

Continued on page 5

BRIEFLY...

SUMMER RECREATIONAL PROGRAM for boys and girls ages 4 through 14 on the campus of the Preston Center of Compassion, 2780 Schurz Avenue in the Bronx. Registration is open for the program, which runs from June 26 through Aug. 9, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 8 to 4 p.m. every day. Activities include arts and crafts, recreational sports, board games, computer lab, video games, karaoke and theme days. To register, visit presentoncenterofcompassion.org. If you have questions, call 718-892-8977.

FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK will hold its fundraiser this year at the Pelham-Split Rock Golf Clubhouse, 870 Shore Road, on Wednesday, April 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Honorees this year will be Barbara Dolensek, the *Current's* reporter and copy editor; Liam Kavenagh, former Parks deputy commissioner, and Angelo Rubbo of Pelham Community Rowing. Prizes will be awarded to winners of this year's photo contest, "Pelham Bay Park: Past, Present, Future," and raffle prizes will be offered. Tickets are \$85 if purchased in advance from pelhambaypark.ticketspice.com; \$100 at the door.

SPRING FAIR held by the American Legion Auxiliary will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue, at Cross Street. Please enjoy a day of shopping and a 50/50 raffle.

THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM will host an opening day reception, on Sunday, April 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. Current members and newcomers alike are invited to explore three captivating new exhibits: a sail makers of City Island showcase, a navigation and Hell Gate pilot display, and a photo exhibition uncovering Hart Island's storied past. Join us and rediscover the allure of City Island's seafaring heritage!

THE CITY ISLAND SAIL & POWER SQUADRON will hold a one-day boating and water safety course, on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The fee is \$70. Register by April 5; no walk-ins. The course meets New York State and New Jersey education requirements, and certificates will be issued upon successful completion of the course. As of Jan. 1, 2025, boating licenses will be mandatory in New York State. The course will include training in becoming a skilled boater (sail, power, paddle, jet ski), learning boat types and terminology, as well as ropes, cleats and knots; general boat handling, all types of watercraft; emergency procedures and adverse conditions; rules of the road (NYS and Federal); marine radio usage, PWC (jet ski). The course is open to the public, ages 17 and up. A photo ID is required to take the exam. To register, visit www.cityislandpowersquadron.org. Select "Take a Boating Course," where you can register and make your online payment. For more information email: cityislandabc@gmail.com.

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Member

EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268
www.theislandcurrent.com

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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Mary Colby, Marsha Treiber, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, and Johanna Paciullo
PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt, Matt Panza and Ron Turner
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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2024. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – FOUND DEADLY WEAPON
- 3 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- 2 – POSSESSION OF A FORGED INSTRUMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Feb. 21 to March 19, 2024.

2/29 – An Island female reported an incident of petit larceny on City Island Avenue at 6 p.m. Victim states that a package was delivered at an unknown time. She turned the box over and noticed items missing.

3/2 – On City Island Avenue at 11:10 p.m., policed arrested and off-Island male, 24, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Defendant was observed operating a motor vehicle and doing an improper U-turn. Upon further investigation, defendant's driving privilege was found to be suspended.

3/7 – At 9:30 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, an off-Island male reported grand larceny auto. Complainant left the vehicle parked at a location and upon return found it was no longer there. There was no glass at the location, and the complainant had his keys.

3/10 – On Winters Street at 7:36 p.m., an off-Island male, 29, was arrested for possession of a forged instrument and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Defendant was observed operating a motor vehicle with an obstructed license plate. Upon further investigation, the license plate was determined to be fraudulent, and the defendant's license was revoked.

3/16 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 30, on Cross Street at 6:22 p.m. Defendant was driving with a fraudulent, expired Georgia temporary plate. Upon further investigation, defendant was found to have an unregistered motor vehicle and a suspended NYS driver's

license.

3/18 – An Island male reported being harassed by a neighbor on Pell Place at 12:30 a.m. Victim states that the neighbor believed the victim was looking through the neighbor's window. The neighbor texted the victim with a threat, causing him to be annoyed, alarmed and in fear for his safety. Victim told police that the neighbor suffers from mental illness and is paranoid.

3/19 – An off-Island male, 29, was arrested on Bridge Street at 2:46 p.m. and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Defendant was stopped after a license plate reader alerted police about a suspended registration. After further investigation it was found defendant's driver's license was suspended.

3/19 - On Horton Street at 7 a.m., police received a report of a found deadly weapon. Reporter states that she found a washed-up black and silver handgun on the seawall behind her residence. She further stated that it appeared to be unloaded. The firearm was found to have been reported stolen in Virginia.

Correction:

In the March issue of *The Current*, the name of Elisabeth Ferraro was misspelled in the title of her obituary; we apologize for the error.

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TROOP 211 HONORS THE JOLLYS

By DAN HICKEY

City Island was blessed by the arrival of Pastor David Jolly and his wife, Donna, at Trinity United Methodist Church in 2017, and the Jollys quickly became part of the community, where scouting became a particular focus of his ministry. Having devoted his life to his church, Pastor Dave has been called to another assignment and will soon be leaving City Island.

In gratitude to the Jollys for their support of scouting, BSA Troop 211 will be hosting a celebration in their honor at the Trinity Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 27, at 6 p.m. City Islanders and friends of the Jollys are all invited to an evening of food and entertainment. The scouts will prepare and serve the food in Trinity's recently renovated kitchen, and they are asking local restaurants and businesses to donate uncooked food and supplies. Everyone from grandchildren to grandparents are sure to have fun.

A contribution of \$40 per person will include appetizers, dinner, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages and entertainment for all ages. The troop welcomes \$50 table sponsorships and journal advertisements at \$25 each. There will also be a 50/50 raffle at \$10 per ticket. All funds raised will help Pastor Dave's successor continue Trinity's vibrant ministry in the community.

Dinner and raffle tickets will be available starting April 1. Checks payable to Trinity United Methodist Church can be mailed to 113 Bay Street, Bronx NY 10464. Please write "Troop Fundraiser" in the memo field. To ask questions or make contributions, e-mail Scoutmaster James Goonan at CITroop211@gmail.com or call 718-530-4251.

Please join the community to thank the Jollys for their friendship and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.

Hutchinson River Project Receives \$50,000 Federal Grant

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In mid-March, U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced that more than \$7.5 million in funding will be dedicated to enhancements in the 14th Congressional District in the Bronx.

The Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP), which is based on City Island and dedicated to restoring and protecting the Hutchinson River, will receive a \$50,000 grant from this funding.

"Our ultimate goal is to restore the health of the Hutchinson River for future generations so they can enjoy the natural beauty and opportunities that this river can provide," Islander Adjie Henderson, co-chair with Islander Barbara Zahm of HRRP, told *The Current*. "With the funds from AOC's office, we can continue to expand the community of people dedicated to cleaning the Hutchinson River, identifying related areas of need and continuing our educational outreach programs."

With this funding, HRRP can expand the removal of debris along the entire river, educate the public about pollution, and decide which parts of the river may be restored for public use. They are grateful to the congresswoman for supporting the grassroots efforts to restore the Hutchinson River to its natural beauty and health. Anyone interested in joining HRRP efforts for now and for future generations may reach them at Hutchinsonriver@gmail.com or go to our website Hutchinsonriver.org.

Other Bronx recipients of the federal funding include the Riverbay Fund, to support a center for education and recreation for young people in the northeast Bronx; a regional food hub in Hunts Point; three NYCHA developments in Soundview; the Pelham Bay public library; and the Westchester Square intersection with East Tremont.

As Representative Ocasio-Cortez told News 12: "We were able to walk around and try to incorporate these projects according to all the communities that were organizing around them, and so this really is a direct translation of the people across the Bronx speaking up."

City of Yes

Continued from page 1

able on line, and is planning to hold public information sessions during the coming months. This would certainly be a useful way for members of every community to learn the details that are likely to affect

their neighborhoods. The remote sessions will be held on April 27, on "missing middle" housing types, and April 17, on the entire proposal. To register for these sessions, go to the DCP website (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/city-of-yes/city-of-yes-housing-opportunity.page>) and follow instructions.



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The P.S. 175 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) held its annual card party with the theme Count Your Lucky Stars on March 15, 2024, at Scavello's on the Island. The event was a success, thanks to more than 200 attendees and generous donations of prizes and raffles by Island businesses and restaurants (top photo). Among the attendees were current and former P.S. 175 teachers and administrators (middle photo, back row, l. to r.) Danielle Minor, Noreen Lawless, Karen Mazzella and Kathy Wiehler, assistant principal; (front row) Lizanne Espina, Pat Cambria and Julie Porras, principal. The efforts of the PTA executive board (third photo: Karen Esdelle, Jo-Ann Cautillo, Theresa Cavinee, Denise McGarry and Melissa Rosado-Taveras) and student volunteers (bottom photo) made the event lucky and fun for all.



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GOOD SHOW!

CITG FIRST SHOW OF 2024 "BECKY'S NEW CAR", GETS RAVES

YEP, BUT I WAS A LITTLE DISTRACTED BY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT A CAR ONSTAGE.

GREG CLANCY AND ENTOURAGE REVIEW 2024 BOAT SHOW

"...A LOT OF REPETITION AS WELL." HE SAYS.

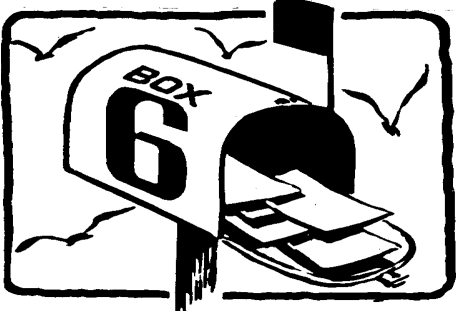
BOROUGH PRESIDENT HANDS OUT BEST OF THE BRONX AWARDS TO ISLAND RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES

YEAH! HOW ABOUT IT'S TIME TO PUT SALLY McCHEAP TO REST AND COME UP WITH A NEW FUNNY NAME FOR THE CURRENT CURRENT EDITOR?!

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NONPAREILS, MUFFERS, BELDENITES, SHAMROCKS HMMM... THEY SOUND MORE LIKE THE DOOWOP BANDS MY GRANDPA LIKES THAN BASEBALL TEAMS!



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.

The City of No

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

To: Kristy Marmorato, 13th District, City Council

The Executive Committee of the City Island Civic Association has requested that we urge Community Board 10 to vote NO on the Department of City Planning's City of Yes for Economic Development.

In its desire to offer new opportunities for business to grow, the Department of City Planning has blurred the common-sense lines between commercial and residential neighborhoods, all in the name of progress. This is problematic because by their very nature commercial businesses are accompanied by increased garbage, deliveries, traffic, and signage.

