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One Dollar

MORE STORIES FROM THE COVID FRONT LINES

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and courtesy of the FIRST RESPONDERS

Hard-working City Islanders are on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic caring for others affected by this crisis and maintaining essential services, including (top to bottom at right) Dr. Arturo Mazzeo (top two photos); Julia Doyle, RN (middle photo, center, with colleagues Joanna Strack and Claudia Mautino (seated) and Armando Teto of Con Edison. They have been recognized in many ways, including a banner placed on the City Island bridge (photo above), and the nightly 7 p.m. “clap” thanking healthcare workers and first responders. ,

As the June issue of *The Current* went to press, more than 400 residents have been tested, and there have been 117 confirmed cases of coronavirus on City Island, according to the New York City Department of Health, an increase of four from our last report (see May 2020 issue of *The Current*). Sadly, there have also been four more reported Island deaths, including longtime Islander Greg Penny Sr. In addition, some former Islanders, including Ethel Wilson Baumann, have passed away from complications due to Covid-19 (see obituaries page 18).

Meanwhile, *The Island Current* continues to recognize the many clam diggers and residents who are working to care for and support those afflicted by the Covid-19 virus in New York.

Healthcare Professionals

King Avenue resident Dr. Arturo Mazzeo is an anesthesiologist at Winthrop Hospital in Mineola, Long Island. His practice has changed dramatically since the onset of the coronavirus crisis, even the personal protective equipment (PPE) he wears.

“Before Covid, most of the operations I attended as an anesthesiologist were orthopedic, including elective knee and hip replacements, spinal surgery and neurosurgery. Now I have completely pivoted to emergency surgeries and intubations of patients with Covid-19 illness,” he told *The Current*. “Long Island has the second highest rate of coronavirus infections behind New York City, so the entire hospital has been converted into a ‘Covid unit.’ There are patients super sick from Covid everywhere throughout the hospital.”

Dr. Mazzeo further explained that intubations and the placement of breathing tubes in patients sick from the virus carry the highest risk of transmission to the healthcare providers involved. Given everything we have heard on the national news about the shortages of PPE for doc-

tors and nurses, how did he cope with the risk?

“Ironically, a City Islander relieved my stress and fears,” he explained. “Victor DeSantis, an electrician and friend, provided me with full protective gear that is way better than the regular PPE” (see photo).

Dr. Mazzeo moved to City Island 15 years ago after marrying longtime Islander Dr. Jeannine Giacovelli. He was raised in Long Island, but was intrigued by City Island after meeting his wife in medical school. The couple has three children and moved to King Avenue in 2019. They are renovating their house, built in 1929, and Mr. DeSantis has been a tremendous resource for them as they restore the historic home.

As busy as Dr. Mazzeo is, his wife’s aesthetic practice is on hold, as it involves elective surgeries and procedures. What does the future hold for the husband and wife physicians? “We are definitely on the downside of this pandemic, but it is far from over,” he predicted. At the height of the crisis, he was performing 10 intubations a day on Covid patients. Now his rate is down to one to two a day, but he urges diligence.

“This is not over! This crisis is like a marathon and we have only run the first few miles,” he cautioned. He implores City Island businesses to let customers in only if they are wearing masks. “I got into an argument with a customer at Augie’s on City Island who was not wearing a mask! There will be a surge in New York if we are not careful.” Wise words from a medical professional on the front lines.

Julia Doyle, RN, is the only one in her family born on City Island, which makes her a true clam digger. However, being a healthcare professional runs in the family, as her sister, Caitlin, is a nurse employed by the Westchester County Department of Health (see May issue of *The Current*); her mother was a respiratory therapist,



and her brother, John, works for the Montefiore Health System.

Julia attended P.S. 175 on City Island, Preston High School in the Bronx and then Pace University, where she received her RN degree in 2016. She worked for one and a half years at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx and is now an intensive care

unit (ICU) nurse at Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital, which is part of Northwell Health System on the border of Queens and Long Island.

Although she still resides at home on City Island with her parents and has never lived alone, she hasn’t been home “in

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BRIEFLY...

NEW YORK JUNE 23 PRIMARY VOTING: The early voting period for the state and federal primary election will be June 13 through June 21, 2020; the early voting site for City Island will be St. Frances De Chantal School, 2962 Harding Ave, The Bronx, NY 10465. Governor Cuomo has signed an executive order allowing any eligible voter to submit an absentee ballot for the primary and has made it mandatory that all eligible voters be sent absentee ballot applications automatically. If you have not received an application for an absentee ballot, call 718-299-9017.

CITY ISLAND POSTER PROJECT: The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, City Island Little League, City Island Drift and Girl Scout Troop #1115 have launched a project to make visitors and the City Island community aware of the importance of keeping our Island and the environment safe and clean. The groups are asking Islanders to encourage young people to create posters that promote the importance of proper disposal of trash, social distancing and the preservation of our nautical environment. Bring completed artwork to Clementina Esposito at 73 Hawkins Street. There will be a plastic bin outside her front door for drop-off. For more information, contact Joanne Valletta at 646-321-8902, Clementina Esposito at 917-859-9731, or Maria Caruso at 917-797-4524.

