01
02 Wed	0146	7.99	0828	-0.21	1421	7.30	2013	0.57	Wed 02
03 Thu	0214	7.74	0901	0.20	1455	7.08	2028	0.87	Thu 03
04 Fri	0241	7.51	0921	0.59	1528	6.90	2100	1.13	Fri 04
05 Sat	0315	7.29	0943	0.90	1603	6.76	2142	1.39	Sat 05



The Hits Just Keep on Coming!

After last month's animal update, which included a few surprises such as a northern harrier, a peregrine falcon and a bald eagle, we were expecting a lull in the action. Happily, we were mistaken. The first surprise was a seal, probably a harbor seal, in Eastchester Bay. Like a lot of other wildlife in our area recently, harbor seal numbers have been on the rise. They tend to stay out in the Sound, though, where the rocks of the rocky shorelines are used as platforms for sleep and sunning. They don't often make it into the Bay observed, so when they do it makes for the kind of thrill you get at the sight of a shooting star.

The second surprise was a snowy owl, right here on City Island, King Avenue to be exact.



Photo by EVI BATTEN

While we will admit that the graininess of the photo opens the door to a little bit of doubt, we'll go with the flow

here and call it as we see it. That's a snowy! We shared the photo with the City Island Birdman himself, who said that it is entirely possible that it's a snowy owl because they have been "seen all over."

That jibes with what the ornithologists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have been saying, which is that there has been an "irruption" of snowy owls this year. According to the Lab, an "irruption" is an above-average number of birds spending time outside their normal habitat range. For snowy owls, the Arctic is normal. When they are seen in such faraway places like City Island (even Florida!), it is because the food supply has been good, believe it or not. Female snowy owls have the ability to produce more or less eggs depending on the food supply, so when food is plentiful, as it has been recently, they lay more eggs.

The other thing about irruptions that ornithologists from the Lab at Cornell tell us is that the snowy owls who have been spending most of the time outside the Arctic are juveniles. Adult snowies do not like to share territory; they force juveniles out, way out in some instances, including their own. So the recent abundance of the food supply would explain this year's irruption of all of those extra young snowies.

One last interesting fact about snowy owls we would like to share is that, unlike their owl brethren, it is not at all uncommon for snowies to be active during the day. This is because they have grown accustomed to what must seem—even to a snowy owl—like endless stretches of daylight, as happens sometimes in the Arctic.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Poppy Lauren's Grape

This Spring

The promise has once again been met with green shoots springing from the earth and the blush and haze of yellow green spreading out across the gentle woods, beach and marshlands of City Island. I always feel privileged to see another beginning, as even in my youth it was a gift that was not wasted.

I've always been a neat gardener, in that no faded blossom or imperfect leaf should remain. This requires one to snip and pinch and mulch, which is like fancy dress making, so let's just watch, take advantage of our inclination to gaze, and meditate on the beauty around us.

So before the madness begins, I am just observing. Last fall I planted another drift of daffodils. I see their shoots pointing toward the heavens, ready to form their elongated buds wrapped in papery sheaths. By the mid-14th century there were 24 distinct varieties, or so it is recorded, within which there were some natural species and early hybrids. Now we have 89 species and over 100 varieties and countless cultivars, so there is a form and color for any disposition.

When aiming for a naturalized look, plant single blossom varieties in drifts as large as the site requires. Scatter the bulbs by hand and allow different kinds to merge at the edges of the drifts. Use one color at a time; early blooms may be soft creams and lemons onto the middle late varieties, which can be in the butter shades and brassy golds. For planting in grass, species daffodils are best: cyclamineus, jonquilla and poeticus. Rapture, jetfire and peeping tom are also wonderful small varieties. In the mid-daffodil season, poeticus recurvus is natural, fragrant and so beautiful. For borders, thalia and rapture. All daffodils are great in containers and the short varieties are best.