City of Yes creates a process for constructing commercial developments 2,500 square feet in size on corner properties in every residential neighborhood, where current zoning prohibits them. Why City Planning wants to extend commercial businesses into residential neighborhoods when there are already vacant stores in commercial areas is puzzling, especially since new commercial businesses will compete with our current shopping districts, including mom and pop shops.

Another radical zoning change allows a process for commercial development up to 15,000 square feet in residential neighborhoods if the owner has a minimum of 1.5 acres of property. This zoning change will only encourage developers to tear down private homes or low-scale buildings in residential neighborhoods for commercial use.

We oppose the zoning changes developed by the mayor's Office of Nightlife to promote live music, dancing, and entertainment in bars. Although this proposal does not apply to residential districts, our concern is music and noise from commercial districts carrying over into adjacent residential areas. We are currently living through cuts to police and other enforcement agencies, and we fear the unintended consequences of this change will impact those agencies and our quality of life.

We also oppose the proposed zoning changes to allow home businesses in residential neighborhoods to increase square footage from 25% to 49%, increase employees from one to three, and expand business categories. When complaints from neighbors arise, it will fall on the Department of Buildings and other agencies to coordinate and monitor.

City Planning's approach will destroy the unique character of our residential communities while ignoring the struggles facing our commercial areas. The Civic Association has worked hard for

many years to coordinate efforts with our Chamber of Commerce to make City Island Avenue more attractive and to encourage the success of new businesses, but we do not believe that expanding the business area onto residential side streets is something our community wants or needs.

Please Vote No on City of Yes!
**Executive Committee,
City Island Civic Association**

"No Standing" Zones

To the Editor,

The City Island Chamber of Commerce and some of its member businesses have been approached by City Island residents about the current "No Standing" zones at many of the side street intersections along City Island Avenue.

These were installed, we were told, to increase visibility when entering the avenue from one of the side streets. This remedy does not seem to be effective in that regard, as it is still not possible to see oncoming traffic unless you slowly creep out of the side street when making that entry to City Island Avenue.

What the "No Standing" zones along City Island Avenue have accomplished is removing up to four parking spaces per block. It was because of the lack of parking on the avenue that residents approached the Chamber and its businesses seeking relief from that situation as they park near their own residences or the homes of friends, or to visit our shops and restaurants.

As such, the City Island Chamber of Commerce will feature, starting April 1, an online petition on its website, www.CityIslandChamber.org, asking for relief from the multiple "No Standing" zones on City Island Avenue, and we will then forward it to the New York City Department of Transportation.

**Paul Klein, President
City Island Chamber of Commerce**



Photo by SARAH MANTIN
City Island Girl Scout Troop 1814 held the annual cookie sale in front of Dominick's Market on March 10, 2024. Some of the enthusiastic girl scouts who helped the troop reach its goals are shown above (top photo, l. to r.) Jacquallynn Santana, Amirah Martin and Olivia Braver.

Thanks to Cookie Lovers

To the Editor,

The City Island Girl Scout Troop 1814 would like to thank all who supported our cookie sale in March 2024. The girls are very appreciative of those who purchased

cookies at our booth and online. Thanks for helping them reach their goals.

A big thank you to Dominick's Market for allowing the Girl Scouts to use the space in front of the store for our sale. Thank you all!

Melissa Rosado-Taveras

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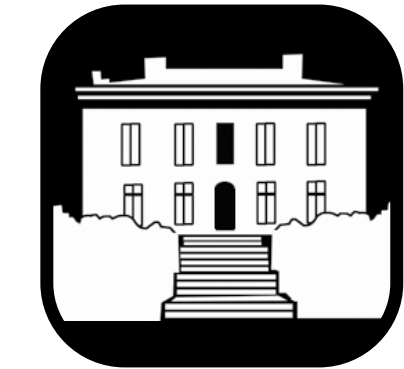
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Bartow-Pell Events

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present and cultivate appreciation for the area’s historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, call 718-885-1461 or visit www.bpmm.org. Museum admission is \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students. Members enjoy free admission. Private group tours of 10 or more and school class trips are available daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with advance reservation.

On Thursday, April 4, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. there will be documentary screening of “Flesh in Ecstasy: Gaston Lachaise and the Woman He Loved.” Join Paula Hornbostel from the Lachaise Foundation and Jeffrey Spring from the Modern Art Foundry in a discussion about the documentary about Gaston Lachaise and his muse, Isabel Dutaud Nagel. Cost: Bartow-Pell Members: \$20; Not-Yet Members: \$30

First Friday will welcome visitors on Friday, April 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. with music by Warren Banholzer. Cost: Bartow-Pell Friend Members: \$5; Seniors/Students: \$10; Adults: \$15.

On Monday, April 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., come view the deep partial solar eclipse from Bartow-Pell’s front lawn and watch the moon cover about 90 percent of the sun at maximum eclipse. Cost: Free but bring your own protective eyewear.

On Saturday, April 13, from 10 to

11:30 a.m. come to the Terrarium Building Workshop, where you can learn to create a tropical plant micro-garden in a glass container, creating a maintenance-free ecosystem. Cost: \$55 (includes materials fee)

Sunday, April 14, from 3 to 4 p.m. explore the architectural highlights of Bartow-Pell Mansion with museum educator Maxine Siegel, and discover special features, upgrades made by the architectural firm Delano & Aldrich between 1914 and 1918, and learn why this landmark building is so special. Cost: Bartow-Pell Members: Free; Not-Yet Members: \$15, Students/Seniors: \$10.

Enjoy a tree-grafting demonstration with Charles Day on Saturday, April 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. What is scion wood? What is the purpose of a rootstock? And for that matter, what is a rootstock? In this demonstration, Charles Day talks about the reasons for grafting, the equipment needed, and the ways in which it is done. Cost: Free.

On Sunday, April 21, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the Red Monkey Theater Group artistic director, Tal Aviezer, will work with students on Shakespearean scenes and monologues, helping participants explore Elizabethan language and more. Cost: Free.

On Saturday, April 27, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., learn about container gardening with native plants. Flex your green thumb by creating a small, wildlife-friendly oasis for your patio, balcony or porch, using locally adapted native plants. Cost: Free with museum admission.

“Best” of the Bronx

Continued from page 1

food restaurant, a steakhouse and a romantic restaurant). The City Island Diner was honored for its breakfast and the City Island Lobster House for its lobster roll and Long Island iced tea. Clipper Coffee was pronounced the best for its role as both an art gallery and a coffeehouse.

Kaleidoscope Gallery was noted for its collectibles and as a nostalgia and toy store. Lickety Split was honored for its ice cream (of course!) and the Sea Shore Restaurant for its water view. The Artist was selected for its role as the best concert venue, and Tony’s Pier Restaurant for its oyster bar.

A Current Review

Becky’s New Car Drives Audiences Wild

By BRUCE WEIS



The brilliant cast of “Becky’s New Car” (l. to r.): Imani Logan, James Mohn, Steven Bendler, Laura Botsacos, Maria Provenzano (director), Mike Sedia, William Kozy and Tsuyako Sandy Dunn.

The City Island Theater Group opened its 2024 season with a truly outstanding production of “Becky’s New Car,” a play by Steven Dietz. It starts as a screwball comedy but gives way to bedroom farce before evolving into a disarmingly thoughtful drama about the nature of happiness, fidelity and second chances. The clever set on Grace Church’s stage included Becky’s car and three other venues without moving a single piece of scenery.

Early in the production, the show’s lead, Becky (Laura Lee Botsacos), makes a sort of “title drop.” (I recently learned this term, which means a line of dialogue in a show containing the show’s title, and I’ve been dying to work it in somewhere.) Becky suggests that when a woman wants a new house, she really wants a new husband, and when she wants a new car, she really wants a new life. A question that gradually rises to the surface during the course of the show is “What would you do if you could just leave your old life behind?”

“Becky’s New Car” revolves around Becky Foster, a 50-something office manager at a “super” car dealership. Her life takes a twist when a befuddled millionaire, Walter Flood (William Kozy), walks into her dealership at closing time, desperately shopping for some cars for his employees. In a flurry of misunderstandings between the two, Becky slowly drifts into a mid-life crisis, dabbling in the allure of a glamorous world of wealth and parties. Trapped between her current responsibilities and the excitement she thinks she craves, Becky must face a choice that pulls her soul in two directions.

Something I especially liked about this play is its willingness to face the likely actual outcome of a romantic farce. Shows written in this genre generally combine romance and comedy, which often result in amusing but chaotic situations. And “Becky’s New Car” does this in spades. It dares to look beyond the farce, examining life when farce has passed.

CITG’s production was excellent in every way. The players were an ensemble, playing off one another flawlessly. The cast included Becky’s husband, Joe Foster (Steven Bendler); her college-age son, Chris (Mike Sedia); coworker Steve (James Mohn); Walter’s daughter, Kenni (Imani Logan); and Walter’s single neighbor, Ginger (Tsuyako Sandy Dunn).

An interesting feature of the show was that the characters continually broke the fourth wall by stepping out of character to speak directly to the audience. Laura Lee Botsacoe broke that wall when Becky Foster, early in the first act, maintained a running dialogue with the audience. She later crashed through it completely, seeking help with office work and inviting audience members onstage. Her character is instantly lovable, constantly flustered as she drops in and out of character, wrestling with a huge workload and with what, if anything, she wants out of life.

William Kozy as Walter Flood had no such confusion about life goals. He was interested in Becky and mistakenly believed he could have her. He was, in

turn, perfectly enthusiastic, perplexed and finally reflective and disappointed, as farce turned into heartbreak at show’s end.

Stephen Bendler, as Becky’s husband, transitioned as the story unfolded from a positive, can-do type to a person less likely to believe in others. His character’s stated idea that as a roofer he covers over things impeccably described his character’s emotional attitude at the show’s thoughtful end.

Mike Sedia, as Chris, portrayed a character who gradually moved from the periphery to the center of the show’s story. From a harmless, live-at-home-in-the-basement grad student, full of psychological jargon, Chris took on considerable importance by dating the daughter of Walter, the man his mother is, um, finding herself with.

James Mohn, as colleague Steve, started the show in deep mourning for his late wife and ends it following a new friend, Ginger, out the kitchen door. A confirmed environmentalist, he managed to learn that most people don’t share his dedication to nature and that successful crime can be fun.

Imani Logan, as Kerri, Walter’s daughter, manages to move her character from a fling with Chris until the return of her rich boyfriend to actually wanting to marry Chris, to finally stepping back from everything as life unraveled at the end.

Tsuyako Sandy Dunn was by far the most sophisticated character in the group, sipping her martinis and even pronouncing an expletive or two with style and substance as she graciously stole the scenes she was in. Note: as Sandy is this reviewer’s wife, these comments were provided by *Island Current* editor Barbara Dolensek for objectivity. However, I wholeheartedly agree with Barbara’s review.