CITY ISLAND ROADIES PRESENT FIRST VIRTUAL 5K: The City Island Roadies are at it again!! Join us for our next 5K—a virtual 5K, the weekend of June 6–8. Participants are asked to walk, jog or run from any location, at your pace, outside or on a treadmill for 5K (or 3.1 miles). All proceeds raised will go to Trinity Methodist Church’s food pantry. For details, go to Facebook group “The City Island Roadies” or e-mail Lauren Nye at Lnye610@gmail.com. We’re looking forward to staying active, building community and running for a good cause during this difficult time.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and May 2020. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 3 – GRAND LARCENY
- 4 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from April 18 to May 19, 2020.

4/23 – At 2 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a male off-Islander told police that he parked his vehicle and returned to find it damaged by an unknown person who fled the scene.

4/29 – On City Island Avenue at 7 p.m., police received a report from an Island male of items stolen from his vehicle. On 4/30, police arrested two off-Island males, 20 and 23, and charged them with grand larceny related to the incident. The defendants were identified from video surveillance footage and found in possession of burglary tools.

5/3 – An off-Island male was injured after being struck by a vehicle on City Island Avenue at 7 p.m. EMS responded to the scene to treat the victim. The unknown perpetrator fled the scene of the accident.

5/4 – At 7:20 p.m. on City Island Av-

enue, an off-Island female reported an incident of harassment. She told police that an unknown person approached her vehicle and threatened to beat her up and cause bodily harm.

5/16 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported that her purse was stolen after she made a purchase of takeout food at 4 p.m.

5/16 – On City Island Avenue at 8:40 p.m., an employee at a commercial establishment told police that a highly intoxicated customer was asked to leave the premises. The off-Island male, 33, was arrested and charged with assault after becoming aggressive and fighting with security personnel.

In addition, police from the 45th Precinct reported a high number of 311 calls from Island residents during May 2020 complaining about people littering and not wearing protective masks in accordance with New York State safety guidelines.

ATTENTION

Island Current subscribers: The day after *The Current* is printed, our printer transports the copies destined for subscribers to the main post office in Manhattan. From there, the papers are to be sent to the local post offices for distribution, but the recent pandemic has resulted in serious delivery delays. Some subscribers did not receive the papers for three weeks after it was printed. Members of *The Current* staff delivered as many papers as possible on the Island (some condominiums do not allow access to mailboxes), but off-Islanders had to wait another week. Please note that papers are delivered the day after printing to local shops, including Dominick’s, the City Island Pharmacy, the Sunoco station and Buddy’s Hardware, in case subscribers want to purchase copies before their *Currents* show up in the mail.



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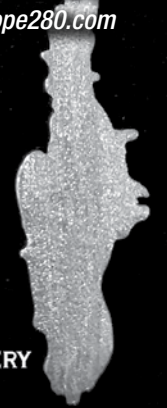
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Historic Year for P.S. 175

By KAREN NANI



In more ways than one, it has been an unprecedented year for the faculty and students of City Island's only public school, P.S. 175. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, all New York City schools have been closed and replaced by remote teaching and learning since March 23, 2020. The herculean task of continuing to provide high-quality education to City Island children is being led by the school's new principal, Julie Porras, who was officially appointed in mid-February, shortly before the lockdown.

In spite of the highly unusual circumstances of her first year as principal, Ms. Porras remains upbeat. "I am honored and fortunate to become part of the City Island community. Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive. Even though I am a new principal, no one has ever gone through this before, so we are all navigating through [the Covid-19 crisis] for the first time," she told *The Current*.

Ms. Porras credits her staff and the families of the 303 kindergarten to eighth-grade students for providing consistent instruction during the shutdown. "Everyone has contributed to the success of remote learning and, thanks to the teachers and parents, we have a daily attendance rate of over 90 percent."

Ms. Porras arrived on City Island last September as interim acting principal following the retirement of Amy Lipson, who led P.S. 175 for 14 years. Previously, Ms. Porras worked for nine years at P.S. 76 in the Bronx as a teacher and eventually assistant principal. She was raised in Yonkers, NY, but moved to the Bronx after marrying her husband, who is a member of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). She and her husband have two children, and she has worked for a total of 25 years inside the NYC Department of

Education (DOE).

As successful as the transition to remote learning has been, the dedicated teachers and staff of P.S. 175 missed seeing the children in person, so on Wednesday, May 13, a first-ever parade saluting them rolled down City Island Avenue and the side streets.

The event was the brainchild of kindergarten teacher Tammy Bellon. "I saw these parades on social media, and I thought it would be a great idea for City Island," she told *The Current*. Ms. Bellon reached out to her new principal, Ms. Porras, and they agreed that "they missed the kids" and that a special salute was warranted to recognize everyone's hard work in support of home schooling during the quarantine. So on May 13 most of the teachers and staff members met in the Orchard Beach parking lot at 11:45 a.m. in order to establish the order of the cars and to maintain social distancing. Each car was decorated and assigned a side street in addition to a drive down City Island Avenue.