Is there anything more delicate and loved than a poppy? Their buds burst their stays and pop open even as your eye is on them. Their crinkled mass of creased petals seems impossible to iron out, as they open gloriously to shallow papery cups in every

color. Poppies can be planted out now, seeded directly in the soil in a very sunny position. Soil that is free draining is perfect for the annual kinds. The trick is to thin the seedlings out ruthlessly and leave single plants three or four inches apart. Because the seeds are so tiny, the tendency to crowd them is increased. Please just throw away 99 percent of the seedlings.

The oriental poppy, which is a perennial and likes a heavier soil, is a favorite, with its central black blotch and golden stamens. The scarlet ones can cause a traffic jam. Their seed heads are the largest in the family, which makes a second encore to the blossom. My heart stopped in England when I saw the very tall oriental poppy "Goliath" growing in a border there. I bought three of those scarlet beauties and had to wash off all the soil in the hotel loo. No soil was allowed back to the States because of mad cow disease. They flourished for quite a few years but while rooting around in my border, I mistakenly managed to oust all of them, expletives! Oriental poppies disappear completely after their performance, so make sure you label them carefully.

Try Angels Choir, which you can get from Thompson and Morgan seeds, pastel colors and scarlets together make for a stunning display. Then there is the cute lady bird poppy, short of stature with black blotches at her center, and the somniferum kind, which is the true opium poppy. Their capsules are beautiful as well as their flowers, and the leaves are blue and fringed, an added attraction. I like the variety Lauren's grape. Of course, a poppy needs its companion, iris! Just ask Monet in Maytime.

Daffodils and poppies are bread and butter plants that succeed the early ephemerals. Bread and butter according to the plant guru Carol Klein are plants we just cannot do without.

Next month: the daisies.

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



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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Trinity United Methodist Church of City Island hosted a beautiful dinner and worship for the Bronx Cluster of the Methodist Churches on Feb. 28, 2018. Shown are the choir and choir master from Tremont United Methodist Church, with their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Marva Usher- Kerr. More than 150 people from churches all over the Bronx gathered for this Lenten service.

Organization News

Continued from page 11

takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

On April 1, the Annual Easter sunrise service will be held at 6:30 a.m. in Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue. This is a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. An unofficial

ecumenical meeting to be led by George Cavaleri, Lay Servant of Trinity UMC, and all believers are welcome to attend and participate, regardless of their Christian denomination. Please dress warmly; in case of inclement weather, the gathering will be held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall at 7 a.m. on City Island Avenue at Bay Street.

Trinity's Annual Spring Fair is April 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And there will be lots of great gifts for sale and fresh baked goodies.

At Trinity's home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister, Reverend David Jolly.

The Budget Shop is open and bursting at the seams! Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

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PARENTING FOR NON-VIOLENCE

By JOHN SCARDINA

We certainly struggle as parents when we hear about school violence. As we read the news feed and try to understand the family dynamics of the young men who engage in school shootings, we often ask: Who are their parents? How did this happen? Clearly, mental health issues can be a cause for such behavior—I am not blaming only the parents here—yet we as parents can choose to be actors in our children's lives in ways that can hopefully help to prevent such tragedies.

I believe we can actually parent for non-violence. Most of our children have a natural tendency to do "the next right thing," what some call "growing into goodness." Our parenting style can support this process if we have a belief in the innate goodness of each individual. We can also undermine the confidence of our children if we believe that our role is "spare the rod and spoil the child" when disciplining them.

Discipline, which comes from the Latin word "discere" (which means "to follow" as in a "disciple"), can certainly happen without violence. Discipline based upon natural consequences allows our children to face the results of their actions, be responsible, and still maintain their dignity.

So if we ask ourselves "What is violence?" what comes up for us? If we were to brainstorm a list of behaviors that are "violent" we might begin with the more physical examples (hitting, spanking, fighting) but soon we must move to more emotional examples (shaming, verbal abuse, gossip, neglect, withdrawal),

as well as cultural forms of violence (sexism, racism, elitism, ageism, ableism). Do we really want to be "violent" with our children?

If we ask ourselves "What is non-violence?" a different set of behaviors and values emerge: love, respect, inclusion, community, peace, service to others and more. So how can our parenting embrace these values?