“Becky’s New Car” had its world premiere at ACT Theatre in Seattle on Oct. 23, 2008, as part of the New Works for American Theater series. Steven Dietz is a prolific playwright whose works have been performed Off-Broadway as well as in many American regional theaters. This play has proven to be a mainstay of regional theater since it first appeared in 2008; Google the show and count the hits!

Special kudos to Joe Burck for a set design that managed to contain, simultaneously, four different scenes on Grace Church’s small stage. His concept was enabled by Zach Dulny, who designed lighting that allowed the characters to move from set to set without missing a beat. The lighting was operated by Giovanna Mascol, and the sets were built by Steven and Anthony Franciosa. Sound design was by Hannah Glick, and sound operation was by Margie Guzman.

Pam Johnston brought considerable experience to the role of production stage manager and was once again responsible for the goings-on backstage, this time assisted by Joan Higgins. Maria Provenzano did her usual great job as director of this impeccable show.

We all look forward to CITG’s June production of “Rip Cord” by David Lindsay Abaire.

Catherine Mazzaro

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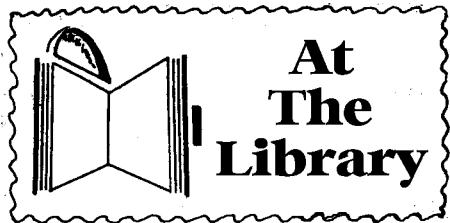
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Shelf Help: Tell us your reading interests, and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests. www.nypl.org/shelfhelp

APRIL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

Steam Play: Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 to 10. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. An additional session is being offered on April 22 at 3 p.m.

Chill Zone: No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 to 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

APRIL TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS
Camp NaNoWriMo! Teens and young

adults who like to write, join us for Camp NaNoWriMo! come work on your Camp NaNoWriMo project, with focus on a different aspect of writing and planning each week! Mondays at 4 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.
April 2: Something Sensory: Anyone can benefit from taking a moment of me-time. Make yourself a sensory bottle and learn about stimming, sensory regulation and the practice of mindfulness this Autism Acceptance Month. **April 9: Animal Sticker Painting:** Explore animals through art this National Wildlife week with sticker painting! **April 16: Paint Chip Poetry:** April is National Poetry Month! Celebrate with a creative game where you make your own poems, with paint chips! **April 23: Unplug and Relax:** Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles and anything else without a screen. **April 30: Crafternoon:** Get crafty! Drawing, coloring, paper sculpting, crocheting, weaving—come see what you can create in this free-form art fest!

Teen Hang Out: Let the Library be your home away from home! Come hang out at the City Island Library for snacks, games, crafts, TV and more. You never know what you're going to find! Saturday April 13, at 1 p.m.

APRIL ADULT PROGRAMS

One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. Online with Google Meet, please register online at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, April 29, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Origami for Adults: Origami, the art of paper folding, originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial

and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it “engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.” Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

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



Don't miss the Young Artist Exhibition of works from the Community Health Academy of the Heights at the **Focal Point Gallery**, which opens on Saturday, April 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. 321 City Island Avenue.

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• ASA Sailing Lessons:

- Sailing school for adults & teens
- Junior Sailing Programs for kids and teens
- Waterfront dining April - October
- Award-winning chef
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- Social events ashore

If you would like to join us, **please RSVP** to Membership Chair Anthony Rosco at membership@hyc.org or call our office at **718-885-3078**.
If you'd like to visit but can't make an Open House, send Anthony an e-mail and arrange a tour when you can.

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THE BOAT SHOW

By GREG CLANCY

Writing an article about the Boat Show every year is far more challenging than one might think. As exciting as it is to walk the show floor every winter and ooh and ahh at the new boats and other random sundry, there is a lot of repetition as well. And so every year as I sit down to write this article, I struggle with getting started. I wonder how I can keep this fresh. I procrastinate, and I try to invent a unifying theme to convey my experience.

This year I have decided to talk about all of the things we'd like to do with our boats (or our dream boats) but never do. So here goes my top 10 list of things boaters talk about but never really get started on, and how the products and innovations of the 2024 Boat Show might aid the conversation! Here goes:

Number 10. Install an arcade game... no, not really. I don't think I ever heard a boater talk about installing an arcade game, but there was an entire booth at the Boat Show dedicated to large old-fashioned standing arcade games and pinball machines. You never know what you are going to find at the show. There are always wacky displays that make no sense to me. The second oddest display was the "Interesting Things" booth featuring "Binoculars, Magnifiers, Scissors, Tweezers and More." The oldest odd display at the show sold only one product—solid pink sticks of a chemical that prevents glass from fogging. The same old man had been selling the exact same sticks for 35 years, but neither he nor his booth was present this year. I hope he is okay. Perhaps he has taken a long-deserved retirement.

Number 9. Join a(nother) yacht club. Those of us who aren't yacht club members often talk about joining one. Those of us who are yacht club members often talk about joining another one! Some of our more insane readers are actually members of two yacht clubs! My brother Bill, for example, is a member of both the Morris and the Harlem clubs! Bill usually joins me at the show, but one of his cats was feeling unwell, so he stayed home this year to tend to her hot spots. But regarding the yacht clubs: for years and years there were multiple yacht clubs at the show trying to recruit new members. Our very own Harlem Yacht Club kept a booth at the show until recent years, but there was not a single club at the show this year. The clubs are still out there, but I suppose the boat show didn't prove a viable recruitment venue.

Number 8. Mount or upgrade your swim platform. This is where new boats keep getting more fun. Across multiple makes you will see split-level swim platforms and swim platforms with side-mounted ladders to better work with outboard engines. Outboards have really become predominant, even on big boats. One of biggest downsides used to be that outboards killed the swim platform. Manufacturers are now solving that problem by mounting the engines on the back of the swim platform and making the platform very deep so that swimmers can comfortably

swim from the side instead of the stern. Another swim platform innovation on the rise is a variety of swim platforms that lower down into the water on hydraulics, some of which include accordion-like stairs that fold out and appear from the transom as the swim platform lowers into the deep blue. Imagine standing on your swim platform while you are being lowered three feet down into the water after the push of a button! Some swim platforms now extend and retract from the side of the boat, like a diving board. To me they felt more like an old-fashioned plank (as in "walk the plank, ye rascal!"). The size of swim platforms is also on the rise. Six-foot-deep swim platforms are becoming more common. My favorites were the swim platforms with a built-in barbecue station! A six-foot-deep swim platform with a barbecue seems like a great place to have a drink, and so the thought inspired me to "make a stop" amidst my boat shopping.

Accompanying me this year were my wife, Admiral Meaghan, and my first-through-fourth mates, sons Patrick, Matthew, James and Johnny. While the boys got their first soda of the night, my wife ordered a nice two-ounce Sauvignon Blanc in a plastic cup for \$10. I decided to do the same and took my first sip of Sauv Blanc before realizing that my father would be turning over in the grave at the idea of me ordering a wine at the Boat Show. For those of you who knew him (and the fact that he wrote this article for decades prior to his passing), you would know that he regarded fermented grape juice as the purview of ragmen (sailboat people). Such a drink was seen as completely unfit for men who knew the feel of a few hundred horses beneath their feet! Oh well. Most of us end up disappointing their parents in some way. I guess the love of Sauvignon Blanc and a secret desire to sail from time to time is a shame that I will have to bear.

Another shame is that I paid \$75 for parking this year. Yeah, Sally McCheap, it's up to \$75 now. And no, Barbara and Karen don't reimburse us any more than you did!

Okay, where was I?
Number 7. Buy an electric vehicle. Electric boats aren't as big as Tesla just yet, but they are out there. Duffy has been at the show for years with their four-knot electric bathtub/launch-style boats. VMT was a maker I hadn't seen before, showing 15-foot and 17-foot electric skiffs starting as low as \$35,000. Most exciting, however, were the new electric outboards. This was the first year I saw low-horsepower electric outboards with replaceable (and rechargeable) batteries. If one can simply swap out their battery, the range problem is solved! Although electric boats are still far behind electric cars, new innovations are being presented every year.

Number 6. Buy a set of good knives. The Boat Show this year had no fewer than three knife displays! One, a custom blacksmith, makes his own blades from the size of a small letter opener up to a two-handed broadsword. I have been thinking lately that you could always use a broadsword while at



Photos by GREG CLANCY
Islander Greg Clancy and family reported on the New York Boat Show continuing the tradition started by his father, Bill Clancy. Shown above at the show on Jan 24, 2024, are Patrick, Matthew, James and Jonathan Clancy (top photo, l. to r.) and future captain Jonathan at the helm of one of the many power boats featured at the Javits Center in Manhattan.



sea. Two, the Russian booth, selling custom blades and other various flame producing devices, all on the cheap. We wondered if they had fallen off the back of a truck or perhaps had been smuggled in from Crimea. We walked out with a few "Chinese" throwing stars, a must-have on every yacht! The third knife booth was actually geared toward fishermen. They carried a beautiful and affordable set of display knives. There are quite a few fishing accessories at the show, so perhaps my number 6 should really be about upping one's fishing game.

Number 5. Update your electronics. Okay, this is one that old boat owners do actually talk about, and the show has multiple rows of electronics manufacturers. I priced an upgrade for my own boat—sonar/fish finder, GPS and radar—installed—minimum \$7K to \$8k. And that's why we talk about this one and never do it.

Number 4. Update your head. Not the odd-looking appendage on top of your neck, but the bathroom on your boat. This is where the new boats are completely blowing it. Many an old boat can use a plumbing upgrade, but the new style is to stick a very tiny toilet into a space that is approximately four and a half feet tall. I will only say that the effect is not very desirable. In a world where the average 25- to 30-foot powerboat (of any style) is averaging \$500,000 and up, they can give us a head where an adult could stand up. This innovation is dumb, and I predict it will swing back the other way in a few years.

Number 3. Make a major mechanical upgrade. Engines? A generator? How about the Seakeeper? This is a newer product (less than 10 years old), a heavy gyro that is attached to the frame of the hull and, when activated, "reduces 70% of underway pitch and roll." This year Seakeeper brought their new "Ride Controllers" to the show. Mounted to the transom and looking like an extra beefy set of trim tabs, this system deploys a small set of blades in up to 100 adjustments per second to counteract wave movements and smooth out the ride of the vessel. Neat!

Number 2. Paint your bottom. Not all of you are as lucky as I am. Unlike me, you don't all have a big brother named Bill who is so easily susceptible to being tricked into doing this rotten chore for you every year. Nor does the Boat Show ever seem to have any innovative new product to handle this task. Somebody! Anybody! Invent something to make this better for us!