Island resident Brenda Prohaska helped decorate the staff vehicles, including school nurse Roberta Gjonaj's car. Nurse Roberta, as she is known, added special messages to her car, including "Continue to do Amazing Things" and "2020 Graduates Rock."

Ms. Porras also invited participation by the City Island firehouse and, thanks to support from Lt. Ruffino at the Schofield Street house, FDNY Engine 70 led the parade down the avenue. Behind the fire truck, Ms. Porras, Assistant Principal Kathleen Wiehler and Parent Coordinator Tina Gisante led the convoy of faculty cars, each decorated with balloons and

Photos by BRENDA PROHASKA and TAMMY BELLON

A first-ever parade saluting City Island elementary students who are home schooling rolled down City Island Avenue on May 13, 2020 (top photo, left). The event was organized by the new P.S. 175 principal, Julie Porras (far left photo), and kindergarten teacher Tammy Bellon (center photo) to recognize the efforts of students and their parents during the Covid-19 shutdown. The car of school nurse Roberta Gjonaj (top photo above) was decorated, to the delight of Island children who lined the parade route.



special messages to their classes. Teachers waved enthusiastically to parents and students lining the parade route from a safe distance.

The parade was a success and loved by Island families. Ms. Porras and Nurse Roberta told *The Current* that they are hoping to organize another event saluting

the 2020 kindergarten and eighth-grade graduates in June in accordance with DOE safety guidelines. It will be a welcome, spirit-lifting event for those who have been denied the usual graduation celebrations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

NEW WARM WEATHER WOES FOR CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The first few warm days of spring encouraged many people in the city eager to leave their quarantine and venture out to enjoy the sun and the pleasant weather. However, with the Orchard Beach parking lot closing at 3 p.m. and with the restaurants restricting all purchases to take-out meals, visitors to the Island managed to create more than the usual chaos, especially on weekends and Mother's Day.

Because of the Covid-19 guidelines, there are no inside dining areas open to the public, little parking, and no restrooms available. In spite of the fact that social distancing and the wearing of masks are now required, many Island residents have been horrified by the number of people behaving in an unsafe manner and leaving piles of trash in the streets and on the sidewalks.

With the support of the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Association and several of the restaurant owners, Councilmember Mark Gjonaj provided a safety and security car to drive up and down the Island and onto the side streets to observe the situ-



Photo by KAREN NANI

Trash cans have been overflowing on City Island Avenue since the pandemic prevented dining inside restaurants.

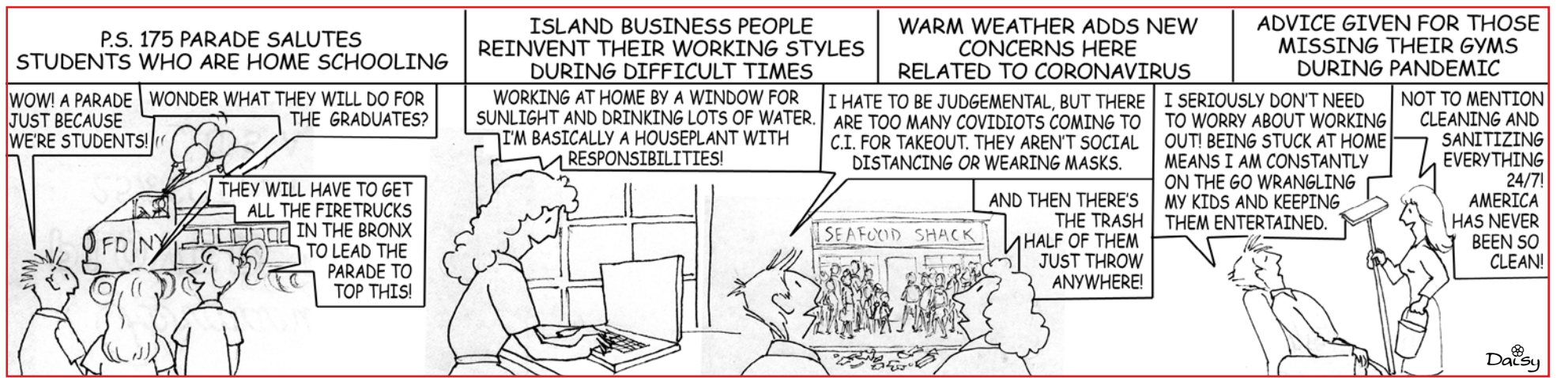
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Thank You

To the Editor,
The family of Greg Penny Sr. cannot begin to express the overwhelming outpouring of love and support that was shown to us during an extremely difficult time. Amidst the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, when everyone's lives have been turned upside down, the City Island community has been our uplifting savior.