There is a good formula for addressing issues: it is "non-violent communication" as defined by a psychologist named Marshall Rosenberg. It goes like this:

Observe without judgment: Instead of saying "You are such a slob. Just look at this room!" you can say "I see a room with dirty dishes, clothes all over the floor, and an unmade bed."

State your feelings: Begin with "I" and take ownership for what you feel. "I feel sad and discouraged when I see this room."

State your needs: "I need a home where I can feel comfortable to walk into any room." Kids need to know that parents have needs, too.

Make a request: "I want this situation taken care of as soon as possible. If not, there will need to be consequences."

Think about what this means. A child can correct his or her behavior without feeling attacked. That is parenting for non-violence.

All of us do better when we have the opportunity to make adjustments and maintain our dignity. Let's reduce violence in the world by beginning with our own families.

Changes in Specialized High School Admissions Policies

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. is calling on the Panel for Educational Policy, the body that oversees New York City's public-school system, to use its power to change the admissions policies to five of the city's specialized high schools to make the process more fair.

According to the BP, the city has the ability to adjust the admissions process at five specialized high schools—Brooklyn Latin; the High School for Math, Science, and Engineering at City College; the High School of American Studies at Lehman College; Queens High School for the Sciences at York College and Staten Island Technical High School. These five schools currently rely solely on the results of the Specialized High School Admissions Test to admit their student body.

"A single test should no longer decide which students have access to our best high schools," the BP said. "The Specialized High School Admission Test should not be the only metric in deciding who attends our specialized high schools. The Panel for Educational Policy has the ability to move on changes to the admissions policies at five high schools without state legislative

action and should move swiftly and judiciously to do just that."

The most recent results of the Specialized High School Admission Test found that Black and Latino students have actually lost ground in recent years when it comes to specialized high school admissions. Just ten percent of all seats at the eight specialized high schools were offered to Black or Latino students, and the percentage of Black and Latino students accepted to the city's specialized high schools actually decreased this year.

One of the suggested changes the BP has proposed that the Panel for Educational Policy consider enacting for admissions to these five schools is the consideration of student portfolios in math and science, as well as grade point averages and others. He has also proposed new, borough-specific specialized high schools that would offer an automatic seat for the top five percent of students in each middle school in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

BP Díaz has made increased access for underserved communities to the specialized high schools and gifted education a top priority throughout his administration. In May 2012, he issued "An Action Plan for Fixing the Specialized High School Admissions Process." That report is available at <http://on.nyc.gov/218COLb>.

In June 2017, with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, he released a new report entitled "Fixing the Pipeline: Solutions to Disparities in Gifted Education in New York City," outlining multiple recommendations for the future of gifted and talented education at all levels in New York City's public schools. That report is available at <http://on.nyc.gov/21bBLKB>.

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On Friday, May 4, from 5 to 8 p.m., 239 Play! (239 City Island Avenue) will have a special exhibition opening devoted to the work of the late Island resident and multi-talented artist Andrew Blanco (Blanquito Man), as well as his collection of Star Wars memorabilia. The art work on display will be available for purchase after the opening.

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.

Andrew Blanco

City Island resident Andrew Blanco, known to his friends and admirers as Blanquito Man, passed away in November 2017 at the age of 46.

Born Jose Andres Blanco in Venezuela, Andrew moved to City Island 18 years ago and was well known off the Island as an artist, singer, songwriter, producer and graphic designer who devised sports brands and music logos that became known worldwide.

He was perhaps best known as the founder and lead singer of the New York band King Changó, which was signed by David Byrne of the Talking Heads to his Luaka Bop label in 1996. King Changó helped to pave the way for the mainstream success of the Latin cross-over movement in the U.S. and abroad, and the band's legendary sound was called a fusion of "every single genre ever invented (or at least ska, salsa, reggae, cumbia, dub, hip hop, mariachi and rock)."

Andrew Blanco was also a talented visual artist who created a wide range of designs for everything from apparel, toys and record labels to merchandise for major entertainment brands, to the logos, uniforms, trophies and branding programs for many Major League sports teams, including those in the NBA, NHL, MLB, and MLS. He even worked with the Kentucky Derby and baseball teams in Japan.