Number 1. Buy a new boat! My last new boat was 25 years old when I bought it, so a real new boat would be something! First, let me share with you some options, then I'll give you some advice. Saxdoor has angular looking hulls and knife like bows (no flare). It has lines similar to a Pardo. It's not traditional, but they aren't bad looking either. I had never seen a Saxdoor before. They're Finnish, and they make a 40-foot bow rider with a small cabin, twin outboards

and a folding balcony (where the sidewall of the boat folds down to create more deck space). It was new, and fun. At \$269K, it wasn't bad for a 40-footer.

Another boxy boat I hadn't seen before was Quarken. Also from Finland! I never recalled seeing a Finnish boat in New York, and now there were two! Quarken was also angular and a bit boxy and with a cabin that suggested it was made for colder climes.

The queen of the show might have been the aforementioned Pardo, from Italy, whose 52-foot motor cruiser had quite beautiful lines despite the non-traditional knife-like bow. This boat has a lot of cabin, but I am finding the cabins more nautical of late. A few years ago, the Italians (like Pardo and Azimuth) were going for condo-like finishes. I thought the finishes this year were a bit more boaty. At \$2.6 million, Pardo's 52-footer was only topped by America's own Formula, which brought a 50-foot super sport listed at \$2.699 mil. Can you believe that this 50-foot queen of the show had outboards! The quad 600-horse option bumps the price up to \$3.5 million but bumps the max speed up to a theoretical 77 knots. That's right. Google it. Independent reviews say that this formula "crushes chop" at a cruising speed of 45 knots. That's like saying that your new car can go over a windy suspension bridge at 180 mph without your feeling anything. Really!? Outrageous.

And now for some advice. This year I had sales people fawning all over me. They were going out of their way to tell me, "it's okay, sir, YOU keep your shoes on and come right up!" Here's how you do it: 1) Wear slacks and a collared shirt (without stains, grease or bottom paint on them). A blazer isn't mandatory but doesn't hurt. 2) Wear nice shoes. Not boat shoes. You want to look like money, but you also don't want to look like you know too much. 3) Attend the show with a hot babe (guy or girl, mind you). This tactic is for all genders and life styles and helps to convince the salesforce that you are a buyer. Regarding the "babe," they just have to be younger and hotter than you. Admiral Meaghan fits this bill rather nicely. 4) Say things like "whoa! THIS could be the one," as you fiddle with all aspects of the boat, mouth agape. If you do these four things, you will be emitting the "buyer" vibe, and you too will have a great trip to the Boat Show!

I am sad to say that I did not see one person from City Island this year. Maybe next year we'll do a better job of getting the word out. That's it for this year. See you all out on the high sea!

Spring is coming!

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Organization News

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

American Legion Auxiliary

The ALA will hold its Spring Fair on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Legion. Please join us for a day of shopping, gathering and a 50/50. We value all the support and look forward to seeing you there.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Please e-mail all inquiries for membership or supporting the American Legion Family's commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to Ala156correspondence@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Service, Not Self

Michelle Del Pozzo

Sons of the American Legion

Greetings, all. I hope everybody had a pleasant winter, and I know we are all looking forward to a great spring.

Our meeting this month will be on Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. As always, we welcome and encourage new members. This month I would also like to appeal to our members who live locally to come to our meetings. We would love to have more input for our event planning, and you may be more motivated to volunteer for the events when you are part of the discussion. We hope to see you there.

Thank you to all who came to both the annual Pig's Knuckle Party and the St. Patrick's Day Party. Both were well attended, especially St. Patrick's, which had more than 100 guests in attendance. To the scouts of Troop 211, our SAL members and family members of both who volunteered their time prepping, cooking, waiting tables and cleaning to make these events so successful, we give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your efforts.

Coming up on April 12, the SAL National Commander's Dinner will be held at Antun's Catering Hall, 96-43 Springfield Gardens, Queens. The night will begin with a cocktail hour at 7 p.m. followed by ceremony, dinner and dancing. In addition to hearing from our current National Commander, we will also be celebrating William Clancy's upcoming appointment to the position. Tickets will be available for \$100 each. Please contact Ticket Treasurer Colleen McCarthy at (917) 445-096 to purchase tickets.

Have a great April, and keep an eye on this posting in May for our Memorial Day observances.

Peter Chadwick

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. At the Civic meeting, we will continue to discuss the proposed City Of Yes. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight, graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association. Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 3040 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 107 Bronx, NY 10461. Her telephone number is 718-931-1721.

The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554 New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@council.nyc.gov.

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, Room 814, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-3595. The District Office is 3853 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-822-2049 and the e-mail address is fernandez@nysenate.gov.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-5296, and the e-mail address is benedettom@nyassembly.gov. The District Offices are at 3602 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-892-2235, and 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475; telephone 718-320-2220.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is the commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO is Officer Rugovac; telephone number 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone 718-892-1161; on Facebook at BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are collecting dues for 2024 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our monthly holy hour will take place on the First Friday, April 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

God's blessings on the Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education students receiving the sacrament of Confirmation administered by the Most Rev. Joseph Espallat at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m.

Rosette Dietz

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrating our Spring Collection featuring Easter gifts and other Easter items.

Arlene Byrne

Trinity United Methodist Church

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission; "That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ." Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we all live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won't you come?

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.



Photos by HARLAN SEXTON

Quilts of Valor were awarded to (clockwise from top left) John Mazzanti (U.S. Navy), Dennis Paukowitz (U.S. Army) and John Stiene (U.S. Army). Rather than his Army cap, Mr. Stiene proudly wore his Navy cap earned as Timmy Stiene Jr.'s grandfather (see the March 2024 issue of *The Current*).

Our Sunday School has reopened and runs during Sunday worship, in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and youth, won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and youth, and we do so with love, joy and peace.

Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thanks to the community's donations and support, it is stocked full of bargains. Please stop by!

The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 4:30 with a free community supper following at 6 p.m. and Prayer Group at 6:45 p.m. All youth are invited to the Youth Group and everyone is invited to the meal and prayer time. Love, joy and peace to all!

Our Good Friday service will be on March 29 at 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday service is March 31, at 6:40 a.m., a sunrise service at Pelham Cemetery.

Rick DeWitt

Quilters by the Sea QOV

We're off to a great start this year with a Sew Day in February and three awards of Quilts of Valor to City Island veterans. Each Sew Day this year will be divided in two: a group of learners with a teacher and a group sewing quilt tops. We are hoping to accelerate the number of Sew Days this year. Stay tuned!

QOVs were awarded in private at-home ceremonies to John Mazzanti, Dennis Paukowitz and John Stiene, all Post 156 Legionnaires with more than 30 years of membership. On April 28, Legionnaire James Murray will be awarded a QOV at a Post 156 ceremony. Also in April, our group will award 11 Quilts of Valor to veteran personnel at Long Island National Cemetery.

Harlan Sexton

City Island Nautical Museum

AHOY! The City Island Nautical Museum hopes you will join us for our opening day on Sunday, April 28, from 1 to 4 p.m.!

This season we have a few new exhibitions, including: the Sail Makers of City Island, curated by Greg and Jimmy Italiano and Tom Nye; the History of Hart Island, curated by Barbara Dolensek; and Navigation and Hell Gate Pilots, curated by Dick Sadler.

Experience the rich maritime heritage of City Island through the lens of these

new exhibits, alongside our well-regarded City Island Oral Histories project. Delve into captivating tales from local legends like Skippy Lane, William Clancy, Elisa Gilbert Kroepke, Fay Jordaens, Herb Hild and many more. With five unique rooms to explore and a diverse gift shop, there's something for everyone this spring and summer!

Stay connected with us on social media for updates on special events, and don't hesitate to schedule a group tour by calling 718-885-0008 or e-mailing info@cityislandmuseum.org. Also, be on the lookout for our revamped website and e-mail system, thanks to support from M4 Consulting, which is offering a streamlined way to engage and pay your membership dues!

And remember, the Nautical Museum shop is stocked with unique City Island themed gifts and apparel. If you can't get to the museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery has some museum gifts for sale.

The museum will open Saturday and Sunday every weekend from 1 to 4 p.m. after April 28, and will be open through the fall. The best way to visit and support the museum is by becoming a member! For the 2024 year, individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free, a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop, as well as exclusive events and communications. Single day tickets are \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

Lauren Nye

AARP Chapter 318

We meet at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our next meeting will be April 11 at 12 noon. We are planning a trip to Hunterdon Playhouse for dinner and a show on June 11. To order tickets or for more details, please contact Cathy Kehoe at 718-824-0037.

Cathy Kehoe



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

Happy Spring from the members of the board of the City Island Community Center. We have a new website. Please visit Cityislandcommunitycenter.org for timely center news, updates, events and more.

For those looking to spring into some health and wellness for the season, check out our newest offering on Saturdays through May. Join Teasha Fit from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for a total body fitness class and from 10:30 to 11:30 for a Hatha yoga practice. For more information call 914-256-3596 or e-mail teashafit@gmail.com.

And for younger members, our Little Island Movers class is available every Saturday as well. Healthy bodies, minds and habits start at a young age. Toddlers (ages 1 to 4) are invited to a 45-minute class in which the children will engage in different themed movements, music and fun. Classes are held by Christal, an experienced teacher and youth exercise specialist, on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Center. Classes are \$20; a six-week package is \$100. Call Christal at 718-877-2920 to register.

Thank you to all who supported our first Flea Market event earlier this month. We had a packed house of vendors with all types of fun finds from jewelry to handbags, handmade goods, antique items and free refreshments and snacks for our guests. Please mark your calendar for our next Flea Market event happening Saturday, May 18. Look for our event flier with confirmed vendors and additional information.

Spring holiday and graduation season is upon us. Book your party or Spring celebration soon. Friendly reminder, Community Center rentals are limited to City Island residents only. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 to reserve your date/s.

Our Spring schedule of offerings is below:

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

Children’s Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Happy April!

Melissa Cebollero

PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island has several exciting activities planned this month, including a pedestrian safety presentation, a belly dance performance, a gleeful dance class, a health presentation on What to Know about Aging Feet, a “Livin’ the Dream” event, a Walking Program at Orchard Beach and Bingo. Please stop by the PSS City Island Center and check out our calendar for more details on these and other exciting activities we have to offer this April. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free and members have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technol-

ogy devices, be sure to stop by the Center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. He is there for individual appointments in the morning and more formal tech classes in the afternoon for iPhone and Android phone users. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available at noon as well. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program is available for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to take someone a meal and join them for lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for log-in information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat, etc.), please call the center at 718-885-0727.

April Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, April 2. At 12:15 p.m. Pedestrian Safety with Eric from VISION ZERO/ NYC Department of Transportation

Tuesday, April 9, at 12:45 p.m. An interactive Belly Dance Show with special props (a cane, finger cymbals, hula hoops, veil fans, isis wings and more)

Tuesday, April 16, at 12:45 p.m. Gleeful Dance Program, which combines yoga, qigong, positive psychology and dance along with props such as maracas, bells, scarves and ribbons

Wednesday, April 17, at 12:30 p.m. Livin’ the Dream event by Oak Street Health followed by Bingo with prizes

Tuesday, April 23, at 12:30 p.m. What We Need to Know about Aging Feet with Dr. Anthony Iorio, New York College of Podiatric Medicine

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified.

Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
11 a.m. to 12 noon Technology class on Zoom only with Julio
11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
1 p.m. iPhone classes
1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes

Tuesday

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)
10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
12 noon In the News
12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)
1 p.m. Board Games-Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)
10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)
1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays
1:45 p.m. Self-Defense with Sensei Eddie

Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Becky (in person and remote)
10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)
11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
11:30 a.m. Brain Games
1:45 p.m. Self Defense with Sensei Eddie of City Island

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joes and Target. Please call Alex at

347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, is open for in-person and remote services. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Worship schedule during the month of April: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father Kevin Moroney. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the second Sunday of the month.

Save the Date: The vestry and clergy of Grace are planning to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the parish on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, with a special service at noon followed by a luncheon. More details to follow.

Sunday School: Members of Grace’s Sunday School presented the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday, March 24. They participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Youth Service on Father’s Day in June. The older members of the church school will lead the egg hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31, following the service. All are welcome to join. If you would like to be part of Grace’s Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

The **Grace Tones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you’d like to join, 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.

Karen Nani

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club’s spring activities are in full swing. The new containers for the north end of City Island Avenue have been installed, replacing our old white ones. Garden Club members filled them with bright red and yellow pansies and curly willow for the spring. In 2025 we hope to replace the remaining white containers, which are at the south end of the Avenue. If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Just call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

Our 2024 Beautification Fund Drive will start shortly. We will be mailing fund-drive letters to every business on City Island and delivering letters to every resident, making it easy to send in a donation. Our beautification projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Our fund-raiser luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 16, at the City Island Yacht Club. The cost will be \$72, including gratuity. Reservations are required, and payment is due at the time of reservation. Please contact Mary at 347-751-9871 for

reservation information. As always, there will be great gift certificates from local merchants and baskets of fun things that will be raffled off. All are invited to attend this wonderful event.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, send a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the new year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), “your shul by the sea,” a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshul-bythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members, we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in or arrive 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshul-bythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for April 2024.

EREV Shabbat Services (most services begin at 7 p.m.)

April 5: At TBE (and Zoom) with Rabbi Levy and Band

April 12: Zoom service with Leslie and Stu

April 19: Special Shabbat of the Flowers, with Stu and congregants (at TBE). Bring a vase of the most colorful and amazing flowers to spread through our sanctuary.

April 26: Special Passover Semi-Seder, honoring the police and other security personnel who have helped to protect our shul. Seder-like service at 6 p.m. Shabbat at 7.

Havdallah and Torah Study: Check our website (www.yourshulbythesea.org) to see who is leading our Chevruta-led Torah Tales and Havdallah. Saturday evenings starting at 6 p.m.

Hold these May dates:

Thursday, May 2: Join TBE for our year’s biggest fundraiser. Dinner, music and silent auction at the Sea Shore Restaurant. Tickets are \$125 per person, or \$900 for a table of 8. Register on our website.

Sunday, May 5: You are invited to a special guest presentation by Alex Bruner, who will discuss the book “Cold Crematorium: Reporting from the Land of Auschwitz. The book is a recently discovered lost memoir by Jozsef Debreczeni, our speaker’s uncle, who spent 12 months of incarceration and forced labor in the camps before being sent to “the Crematorium” to await execution. Join us at TBE for breakfast and discussion at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15. Or watch from home with a private link for \$10. Register on the website.

Tuesday, May 7: TBE is more than proud that our own “Captain,” Robert (Bob) Berent, is being honored by the Westchester Jewish Council with the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award. Please come and share this special event with Captain Bob and his family. Admission is free, but registration is appreciated (not required). Register at wjcouncil.org. The event will be held at Temple Israel Center of White Plains, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road, at 7:30 p.m.

Do you have a special topic you might
Continued on page 10



9th Annual Bingeworthy Television

Presented by TCM (Turner Classic Movies), **The Power of Film** (Documentary; 2024, 6 episodes) was curated by Howard Suber, an American professor emeritus at UCLA who dedicated more than 53 years to teaching 65 courses in film and television. He earned a B.A. from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Theater, Film/Television from UCLA. This limited series is based on his own book and hosted by him. It examines the art of storytelling by presenting examples in the form of film clips of the defining principles and inner workings of the most popular and memorable American films of all time. The six episodes are called: Popular and Memorable, Trapped Between Fate and Destiny, The Power of Character Relationships, Heroes and Villains, The Power of Paradox and Love and Meaning. An absolute must for film-buffs.

In **Alaska Daily** (2022–23, 11 episodes), Eileen Fitzgerald (Hilary Swank) is a former high-profile investigative reporter in New York City who comes to Alaska after burning bridges in her previous job. She is hired by Stanley Kornik (Jeff Perry), her former boss and current managing editor of the Daily Alaskan, a metro newspaper in Anchorage. She is assigned to work with another colleague at the newspaper, Roz Friendly (Grace Dove), to complete and release reports on the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the state. Having a family member who was a victim of an unsolved crime, Roz has a personal connection to the story, and that drives her to keep searching for the truth. Irene Bedard appears as Sylvie Nanmac, the mother of one of the missing women. I was quite surprised when this excellent drama was cancelled after one season.

Sanditon (British; 2019–23, 20 episodes over three seasons) is a period-drama adaptation of Jane Austen's final but incomplete novel, written only months before her death in 1817. The story features Rose Williams and Theo James as the lead characters of Charlotte Heywood and Sidney Parker. It follows Charlotte as she moves to the quiet fishing village of Sanditon for a fresh start, only to meet Sidney, a charming man who has ambitions to turn the tranquil seaside residence into a luxury resort. The ensemble cast also includes Crystal Clarke as heiress Georgianna Lambe, Anne Reed as haughty Lady Denham, Jack Fox as conniving Edward Denham, Charlotte Spencer as Esther Denham, Kris Marshall as entrepreneur Tom Parker, Kate Ashfield as Mary Parker and Turlough Convery as Arthur Parker, among many others.

La Otra Mirada aka A Different View (Spanish; 2018–19, 21 episodes over two seasons) was remade into a PBS British version, but I can't imagine any improvement on the original. It is an engrossing soap opera of a boarding school for girls set in Seville in the early 1900s. Macarena García stars as Manuela, the principal of the school, who is unhappily married to Martín (Carlos Olalla), a judge. Life for everyone at the school seems to undergo a change with the arrival of feminist teacher Teresa Blanco Sánchez (Patricia López Arnaiz), who has a mysterious past. This is a melodrama that includes a murder, a rape and the dominance of a rich patriarchy, as well as a lesbian love affair. However, the relationships among the students and with the teachers are replete with insights into love, women's rights and class distinctions. The perspective is quite different from usual American dramas.

A Discovery of Witches (British, 2018–22, 25 episodes over three seasons) is a fantasy series based on the similarly named novel of the All Souls trilogy, written by Deborah Harkness, which I thoroughly enjoyed reading. Teresa Palmer portrays Diana Bishop, tenured historian at Yale University, study-

ing alchemy and science at the University of Oxford. After the death of her parents when she was a child, Diana was raised by her Aunt Sarah (Alex Kingston) and Sarah's partner, Emily (Valarie Pettiford), who have withheld from her the knowledge of her heritage as a witch. When she discovers a bewitched manuscript in the Bodleian library in London, she forms an unlikely alliance with geneticist and vampire Matthew Clairmont (Matthew Goode). The two scholars attempt to protect the book and solve the riddles within, while dodging threats from the magical creature world that includes vampires, daemons and witches. Lindsay Duncan appears as Ysabeau, Matthew's mother, who despises witches for their involvement in her husband's death during World War II. The characters travel back and forth in time, with the second season taking place in 1590.

Tom Clancy's **Jack Ryan** (2018–23, 30 episodes over four seasons) is an action adventure film starring John Krasinski in the title role as a CIA analyst. It replaces characters from Clancy's novels and, while ostensibly a prequel to the Jack Ryan films that starred Alec Baldwin and Harrison Ford, it is jarring to fans because it is set in modern times, after the previous films. The other difference is that although he is a CIA analyst, Jack is wrenched from the security of his desk job into the field. Wendell Pierce appears as Ryan's boss James Greer and Abbie Cornish as Dr. Cathy Mueller, Ryan's love interest and a physician specializing in infectious diseases. The seasonal plots include fighting an Islamic extremist, political warfare in corrupt Venezuela, preventing detonation of an untraceable tactical nuclear bomb in a country of the former Eastern Bloc, and Jack's promotion to CIA Acting Deputy Director when he investigates an alliance between a drug cartel and a terrorist organization.

Ted Lasso (2020–23, 34 episodes over three seasons) may be one of my favorite TV series ever. Although its pace is somewhat slow at the beginning, it is definitely worth the time investment to savor its sweetness as we see how Ted provides a safe atmosphere and wisdom to enable all his players to become the best versions of themselves possible. Jason Sudeikis stars in the title role as an American football coach hired by Rebecca Walton (Hannah Waddingham), who acquired full ownership of an English football (soccer) team in a divorce settlement. She is determined to ruin the team to get back at her ex-husband, Rupert (Anthony Head). Other lead characters include Jeremy Swift as Director of Football Operations Leslie Higgins, Phil Dunster as talented but egotistical Jamie Tartt, Brett Goldstein as veteran aging footballer Roy Kent (who is foul-mouthed but has a good heart), Brendan Hunt as Lasso's longtime American friend as assistant Coach Beard, Nick Mohammed as former kit man turned assistant coach Nathan "Nate" Shelley, Juno Temple as model and club marketing manager Keeley Jones, and Annette Badland as local pub landlady Mae Green. One of my favorite characters is newspaper reporter Trent Crimm (James Lance), who though skeptical is eventually won over by Ted's kindness and warm philosophy. There is a host of wonderful actors who play the various team players who are too numerous to name. The series has received critical acclaim, with particular praise for its performances (notably Sudeikis, Hannah Waddingham, Phil Dunster, Brett Goldstein, and Juno Temple), humor, writing, themes and uplifting tone. Its first season it was nominated for 20 Primetime Emmy Awards, becoming the most nominated first-season comedy in Emmy history. I've watched it twice already and have savored clips of my favorite scenes as they appear on Instagram.