Thank you so much to all those who put together a wonderful sendoff for Greg. We want to thank those who were instrumental in this commemoration—the American Legion Post 156, the Auxiliary 156 and the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. We also want to thank all those who attended and those who sent flowers, plants, food, cakes, cards and heartfelt messages: the AARP, the Garden Club of City Island, etc.

Although we will be grieving for a long time, we take comfort in knowing that Greg has left such an everlasting imprint on the lives of those who knew him.

Irene Penny

The Black Whale

To the Editor,
At the Black Whale we are all very much looking forward to the end of the NYC pause. Since the beginning of the coronavirus, we have been able to serve customers by preparing food for take out as well as delivering when possible. We are fortunate to be in a close and caring community where we can all support each other. By working with a skeleton crew and offering meals at a low cost, we are still managing to continue operation. When customers place their order, there is a lot of supportive feedback and appreciation.

The pandemic has been detrimental not only for us but for everyone in the restaurant business. It has caused an 80 percent loss in business, not to mention the lack of availability of essential items and food. Many restaurants have not been able to continue operating, including many that I frequent. Most of my friends in this business do not have work now, or if they own a restaurant they have had to close.

If rent is forgiven or delayed, it does not help with other costs, which just add up month after month. For instance, utilities do not vary much whether you are open or closed, nor does insurance, liquor licenses or equipment leasing. These costs can apply to other small businesses, not just restaurants.

We miss the days talking to customers who would usually be enjoying dinner or dessert in the garden of the Black

Whale. Normally the fountain would be flowing now, and the magnolia tree would be blooming. On Sundays, tourists would come by bicycle for brunch or coffee or a light snack, relax in the garden and take a break before riding home. All events have been put aside for safety.

In the beginning much support was offered and spoken about from government agencies, banks, the Bronx community, etc. Filling out tedious forms, making phone calls, sending e-mails and attending online seminars set up to "help us to continue to operate" have been nothing but a time-consuming project with no success. There is little response, phones are busy and e-mails are replied with a "do not reply."

No one was prepared for this mass confusion. All we can do now is remain hopeful and try to hang in there. Our website is <http://theblackwhalefb.wixsite.com/theblackwhaleci> and daily updates and information are posted through Instagram and our Facebook page

Calliope Rigos

Thanks to the Community

To the Editor,
Greetings to members of the City Island Civic Association, Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, Boy and Girl Scouts, houses of worship, businesses, and other Island associations, volunteers, and individuals who are part of City Island Strong, an initiative for us to help all of us. I am taking this opportunity to update everyone on the recent events on City Island as they relate to the Island residents, visitors, workers and business owners who are interested in helping those of us who need that helping hand and in finding ways to maintain and enhance the overall quality of life for everyone here.

First, I would like to express a special thanks to and acknowledge the support of our elected officials. Senator Alessandra Biaggi donated about 2,000 meals to the City Island Strong initiative, and the food was delivered by Teamsters. Marjorie Velázquez of Community Board 10 pitched in to tirelessly deliver meals to many Islanders, and the rest was stored by Seafood City and the Crab Shanty. Volunteers all!

It is with a sad heart, however, that we recognize how many we have lost during the last few weeks, people who meant so much to us. Some names are new to the island, while others go back many generations. It was particularly heartening to see so many of us stand in silent repose at a recent burial at the City Island cemetery. The fact that these friends and neighbors observed social distancing as they paid final respects to this man and his family made me proud.

It has been especially painful to note that because of Covid-19 restrictions on bars and restaurants on City Island, there have been multiple reports of unacceptable behavior and massive littering on City Island streets. It is very important that we as a community must come together to try to prevent these unfortunate incidents from taking place in the future, as we know they are likely to increase in frequency as summer approaches. We need to find ways to clean up the spilled milk

rather than just crying over it.

Councilman Mark Gjonaj recently met with representatives of several restaurants and the City Island Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Association, and City Island Strong, in order to assess and review what we have been doing, wrong or right, and how we as a community can improve the situation. It was agreed at this meeting that for Mother's Day, our Councilman would provide both a Wildcat cleanup crew and a safety/security agent who would drive up and down every street on City Island in a marked security vehicle that might deter the unacceptable activity and to try to prevent additional car break-ins, which have increased over the past weeks. The agent was to take no direct action but would only observe and report any offenses directly to the 45th precinct lieutenant or to the NCO officers working on the Island that weekend.

The 45th Precinct and Captain Fraser have been doing an exemplary job in spite of being undermanned and overburdened because of the crisis. The Captain has kept an open line of communication and

has been working closely with me, Pete Del-Debbio (Commander of the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post) and other community leaders in order to maintain the safety, security and health of residents and visitors alike. As to littering, the staff of most Island restaurants have been cleaning the areas where their customers have left garbage beyond their own parking lots and sidewalks. Many of them are residents as well as business owners here.