Before he passed away, he was working on designs and art prints for City Island & Co., a company he founded with his wife and creative partner to honor City Island. These art prints will be on display and for sale at an opening being held on May 4 at 239 Play! at 239 City Island Avenue and will be available for sale at the shop after the opening.

He is survived by his wife and best friend, Candice Owens; his parents, Natalia and Jose Andres Blanco Sr. of Venezuela; his brother, Luis Eduardo Blanco, and niece Andrea Blanco (named after him), and his loving in-laws, the Owens family of City Island. He will also be forever remembered by his numerous extended family, colleagues, artist peers and dear friends.

One of Andrew's great inspirations was the Star Wars series, and he accumulated many Star Wars collectibles, some of which will be on view at 239 Play!



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

There's Still Time to Make a 2017 IRA Contribution

If you haven't contributed funds to an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) for tax year 2017, or if you've put in less than the maximum allowed, you still have time to do so. You can contribute to either a traditional or Roth IRA until the April 17 due date, not including extensions. Be sure to tell the IRA trustee that the contribution is for 2017. Otherwise, the trustee may report the contribution as being for 2018 when they get your funds.

Generally, you can contribute up to \$5,500 of your earnings for tax year 2017 (up to \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older in 2017). You can fund a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA (if you qualify) or both, but your total contributions cannot be more than these amounts. **Traditional IRA:** You may be able to take a tax deduction for the contributions to a traditional IRA, depending on your income and whether you or your spouse, if filing jointly, are covered by an employer's pension plan. **Roth IRA:** You

figuring out which retirement strategies are best for your situation, give your accountant, attorney or financial advisor a call.

Retirement Plan Distributions

In most cases, taxpayers who turned 70 1/2 during 2017 must start receiving required minimum distributions (RMDs) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and workplace retirement plans by Sunday, April 1, 2018.

The April 1 deadline applies to owners of traditional (including SEP and SIMPLE) IRAs but not Roth IRAs. Normally, it also applies to participants in various workplace retirement plans, including 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

The April 1 deadline only applies to the required distribution for the first year. For all subsequent years, the RMD must be made by Dec. 31. In other words, a taxpayer who turned 70 1/2 in 2017 (born after June 30, 1946, and before July 1, 1947) and receives the first required distribution (for 2017) on April 1, 2018, for example, must still receive the second RMD by Dec. 31, 2018.

Affected taxpayers who turned 70 1/2 during 2017 must figure the RMD for the first year using the life expectancy as of their birthday in 2017 and their account balance on Dec. 31, 2016. The trustee reports the year-end account value to the IRA owner on Form 5498, IRA Contribution Information in Box 5. Worksheets and life expectancy tables for making this computation can be found in the appendices to Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

Most taxpayers use Table III (Uniform Lifetime) to figure their RMD. For a taxpayer who reached age 70 1/2 in 2017 and turned 71 before the end of the year, for

example, the first required distribution would be based on a distribution period of 26.5 years. A separate table, Table II, applies to a taxpayer married to a spouse who is more than 10 years younger and is the taxpayer's only beneficiary. Both tables can be found in the appendices to Publication 590-B.

Although the April 1 deadline is mandatory for all owners of traditional IRAs and most participants in workplace retirement plans, some people with workplace plans can wait longer to receive their RMD. Usually, employees who are still working can, if their plan allows, wait until April 1 of the year after they retire to start receiving these distributions. Employees of public schools and certain tax-exempt organizations with 403(b) plan accruals before 1987 should check with their employer, plan administrator or provider to see how to treat these accruals.

Taxpayers are encouraged to begin planning now for any distributions required during 2018. An IRA trustee must either report the amount of the RMD to the IRA owner or offer to calculate it for the owner. Often, the trustee shows the RMD amount in Box 12b on Form 5498. For a 2018 RMD, this amount would be on the 2017 Form 5498 that is normally issued in January 2018.