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (2017–23, 43 episodes over five seasons) is an example of a very good show that begins well but should have stopped after two seasons. Rachel Brosnahan stars in the title role as Miriam "Midge" Maisel, an upper-middle class Jewish American housewife and mother who discovers her flair for stand-up comedy after husband Joel (Michael Zegen) abruptly leaves her. Emmy-winner Alex Borstein appears as Midge's manager, Susie Myerson. Marin Hinkle and Tony Shalhoub appear as Midge's parents, matchmaker Rose and Columbia professor and Village Voice theater critic Abe. Joel's parents are garment company

owner Moishe (Kevin Pollak) and overbearing housewife Caroline. Luke Kirby appears as Lenny Bruce, a well-known New York City comedian and Midge's close friend and ally. Jane Lynch appears as Midge's nemesis Sophie Lennon, a snobbish Manhattan socialite who uses a fat suit to do stand-up in the character of a frumpy housewife from Queens. The real star of the series is the wardrobe from the show's setting in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Grace and Frankie (2015–22, 94 half-hour episodes over seven seasons) stars Jane Fonda as Grace and Lily Tomlin as Frankie, two aging women who form an unlikely and reluctant friendship after their husbands reveal they are in love with each other and plan to get married. Grace's husband, Robert (Martin Sheen), and Frankie's husband, Sol (Sam Waterston), are successful divorce lawyers who have been in love with each other for most of their married lives. Grace and Robert's children are Brianna (June Diane Raphael), who took over Grace's cosmetic business and Mallory (Brooklyn Decker), who is a housewife and mother. Frankie and Sol's adopted children are Coyote (Ethan Embry), a recovering addict and middle school music teacher, and Bud (Baron Vaughn), who now runs the law firm left to him when the fathers retired. Romantic interests for the two leading ladies through the series include Peter Gallagher as Nick, Sam Elliott as Phil Millstein and Ernie Hudson as Jacob. The show is mostly hilarious with the two women inventing useful devices such as a vibrator for seniors and a self-rising toilet. They deal with issues of aging: relationships with men, their exes and children. And how conservative elegant Grace deals with hippie, pot-smoking painter Frankie. The show should have ended a couple of seasons earlier, but the early ones are well worth seeing.

How to Get Away with Murder (2014–20, 90 episodes over six seasons) stars the outstanding Viola Davis stars as Annalise Keating, a prominent criminal defense attorney and law professor at Middleton University in Philadelphia. She selects five of her first-year students to intern at her firm: Wes Gibbins (Alfred Enoch), Connor Walsh (Jack Falahee), Michaela Pratt (Aja Naomi King), Asher Millstone (Matt McGorry) and Laurel Castillo (Karla Souza). They work with Annalise's loyal employees, private detective and fixer Frank Delfino (Charlie Weber) and associate lawyer Bonnie Winterbottom (Liza Weil). Billy Brown appears as Nate Lahey, a detective with the Philadelphia Police Department who is Annalise's lover. Other significant characters are Annalise's murdered husband, Sam Keating (Tom Verica), and his murdered mistress, Lila Stangard (Megan West). Most of the storylines are told through both flashback and flashforward sequences. Receiving widespread critical acclaim for her performance, Davis became the first Black woman to win the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama

Series.

This past summer I binge-watched all the episodes of **The Flash** (2014–23, 184 episodes over nine seasons) with my then 11-year-old grandson Waverly, and it was a pleasure to share the experience with him. It stars Grant Gustin as Barry Allen, a Central City assistant police forensic investigator. Moments after an explosion of the particle accelerator at S.T.A.R. Labs, Barry is struck by lightning and doused by chemicals. When he awakens from a nine-month coma with superhuman speed, he learns to use that speed to help humanity as "The Flash." Barry's mother was murdered when he was a child, and his father was unjustly accused, so police detective Joe West (Jesse L. Martin) took him in and served as his surrogate father. A romance develops between Barry and Joe's daughter, Iris (Candace Patton). Barry's team includes mechanical engineering genius Cisco Ramon (Carlos Valdes) and bioengineering expert Dr. Caitlin Snow (Danielle Panabaker), with oversight by various versions of Dr. Harrison Wells (the wonderful Tom Cavanagh), whose identity transforms through time. Although Flash battles many major villains, he retains a Boy Scout persona as a decent person who never wants to kill anyone, which is quite refreshing in the Superhero World. We subsequently saw the film in the movies and preferred the TV star to the film version's casting.

And until next time enjoy, stay healthy and happy viewing...

Org News

Continued from page 9

like to speak about? Let us know. We'd be happy to host you.

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

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

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

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

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CITY ISLAND BASEBALL BACK WHEN

By BERNARD K. WITLIEB

As spring approaches, many begin to think about the upcoming baseball season. As the City Island Little League begins to organize its spring season, historian Bernie Witlieb looks back at the “good old days” when City Island had many active teams, some of them quite successful, some not.

The history of baseball in the United States dates to the early 18th century, when amateur enthusiasts played a baseball-like game by their own informal rules, using homemade equipment. The sport became popular, and amateur men's ball clubs were formed by mid-century, followed by semi-professional clubs in the 1860s and professional leagues a decade later after the Civil War.

Baseball was played on City Island 97 years before the N.Y. Mets took to the field in 1962. It was played here 38 years before the NY Highlanders (renamed the Yankees in 1913) trotted out on a baseball diamond in 1903. Soon after the Civil War ended in 1865, a nonprofessional group of City Islanders formed a baseball team.

In more than 40 postings in his Historic Pelham blog spot, historian Blake A. Bell chronicled the growing popularity of 19th-century baseball on City Island. You can Google the one word “historicPelhambaseball” for these informative essays. He provides team names, scores and player names, and he reprints relevant newspaper articles.

Mr. Bell traces the beginning of baseball here to games in late October 1865 between the United of Westchester and the Nonpareils of City Island, the second of which the latter won 26 to 19, according to The Statesman (Yonkers) of Nov. 2. He also cites Gregory J. Christiano’s article “Baseball In The Bronx Before The Yankees” (The Bronx County Historical Society Journal, 2013), which identified four major City Island teams: Beldenites, Nonpareils (a “junior” team), Rivals and Shamrocks.

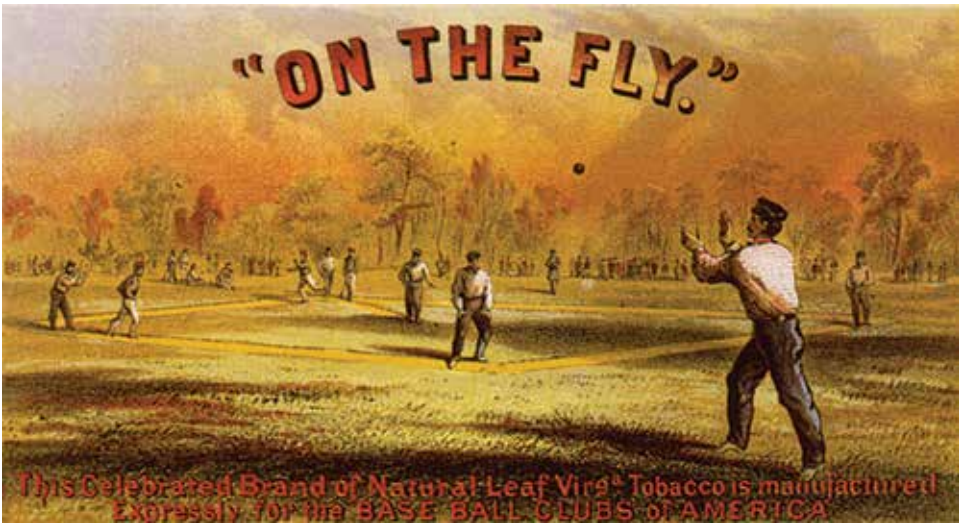
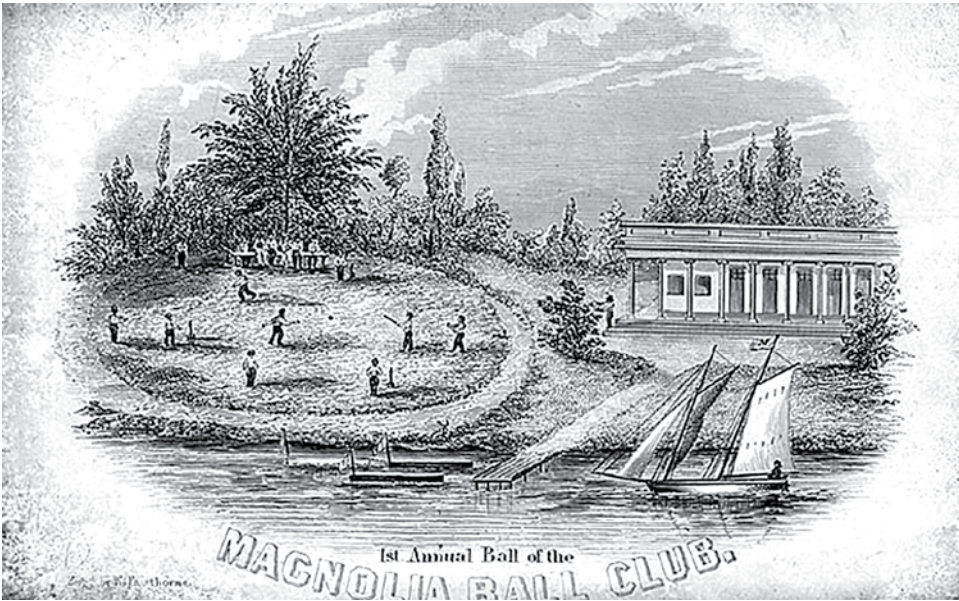
But on Friday Sept. 22, 1865, the Eastern State Journal (White Plains) described an earlier game, when the City Island Nonpareils traveled to the White Plains Fair Grounds,

where they defeated the Washington Club 22 to 17. The following year, on July 4, however, the Una Base Ball Club of Mount Vernon routed the Island’s Nonpareils 49 to 9, according to an 1866 book entitled “The National Game” by Charles A. Peverly.

A decade later, on June 12, 1875, City Island was the site of a game that pitted the Confidence Base Ball Club of New Rochelle against the wonderfully named Stony Swamp Club of City Island. And the following spring, on April 19, Live Oaks of New Rochelle beat the Magics of City Island, and as part of the 12-hour July 4, 1876, centennial celebration on City Island of our nation’s independence, the Magics defeated a team called the Militia.