I hope you will agree with me that all of us should support these efforts to help City Island residents and to keep City Island clean and safe. Please provide feedback to the efforts made so far and offer possible solutions to problems that still exist or that might arise in the future. Send your comments and suggestions to Cityislandstrong@gmail.com and join your neighbors in coming together across all racial, political, socioeconomic, and religious lines during this difficult time. Let's continue doing positive things for City Island and help keep City Island STRONG.

Bill Stanton, President, City Island Civic Association

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Island Business Folk Cope with the Present—and Face the Future

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MICHAEL CARMODY, PAUL KLEIN, SCOTT RUDERMAN, RON TERNER, JOHN VECCHIOLA

Many people on City Island work at businesses that are being impacted heavily by the coronavirus pandemic, which has prevented them from doing their work, inspired them to find go-arounds or given them an insight into the future. Here are Ron Turner (above, photographed at his famous wall of departed Islanders), Corley Schaller (top right photo, third from left), Dan Hickey (bottom left photo) and Jane Carmody (bottom right).

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, it seems clear that all Islanders are being affected—from young children having to attend school at home to office goers whose offices are now in their own homes. *The Current* has recognized the incredible sacrifices and struggles of healthcare workers, first responders and restaurants and shops on the Island, but it is also becoming increasingly clear that the lives of residents who once commuted to jobs are being seriously affected, to say nothing of the individuals whose work here on the Island has been severely curtailed by the requirements of social distancing.

As readers of *The Island Current* and Facebook visitors are well aware, the photographs taken by **Ron Turner** of people whose lives have been impacted by the pandemic are nothing short of amazing. He has used his camera to celebrate workers who have helped the Island survive—from those who deliver goods and packages to those who are trying to keep their businesses alive here.

Ron's Focal Point Gallery is one storefront on City Island Avenue that hasn't closed, but this is because it is his office and studio, not because it is a functioning gallery or shop. He has removed the "Open" sign, but he has remained at his desk processing his photographs, digitizing old images, making copies, doing passport portraits (one at a time, he cautions), framing and miscellaneous odd jobs. Unfortunately, the paying assignments, photo shoots and artists' exhibitions that have supported his gallery in the past have all been canceled, and, even more unfortunately—because Ron is neither an employer nor an employee—he doesn't qualify for financial support from the government. And he is still waiting for his stimulus check, like many of the rest of us.

Ron told *The Current* that the way he is living now is a throwback to the life he led when he first came to City Island 45 years ago. He loves the community even more now than he did then, and for this reason he hopes that his open door gives Islanders a sense of stability and normalcy in the face of crisis. He has had to be very creative about how he spends his time these days, photographing essential workers and scanning old Polaroids, many of which date back to the 1970s. He posts these images on Facebook, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Now that the warm weather has arrived, he is getting ready to post new images on his famous wall on City Island Avenue, his homage to Islanders who have passed away.

Ron Turner is a man who has learned to adapt to virtually every situation from the disappearance of Polaroid to the introduction of the internet and digital photog-

raphy, from raising his children to taking care of his mother, and more. Coping is what he does, but he does it with style and a special emphasis on generosity, creativity and good humor.

Corley Schaller, a fourth-generation Islander, has been seriously affected by the current restrictions in two different ways. As one of the principals of CJS Property Care, which he took over with his father, Joe, after the death of his brother, Conal, Corley was very concerned about the impact that the pandemic was having on the business. It was not until the middle of April that landscape care was considered, at least partially, an essential business. It then became possible for him and his workers (including a number of family members, as in the past) to do maintenance chores, such as lawn mowing and insect control, although other kinds of landscape work, such as installing fences or decks or sprinkler systems, are still forbidden.

On the positive side, Corley's primary business is as a litigation and presentation consultant for a firm called TrialGraphix, which has provided assistance to clients in more than 1,000 lawsuits by simplifying the presentation of complex evidence with persuasive visual design and trial technology. Using the Zoom platform as a basis, Corley has designed tutorials and mock trials, helped to conduct remote hearings, and educated many in the legal profession to the ways in which technology can simplify procedures. Corley normally works at home in his own office, a space that he now shares with the rest of his family, as his children attend school remotely under the direction of his wife. Corley believes that working remotely is going to become far more widespread in the future, especially as techniques, like those developed by his company, become more effective and easier to use.

Island resident **Dan Hickey**, a commercial broker with Houlihan Lawrence, summed up the real estate business as pretty crazy. Residential real estate has basically come to a halt, thanks to social distancing, which has prevented clients from visiting prospective properties. Virtual open houses are being developed, however, and his company has had many inquiries about residential properties in the area. Dan explains the increase in inquiries is as a result of the pandemic, which has forced so many city dwellers to remain in their apartments, whereas a house with a yard poses a much more attractive alternative. He believes that in due course the residential market will open up because of the growing demand for houses outside the city, although no sales are likely to take place until the restrictions are lifted.