IRA owners can use a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) paid directly from an IRA to an eligible charity to meet part or all of their RMD obligation. Available only to IRA owners 70 1/2 or older, the maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is \$100,000. If you have any questions about QCDs or need more information about RMDs, don't hesitate to contact your accountant, attorney or financial advisor.

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cannot deduct Roth IRA contributions, but the earnings on a Roth IRA may be tax-free if you meet the conditions for a qualified distribution.

Saving for retirement should be part of everyone's financial plan, and it's important to review your retirement goals annually to maximize savings. If you need help

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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.

Belated birthday wishes to Irene Reville, the granddaughter of the man for whom Reville Street on City Island is named. She celebrated her birthday on March 6 at Artie's Restaurant with her cousins, Daly Reville, daughter of Jane and Jim Reville; Linda Reville Eisenberg, daughter of longtime Earley Street residents Mary and John Reville; Irene and Amy Reville, daughters of Jane and Jim Reville; and Maureen Reville, daughter of Margaret and Pat Reville, owners of The Club, a popular City Island restaurant and night spot that closed in the 1980s.

Safe travels and special congratulations to Merissa Kyle-Ferrar, former Islander and daughter of Tier Street resident Leslie Kyle. Missy, as she is known, was chosen for the 2018 Summer Research Fellowship Program at the University of California, San Francisco Dental School, and she will be traveling to Israel for a week under an endowment grant provided to the Fellows.

Happy birthday wishes on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Minneford Avenue's Elizabeth and Ken Farnum, who will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary on April 20. The celebration will continue on April 22, as Elizabeth blows out birthday candles. With ever so much love, Mom and Deb.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeannine Giacovelli on the opening of her Aesthetic

Center in Tuckahoe on March 8.

Belated birthday greetings to Cathy Holoboff of West Park, FL. She is a true clam digger and loves catching up on the news from City Island. Happy and continued healing to Carolyn (Foley) Peters. Carolyn had a full shoulder replacement and is looking forward to being able to drive again. With hugs from their sister Barbara (Haas) Lynch.

Happy birthday wishes from Sue Strazera to her sister, Lisa Henning Ferraro, who will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 25.

Keep up the good "work" to our grandson Luca Mazzeo, who had his boot removed after breaking his ankle. Back to his normal way of life. Yay! Love, Nonni and Papa.

Birthday greetings this month to clamdiggers Eric Rauhauser on April 2 and Carol Gauss McKenna on April 14. Birthday wishes also on April 2 to Horton Street resident Betsy Ogando.

A very Happy 50th to Bill Etzel from your sons Rudy and Oscar. We love you!

Happy birthday greetings to David Butterworth on April 30 and to Mari Doyle on April 14, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Best of luck and good wishes for continued success to Whytey and the hard-working gang at Papa John's, who will celebrate their 18-year anniversary on April 3.

Happy 90th birthday to Earley Street's Rita McKenna Lynch, who celebrated with her family at a gala luncheon at the City Island Yacht Club on March 10. The longtime Islander was toasted by her children, siblings, nieces, nephews and grandchildren, who all wish her many more birthdays to come.

April birthday wishes to Frank Ramftl on April 4, Anne McIntyre on April 22 and Maria Swieciki on April 25.

Happy birthday on April 1 to our son Phil, with love from Mom and Dad.

And a very happy spring to all!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by TARA STERGIS

Clam digger Rita Lynch celebrated her 90th birthday on March 10, 2018, at the City Island Yacht Club. She is shown above (seated) with her children and their spouses/guests (l. to r.): Jimmy Lynch, Patty and Michael Jawski, Kathleen Lynch Siano and Jimmy Siano, Ellen Lynch-Patterson and Steven Michaels.



Cousins and descendants of J. Reville, after whom Reville Street is named, gathered at Artie's Restaurant on March 6, 2018, to celebrate Irene Reville's birthday (above l. to r.): Daly Reville, Linda Reville Eisenberg, and Irene, Amy and Maureen Reville.



Photo by JESSICA HO

Longtime Islander Merissa Kyle-Ferrar (middle row, third from left) was chosen for the 2018 Summer Research Fellowship Program at the University of California, San Francisco Dental School.

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