The Vail B.B. Club of City Island walloped the Alphas of New Rochelle 29 to 12 on May 3, 1878, and 11 days later, on May 14, the Vails edged the Leviness Base Ball Club 12 to 11, probably sponsored by Island hotel owner and oysterman Joshua Leviness. The Vails catcher John Statup suffered a broken nose “while trying to catch a ball from the bat,” but the team went on to defeat the Clam Diggers on May 25. William Waterhouse served as the Vails’ captain and A.F. Vail umpired. The following month, on June 3, the Vails found themselves on the wrong end of a lopsided 18 to 0 loss to a Mamaroneck team. No box score exists, but the Mount Vernon Chronicle on June 11 lists Vails’ club officials as James Liming, A. F. Vail, Francis Vail and C. P. Billar. The Eagle Club of West Farms lost 15 to 12 to the home Vails, on Oct. 2, 1878, a game in which foul tips injured the eyes of the maskless opposing catchers, according to the Chronicle on Oct. 4.

On July 4, 1883, the visiting Monitors of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, were defeated by 14 to 10 on the King estate in Pelham Bay Park by the oystermen and ship’s carpenter players of the James Hyatt Baseball Club, named for the Pelham Supervisor. After the game, “the Brooklynites enjoyed a genuine Rhode Island clam bake, at the expense of the City Islanders,” according to the July 7 Chronicle, in which the reporter lamented like a fan reminiscing about the 1962 Mets: “When it is



An invitation to the first annual game of the Magnolia Ball Club, 1844, which was played in New Jersey, but the scene looks a lot like City Island! Below is a cigar box label created for the Baseball Club of America, ca. 1867.

considered that the City Islanders have had no practice, merely organizing for the occasion, the score was a very close one.”

Occasionally, there would be a cross-Island contest. The C.I. Muffers trounced the C.I. Rivals 13 to 4 in the summer of 1884. Buoyed by their victory, “The Muffers challenge any club to play them in a match game for a Peck & Snyder dead ball. All correspondence to be addressed to John Brady, City Island, N.Y.,” the New Rochelle Pioneer reported on July 26. Peck & Snyder Sporting Goods on Nassau and Ann Streets in NYC is thought to be the first to mass-produce baseballs, which were then called “dead” because they were hard to hit for any distance, resulting in many low-scoring games. The Muffers’ challenge showed a good deal of bravado, since many teams belonged to the Westchester County Alliance. “[E]very town or village must have its baseball club,” noted the Chronicle on August 3, 1883.


The newly formed Beldenites, a team financed in summer 1884 by the \$20 seed money given by William Belden, whose mansion stood at the south end of the Island,

lost to the Clippers Base Ball Club of New Rochelle 24 to 7 on Aug. 14. Three days later, the Muffers game at Willet’s Point was suspended after a heavy rainstorm with the Islanders ahead 8 to 6, and on Aug. 23 they defeated a Pelhamville team 42 to 11. Three days later the Beldenites whipped the Mamaroneck team 31 to 19 but lost 36 to 17 to a New Rochelle team a few days later. According to the Sept. 19, 1884, issue of the Chronicle, the Muffers had disbanded and many of its star players had joined the Beldenites. Not to be outdone by the Vails, the Beldenites challenged “any junior B.B. club in Westchester” to come to City Island and play “for a Snyder dead ball.” All communications were to be sent to George Boster of the Island, according to the New Rochelle Pioneer on July 26. The following week the challenger upped the ante, to play the game “for a ball and bat.”

Another City Island team formed in 1884. On Aug. 23, the Rivals triumphed 42 to 11 over the Pelhamville nine. And a week later, the Rivals battled the Nationals of Willet’s Point. Many of the crowds at the games were boisterous, having imbibed too much liquor. When a Yonkers team arrived by boat, three constables warned them not to play a game on the Island. As the New Rochelle Pioneer reported on Aug. 16, “Some of the gin dealers considered this action on the part of the constables an outrage, since they might have captured a few nickels, while the residents suffered from the noise and presence of drunken men.” On Nov. 21, the Rivals held a ball at Leviness Hall.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, 1887, the Port Washington Base Ball visited City Island and beat an unnamed team 7 to 6, and on Aug. 18, 1888, the newly formed Shamrocks traveled to Sylvan Park in Mount Vernon and lost to the Primrose club 12 to 6. These were not good years for City Island against New Rochelle teams. In early August 1888 the Resolute Base Ball Club defeated an unnamed City Island nine 19 to 9, and in early October they beat the Careys 10 to 7. The Little Giants engulfed the Careys 8 to 1 on Saturday, July 13, 1889, and the Resolutes routed them 39 to 9 the following Thursday, according to the New Rochelle Pioneer. On July 20 the Little Giants edged the Careys 4 to 2.

Much more about the Shamrocks and the 1894 Minnefords can be found in Blake Bell’s Historic Pelham blogs, mostly based on stories in the City Island Drift newspaper, copies of which are available at the City Island Nautical Museum.



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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.



Rita Lynch
Rita Virginia Lynch, longtime City Island resident, passed away peacefully at the age of 96 on Sunday, March 17, 2024, in New Rochelle.
She was born to Frank and Catherine McKenna on March 8, 1928, in the Bronx,

and she proudly called City Island her home for most of her life. She belonged to the inaugural "peace time," post-World War II graduating class of Christopher Columbus High School in 1946.
She was a clam digger at heart, sharing her upbringing with her husband, Bill Lynch, whom she married in 1949, and together they built a life centered on family values. Rita's role as a devoted stay-at-home mother was evident in the warmth and care she poured into her husband and children, for whom she created a nurturing environment that was their sanctuary.
Rita Lynch was a beacon of strength and faith, embodying the values of her Irish Catholic heritage. Her selflessness and unwavering friendship touched the lives of all who knew her, and her departure is deeply felt by the City Island community.
Rita is predeceased by her husband, Bill, and her brother, Frank McKenna, and survived by her brothers, Robert and Thomas McKenna; her four children, James Lynch, Patti Jawski, Kathleen Siano and Ellen Patterson; five grandchildren, Brian Siano, Michael Jawski Jr., Jamie Lynch, Jason Jawski and Caeleigh Patterson; great-grandchildren Emily Siano, Christopher Jawski and Matthew Jawski; and sisters-in-law, Joan Doubrava and Eileen McKenna.
A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Friday, March 22.

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Sundays: Feb 18, Mar 10, Apr 14

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight 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 2024									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0431	7.4	1103	0.9	1706	6.3	2315	1.3	Mon 01
02 Tue	0530	7.3	1210	0.9	1809	6.4			Tue 02
03 Wed	0024	1.2	0636	7.2	1335	0.7	1923	6.7	Wed 03
04 Thu	0154	0.9	0755	7.4	1458	0.4	2045	7.3	Thu 04
05 Fri	0324	0.2	0916	7.7	1553	-0.1	2147	8.0	Fri 05
06 Sat	0423	-0.5	1016	8.1	1642	-0.5	2238	8.7	Sat 06
07 Sun	0515	-1.0	1109	8.4	1729	-0.8	2326	9.2	Sun 07
08 Mon	0606	-1.4	1200	8.5	1817	-0.9			Mon 08
09 Tue	0014	9.4	0656	-1.6	1250	8.5	1904	-0.8	Tue 09
10 Wed	0103	9.4	0745	-1.5	1339	8.3	1951	-0.6	Wed 10
11 Thu	0150	9.1	0835	-1.1	1428	7.9	2038	-0.2	Thu 11
12 Fri	0238	8.7	0928	-0.6	1519	7.4	2133	0.3	Fri 12
13 Sat	0330	8.1	1030	-0.1	1620	6.9	2244	0.8	Sat 13
14 Sun	0432	7.5	1134	0.4	1728	6.5	2355	1.2	Sun 14
15 Mon	0545	7.0	1236	0.7	1835	6.3			Mon 15
16 Tue	0059	1.3	0655	6.7	1334	0.9	1939	6.3	Tue 16
17 Wed	0200	1.3	0801	6.6	1430	0.9	2037	6.5	Wed 17
18 Thu	0256	1.1	0859	6.6	1520	0.8	2126	6.8	Thu 18
19 Fri	0345	0.8	0948	6.8	1606	0.7	2208	7.1	Fri 19
20 Sat	0431	0.5	1030	6.9	1647	0.7	2243	7.4	Sat 20
21 Sun	0513	0.3	1107	7.0	1725	0.7	2313	7.6	Sun 21
22 Mon	0552	0.1	1140	7.1	1758	0.7	2336	7.8	Mon 22
23 Tue	0628	0.0	1208	7.1	1820	0.7	2358	7.9	Tue 23
24 Wed	0657	0.0	1231	7.1	1833	0.8			Wed 24
25 Thu	0028	8.0	0716	0.0	1301	7.1	1901	0.8	Thu 25
26 Fri	0105	8.1	0741	0.1	1336	7.0	1936	0.8	Fri 26
27 Sat	0145	8.1	0815	0.2	1416	6.9	2017	0.9	Sat 27
28 Sun	0229	8.0	0857	0.4	1501	6.8	2104	1.0	Sun 28
29 Mon	0317	7.8	0947	0.6	1553	6.8	2159	1.2	Mon 29
30 Tue	0412	7.5	1045	0.7	1652	6.8	2305	1.2	Tue 30
MAY 2024									
01 Wed	0514	7.3	1153	0.7	1756	7.0			Wed 01
02 Thu	0025	1.0	0622	7.2	1308	0.6	1907	7.4	Thu 02
03 Fri	0203	0.6	0741	7.3	1424	0.4	2022	7.9	Fri 03
04 Sat	0312	0.0	0900	7.5	1524	0.1	2124	8.5	Sat 04

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Photo by MONICA CLICK
The Post Office garden has been cleaned up, compost and fertilizer put down, and samples of the soil sent off to be analyzed. The hard-working Garden Club volunteers included (l. to r.) Judy Judson, Karen Wagner, Hailey Clancy, Lynn Muszik, Susan Strazzera, Maria Mangione and Lorraine Nicoletti.



Turning the Page on Technology?

With all the fuss for the new technologies that are available to new and not so new birdwatchers, you would think that those trusty old field guides some of us grew up with had gone the way of the dodo. After all, who wouldn't rather stick a cell phone in the air for help identifying birds if it meant not having to lug around a second edition Sibley's guide? Or a Peterson's? Or both? Well, it turns out that books about birds are far from falling out of favor, and, as a matter of fact, it is not simply the collectors who are responsible for a resurgent appreciation of the printed bird word.

According to recent research, more than half the Gen Z and Millennial population in this country is using their local library again. And some of the most recent bird books that we are aware of may very well have been written to appeal to just such patrons. For example, "Birds of the Mesozoic: An Illustrated Field Guide" is a book about birds that were alive during dinosaur times, just the sort of thing Americans who grew up obsessed with dinosaurs—thanks to "Jurassic Park"—would be drawn to. The illustrations are priceless, but it is the science behind them that will truly make your jaw drop. Color choices, for example (and these choices will surprise you!), were arrived at by meticulous study of fossilized feathers.