Dan believes that many shops will be forced to close because landlords are



still insisting on getting their rent, even though some tenants are paying reduced rents or using their security deposits to keep their spaces. Restaurants are also suffering seriously during the pandemic. Take-out services are keeping some of them alive, but reopening dining spaces to the public is going to be painfully slow. There has been considerable interest shown recently by some in the business in kitchen equipment owned by restaurants that are closed or only partially open, but what this bodes for the future of small establishments is not encouraging. And, as Dan points out, the future will bring a lot of legal action, with a wave of foreclosures and other actions that will likely result in even more empty storefronts.

Jane Carmody, also an Island resident, who specializes in residential properties for Houlihan Lawrence, explains what it is like to work from home. "Because as agents we are not permitted until further notice to have any in-person contact with our buyers and sellers, we have had to pivot overnight to a virtual business platform, and we are all still learning to adapt." Virtual tours and virtual open houses, using tools such as Zoom or Google Chat, have become the new norm. All of the documents are now signed digitally, and going forward the practice of keeping paper files will be discontinued. "Because buyers have been unable to view properties, offers to purchase have dropped dramatically. There have been a few deals that went into contract after buyers viewed the properties virtually, but for obvious reasons those deals are rare."

In theory, sellers have the right to allow potential buyers to view their homes without an agent, but many have been too uneasy about the possibility of exposure to Covid-19 to allow these unaccompanied showings. Jane notes that "It is a bit easier to market a property that is vacant because the owner can agree to allow designated individuals to enter the property. I recently got the owner's permission to have an agent access a listing of mine that is vacant. That agent took videos for her customers, and they are now considering next steps." She agrees with Dan Hickey that the desire to leave NYC has fueled a new demand for suburban locales, and online searches increasingly focus on amenities such as fenced yards, pools, views, home offices, tennis courts and gardens.

Jane told *The Current*: "Rentals that offer these amenities are extremely competitive and do not last once they come on the market. Many houses were rented

sight-unseen when the virus first made the news in NYC, and that demand has not abated. If anything, the demand has escalated as the warmer weather arrives and further fuels a desire to be outside safely. We are very lucky to live in a community where we have access to the water, and I am hoping that will be of interest to potential buyers as we move ahead in this new world."

Bill Rainford, a contractor and construction manager with Hockmann Hill Group, is fortunate in being able to work out of his office on Boston Road, where there are no visitors but where he can access all of the files and electronic equipment necessary to design and build projects for clients. He specializes in renovating residential buildings, and even during the pandemic he can develop projects, produce design concepts, communicate with clients electronically, arrange for the shipment of samples, and negotiate costs. What he cannot do, of course, is the construction itself, although he has one project in the works now in New Jersey, where the pandemic rules are different.

In New York, however, he has been unable to do construction work since March 31, when the governor declared that all nonessential construction must shut down, except emergency work, and that those who violate the rule face fines up to \$10,000. He notes, wryly, that the Bronx Department of Buildings, which cannot process permits because of the work orders, has been sending out inspectors to search for violators.

One of Bill's current projects is the gut renovation of the house on Tier Street that was once the home of Tom and Anne Costello and is now owned by Mike and Hailey Clancy. Originally scheduled for completion in April, the construction was then delayed first by weather and then by the pandemic rulings. Bill is unable even to guess at a completion date now, because even after the rules are lifted, there will be a great deal of difficulty coordinating the ordering and delivery of materials, the scheduling of inspections and the availability of workers, many of whom have been put on furlough or have changed jobs altogether. Nevertheless, Bill has had to continue paying insurance premiums, in spite of the lack of activity by his construction crews, and he has so far missed out on the Paycheck Protection Program because funding ran out almost immediately after opening up for applications.

Bill noted that small businesses have managed to survive in the past, although it took several years to recover from the

Continued on page 13



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Because of the Covid-19 crisis, most Memorial Day parades were cancelled and replaced by small group ceremonies like the ones on City Island led by the color guard of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion.

A Message from State Senator Alessandra Biaggi

This crisis has emotionally challenged each of us in ways we never could have imagined. Whether you are grieving for lost loved ones and community members, worrying about how you are going to continue to survive financially, or adjusting to the new realities of life, like working from home, homeschooling or risking your well-being every day going to work—know that , you are not alone. There are resources available to support you and your loved ones through this time, and I encourage you to use them.”

You can go to howareyoureally.org to connect with others and share your story. New York State also has an Emotional Support Hotline. You can call 844-863-9314 to speak with a mental health professional for free. Additionally, New York State is partnering with Head Space to provide mindfulness and meditation resources to New Yorkers. You can access these free resources at <http://www.headspace.com/ny>.

New York State now has more diagnostic testing capacity than is being used on a

daily basis. There are more than 700 sites statewide offering testing that can serve up to 40,000 people per day. With expanded testing capacity, Governor Cuomo is urging all New Yorkers who are eligible to get tested. You can get a test if you meet any of these criteria: anyone who has Covid symptoms; anyone who has had contact with a known COVID positive; any individual subject to precautionary or mandatory quarantine; anyone who works as a healthcare worker, in a nursing home, or as a first responder; any essential worker who directly interacts with the public; anyone who would return to the workplace in phase one of the reopening.

All New Yorkers can learn more about testing and find a testing site at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing> or on Google Maps by searching “Covid testing site near me.” As a reminder, you still need to schedule an appointment for a test at many of these sites by calling 888-364-3065 or your healthcare provider.

New York City is on track to have 1,000 contact tracers in place by the end of May, and expects to have up to 5,000 tracers in total. The Test and Trace teams will hand off cases to Resource Navigators, who will assist those asked to go into isolation with accessing needed resources such as medication, food, phones, housing, financial assistance, and mental health resources. NYC expects 200 to 300 Resource Navigators, overseen by local community organizations, to be deployed throughout the city by June 1.

New York urgently needs blood donors. The New York Blood Center, which usually collects many donations through blood drives, is now down to a two-day supply of blood. Help a fellow New Yorker: donate blood by visiting the New York Blood Center. Make an appointment by visiting the website <https://nybc.org/> or calling 800-933-2566.

Update on PMIS: The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released a new standard national definition for what is now called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C): <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00432.asp>. The CDC has confirmed that MIS-C is linked to Covid-19. The New York State and City health departments continue to monitor our existing cases, in coordination with the CDC. Parents can learn more about symptoms in English or en Español. If your child develops symptoms, please call your doctor

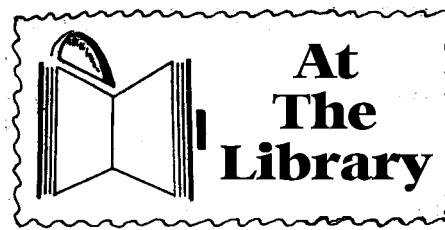
immediately or 311 to be connected to a medical provider. CityMD is also providing antibody testing: <https://www.citymd.com/news/covid-19-testing-update>.

Antibody Testing: As a reminder, antibody testing is now more widely available and is free to all New Yorker City residents, by appointment. You can make an appointment by calling 888-279-0967. There will be five locations throughout the five boroughs; the Bronx location is 4006 3rd Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457.

Burial Assistance: In order to ensure that those we’ve lost are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, New York City instituted an emergency rule to expand the number of low-income people who can receive burial assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. The assistance is available to everyone, regardless of immigration status, with proof of low-income status. For more information, visit the Help Now NYC website, call 929-252-7731, or e-mail BurialServices@hra.nyc.gov for application assistance.

NYC Beach Reminder: Although NY State announced that state beaches will open with enforcement of social distancing protocols, NY City beaches will not be open on Memorial Day and will remain closed to swimming. There will be no lifeguards. New Yorkers are asked to travel only if necessary and not to take trains or buses to the

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CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703

To reduce the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) in New York City, all New York Public Library locations are temporarily closed until further notice. During this time, patrons are encouraged to explore the online resources available on NYPL.org. Both SimplyE and Overdrive can be accessed from any smartphone, tablet or e-reader. Once either app is

downloaded, use your NYPL library card number (found on the back of your card) and 4-digit PIN to log in. Once you are logged in, you will have access to an extensive collection of electronic materials that can be downloaded onto your device free of charge! If certain items are unavailable, you can place a hold on them so that they appear on your device once they become available.

Additionally, you can still call our helpline at 917-ASK-NYPL (917-275-6975) or contact the City Island Library staff directly on our Facebook page. Not only will we do our best to answer any questions that you may have, but we will be posting information about some of the NYPL’s remotely accessible databases for you to check out while you are at home.

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

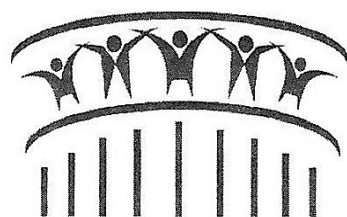
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MEMBER

CI Frontliners

Continued from page 1

weeks,” owing to the Covid crisis. Since March 2020, Julia has mostly stayed in hotels and Airbnb rentals near the hospital in order to protect her family from exposure to the virus.

“Before Covid, we were a mixed ICU caring for patients who suffered from strokes, cardiac events and septic shock. Since March 12, the ICU is basically all Covid patients,” she sadly told *The Current*. “I have seen more deaths in the past three months than I saw in the past three years.”

This has been “emotionally heavy” for the 27-year-old nurse, who works the night shift from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Julia has had to assist with intubations of breathing tubes and perform CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), as well as enable Covid-19 patients to communicate with their family members over the phone.

But there are moments of success. “Whenever we are able to remove a patient from a ventilator (a positive extubating) or discharge a patient who has survived, the hospital plays the [Beatles] song ‘Here Comes the Sun’ over the loudspeaker to celebrate. [The Covid crisis] is slowing down, but it’s still nowhere near normal,” Julia said echoing the concerns of other City Island healthcare professionals.