Another particular interest of Gen Z and Millennials is social justice and their perceived righting (no pun intended) of past wrongs. "Birds of the World: The Art of Elizabeth Gould" is a recent publication that was written to once and for all give credit where credit is due. Next to John James Audubon, Elizabeth's husband, John Gould, is perhaps the most famous ornithologist of them all. But unlike Audubon, Gould did not illustrate his famous books, such as "The Birds of Europe" and "The Birds of Australia." Elizabeth did! Not surprisingly, there were many women in the 19th century who illustrated, even wrote, bird books but who did not get the credit they deserved. Not anymore.

The men and women who contributed to some of the most important bird books of all time were products of their own times, a fact that does not sit well with some people today. But there is one thing we can all agree on: the conservation movement as we know it today would not have been possible without the contributions of the likes of Audubon and Gould. And conservationism is something near and dear to the hearts of Gen Z and Millennials.

Speaking of Audubon, his "Birds of America" is one of those bird books—actually it is an eight-volume set of very, very large bird books—that only the most deep-pocketed collectors can get their hands on these days. The last copy that we are aware of sold at auction in 2018 for \$9.65 million. The Peabody Museum at Yale has a copy of Audubon's "Birds" out on display for the not-so-deep-pocketed. Closer to home there is the New York Historical Society, where they even have the original watercolors made by Audubon that were used in his books. These treasures are worth the wait, as the Audubon Gallery at NYHS is currently closed and not scheduled to reopen until September.

While you wait, why not have another look at the old Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds" collecting dust on that shelf of yours? A first edition published in 1934 with its original dustjacket fetches up to \$5,000 on the open market; a signed first edition is worth double. There is one listed online for \$12,500, and it lacks the dustjacket!

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Crocus and hare

April at Last

Finally it is Spring, and the shooting up of everything green makes us rejoice for a new and resurrected self, a clean slate to begin again. Out of the cold soil come sheets of bluebells, daffodils fresh with buds, snowdrop pendants that a late frost will not damage. These bulbs are so courageous and brave returning each year to flower in their glory. The sight of the hepatica flower twinkling on its wiry stem can leave the poet silent. I believe in Spring.

The world’s time has been in slow gear; blistering politics and war have left us all without season, but now once again we may breathe the earth’s art and rejoice, at least for a little while. It is impossible, I think, to feel despondent or lonely in a garden. So we compost our plots and mulch the garden much in the same way we tend our souls. After a wintry blast, beyond all hope of recovery, life returns.

April and May are the busiest months. The gardener’s work spreads out before him like the crowns of plants pushing through the earth or the buzz of the bee first out to inspect a newly open blossom. It’s a prayer really, a meditation, when one

is fully engaged in the garden. It’s time to feed and nourish the plants. Holly-tone should be spread, a full cup for each evergreen (rhododendrons and azaleas included) and watered in. For perennials, boxwood and trees use Plant-tone. I find tomato food is excellent for flowering plants; feed them as they begin to bud. The size of the blossoms become bigger and better with tomato food. If leaves are on the yellow side, your soil may need a top dressing of blood meal, which is pure nitrogen.

For a fresh garden, sow flats of zinnia, sunflower and cosmos, which you can plant up after all danger of frost has passed. When there are children about, it is good to have them rake the soil and plant the seeds straight into the ground themselves. Love yellow or blue? Create a color-themed garden and punctuate it with its complementary color. Plant evergreens when in doubt (you will thank yourself come winter) and plant flowers in groups of threes and fives. I like to plant the sixth one way over to the side, as in an isocetes triangle. This simple formation mimics nature’s way. Yew and box await a trim, and the roses will be wanting copious amounts of water. Feed them Rose-tone and a bucket filled with water-diluted Epsom salt, and, oh yes, weed. Pansies are nice in the cool weather as are violas, the diminutive pansy.

From a bird’s eye view the picture of busy gardeners world wide brings hope to my mind. A hope and a prayer for a healthier Earth and Peace above all else.

“And the glory of the garden shall never pass away” - Rudyard Kipling

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

Developing a Work Ethic in Our Children

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Sigmund Freud was once asked what the benchmarks were for a healthy adult. Some were expecting a detailed and multi-faceted answer, but he simply replied. “To love and to work.”

I can remember growing up in a lower middle-class family: my father worked in a sugar refinery (seven days a week on three-week shifts) and my mother was a school cafeteria worker. They worked hard for what we had, but it was a simple existence without many frills. I realized early on that if I wanted spending money, I would have to earn it myself. Thus began a childhood practice of mowing lawns, weeding gardens, babysitting and (as a teenager) helping a neighbor with a truck do moving jobs. A snowstorm was a welcomed opportunity to make money: after shoveling out my own house, my friends and I would head to the local shopping center and help shovel out cars that got stuck in the unplowed parking lots, often getting a buck or two per car. That money allowed me to enjoy treats (like egg creams after school at the luncheonette), buy the latest issue of MAD magazine and add to my slot car racing set (which I saved up \$29.95 for and bought from the local Woolworth’s store). Later it paid for Beatles records, going on dates and gas for when I used my father’s car.

Work develops the relationship between time, money and things. If we simply buy our children what they want—when they want it—there is no sense of how things are paid for and how one needs to put in time and effort to make the money needed. No wonder some parents scratch their heads when their almost-adult children expect to be fed and housed and clothed without any contributions on their part!

Where do we begin to help our children develop a work ethic? Start early with chores. Living in a family home is a group endeavor:

- Buy some plastic placemats, outline a fork, knife, spoon, plate and glass in marker, and have your three-year old set the table.
- Take all the toys left out when your

child was asked to pick them up (a fully reasonable household chore) and keep them locked in the closet for a few days so they get the message.

- Create opportunities to make money at home for going beyond basic household responsibilities (which I believe should not be paid for) and watch your kids compete to get these bigger tasks done.

- Make a plan for “wished-for” large item purchases so your child understands how much time it takes to earn the money for that new bicycle or train set. Then be a supportive observer as your child perseveres in efforts to raise the money.

- Decide as a family to earn the money for a local charity. How about one of the food pantries here on City Island? Set up a collective “donation jar” and have each family do something special to earn a bit more money than usual (or at least save the money that might have been spent on going out to dinner or buying a new piece of clothing). Go together as a family to buy the groceries and deliver them to the distribution place for the food. Make sure everyone is “hands on” and not just handing over some cash. We learn best and grow well when we take action and work face-to-face with others.

Work is an essential human activity. It makes a connection, not only between time, money and things but also between our daily needs and our ability to be productive members of the human race. We who have more than we need are productive in a compassionate sense when we can meet the needs of ourselves and our families and then go on to share some what we have left with those less fortunate.

There are many ways to be rich, not just physically (through money and possessions) but also emotionally (through love and compassion) and spiritually (through gratitude and connection with the universe). Our children need to learn that from us. Can we exemplify healthy personhood by being able to work and to love?

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City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

March has flown by as quickly as the winds of March. We shared some great dishes, including movie-themed recipes such as fried green tomatoes and Mystic Pizza meatballs.

We will meet on Monday, April 8, and we encourage anyone interested to please drop in to the City Island Community Center (190 Fordham Street) and join us at 7 p.m.

We are planning on a seder on April 22, the first night of Passover. The dinner will feature traditional Jewish foods, including matzoh ball soup, noodle kugel and brisket. We will also have traditional readings from the Torah and the seder plate.

Happy cooking to all. Here is the recipe for savory kugel, a Jewish baked noodle pudding. It comes from a 1950 spiral-bound cookbook that was compiled by the women of a synagogue in suburban Larchmont. They called it Exciting Baked Noodles, and it included what were then considered secret ingredients: Worcestershire and Tabasco sauce.

Exciting Baked Noodles

Yield: 6 servings



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Ingredients

- Butter to grease pan
- 8 ounces medium egg noodles, preferably high-quality pappardelle
- 1½ cups cottage cheese (with curds, not creamed or whipped) or farmer cheese
- 1½ cups sour cream
- ½ medium onion, finely minced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Dash of Tabasco sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup chives, sliced

Directions

Step 1: Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter the inside of a 2 or 2½-quart casserole or gratin dish.

Step 2: Bring a pot of water to a boil, add the noodles and cook until al dente, about 7 minutes. Drain the noodles, put in a medium bowl and toss with cottage or farmer cheese, sour cream, onion, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco and salt and pepper.

Step 3: Spoon the noodles into the buttered dish and sprinkle with the Parmesan and chives. Bake until golden and crusty on top, 35 to 40 minutes.

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



Happy retirement to Cathy Cahill Cokeley.

A retirement shout-out to Cathy Cahill Cokeley, R.N.-B.C., MC who retired on Feb. 5, 2024, after 51 years of service. Cathy was Director of Clinical Services for Pediatric Ambulatory Subspecialties at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and Dialysis Services at Montefiore Medical Center. She was also the Senior Associate of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Bioethics. Congratulations!

Happy second anniversary on April



Former Islander Kathleen Fitzmaurice Silard was honored as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stamford, CT.

22 to Caitlin and Lance Forese, with love from your family and friends.

Happy belated first birthday to our adorable, sweet and ever-so-happy grandson Miles Nicholas on March 25. You bring us so much joy. We love you to the moon and back. Love, Grammy and BPa.

On March 2, 2024, clam digger and former islander Kathleen Fitzmaurice Silard was Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Stamford, CT. Many family members and friends turned out to march in the parade with Kathleen, including her sister and brother-in-law Judy and Frank DiMaio. Kathleen is President and CEO of the Stamford Health System.

Happy California birthday to clam digger Eric Rauhauser, who will celebrate on April 2. Eric was back on City Island in February to attend the memorial service for his cousin, Carol Gauss McKenna. He looks forward to returning again this



Happy first birthday to Annabelle Carmen.

summer for some boating on Long Island Sound.

Happy third birthday to Hank Allen, who celebrates on April 23. Mom Chelsea and Dad Matt love you so much. The Rodstrom and Allen clans wish you the best on your special day!

Happy birthday to the Sailmaker’s Judy Iovieno, who celebrates on April 23, and to her sister-in-law Maria Swieciki on April 25.



Miles Nicholas celebrated his first birthday on March 25.

Happy birthday on April 30 to Leah Mentch Nani, wife of clam digger Roger Nani.

Happy first birthday on January 31 to our Annabelle Carmen in ONederland!!

Happy 16th birthday on April 22 to our gentle giant Thomas Riordan, and God bless Emma Riordan on her confirmation on April 13. Love, Mom, Dad and Grace.

Maria Swieciki

CJS

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