First Responders

Island resident James Russell (“JR”) Kearns is a firefighter with New York City

Fire Department’s (FDNY) Ladder 29 in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. Like many others in his firehouse, he became infected with the coronavirus in March 2020.

“I was lucky. I was only sick with symptoms for three days and never had to go to the hospital,” he recently told *The Current*. “Our house and the surrounding firehouses were decimated with Covid-19, but fortunately no one had to be hospitalized and no one died.” He attributes this to the relatively young age and fitness level of most firefighters, so they are able to fight off the virus and return to duty.

JR was born in the Edgewater section of the Bronx but moved to City Island eight years ago. He attended Iona Prep High School and Westchester Community College. He worked for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) for three years, but he always wanted to be a fireman. “My uncle Richie Kearns and his uncle were both with the FDNY, and I guess I followed in their footsteps. I work out of the same firehouse in the Bronx where they both worked.”

Prior to this crisis, JR’s ladder company responded to fires as well as handling “routine calls like gas leaks.” Since the outbreak, they still handle similar calls, but are “situationally aware and prepared for the risk of exposure,” he explained. Now they wear face masks, gloves and shields, even on the routine calls, and FDNY dispatchers now let them know if Covid is suspected at the location they are responding to.

They have had to handle the workload in spite of many firefighters out sick. He concurred with Captain Brendan Delaney (see May 2020 issue of *The Current*) that the FDNY has tried to limit cross contamination between companies, so “jobbers” can’t be assigned to different houses to fill in for those on sick leave.

As the crisis continued through April and May, FDNY took over the virus testing for all its members. “When I first got sick, I called the Covid hotline like everyone else and my test came back positive,” he recalled. “Now, FDNY does all the testing out of headquarters in Brooklyn or at

Randall’s Island.” That’s where JR was tested after feeling better and was cleared to return to the firehouse when the results came back negative the second week in April.

JR has strong ties to City Island. His mother, Marie Schaller Kearns, is a clam digger and was raised on King Avenue. JR’s grandfather was the late Russell Schaller, longtime cartoonist and staff member of this newspaper. JR now lives in the house that his grandparents owned and he is engaged to clam digger Mallory Byrnes. Unfortunately, their wedding plans have been disrupted by the Covid-19 crisis. “We were supposed to be married in Montauk on June 20, but that has been put off until September because of the shutdown,” he lamented. The couple remains hopeful that the beautiful wedding they have planned will happen one way or another, and their many relatives and City Island friends look forward to celebrating with them.

Essential Workers

Among those keeping essential services of light and heat going during this crisis are the workers of Con Edison. Although approximately 8,000 of the 14,000 Con Edison employees are working from home, linemen such as Islander Armando Teto have to continue working out of doors repairing infrastructure problems.

Armando joined Con Ed four years ago and works as an electrical distribution splicer out of the Van Nest yard in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. “We work both underground and sometimes on the poles responding to emergencies and outages,” he explained. He normally works with a crew of one or two in a Con Ed truck and his shifts vary from month to month.

Unfortunately, on March 23 he began to feel sick while on the job, and by the next day he was exhibiting many of the symptoms of Covid-19. “It started as a dry cough and by the time I got home I was very achy.” The next morning, when he awoke with a fever and a headache, he called the Covid hotline and was able to be tested quickly at the Glen Island drive-through site in New Rochelle. The test came back positive in three days, and by then Armando was experiencing the additional symptoms of difficulty breathing (“like a rubber band was around my chest”) along with loss of taste and continued fever spikes of up to 102 degrees.

Fortunately, his sister, Elaine Teto, is a nurse and helped care for him along with his father, Chris. “I did not have to go to the hospital, but it took 10 days for my fever to break.” Con Edison carefully monitored the situation. Once he called in sick, they quarantined Armando’s partner and one other crew member and disinfected their truck. “They set up a Pandemic Team who checked in with me while I was



Islander JR Kearns is a firefighter with the FDNY.

home sick. My partner remained asymptomatic but was not able to get tested,” he told *The Current*. In fact, Armando could not get retested after feeling better because of test shortages, so Con Ed went by CDC guidelines and allowed him to return to work after being symptom-free for seven days.

He described the changes that have taken place at Con Ed since his return. “The yard has an eerie feeling now, compared to the usual hustle and bustle of pre-Covid times. They have staggered arrival times for the crews, and we often take separate vehicles to the locations needing repairs.” They finally have enough PPE N95 masks, hand sanitizers and Lysol wipes now, but at the peak of the outbreak these were hard to come by for Con Ed workers, according to Armando. Their trucks have decals asking the public to please respect the utility workers and maintain a six-foot distance.

Armando is glad to have recovered from Covid-19 and is even more grateful that his grandmother, former Islander and P.S. 175 teacher Teresa Teto, has also recovered. “It was really scary when my grandmother, who is in the Willows Nursing Home in New Rochelle, became sick with the virus. But she is a tough cookie and fought through it.” He is thankful to his loving family and his City Island friends and Winters Street neighbors for their support during this crisis.

Another essential worker is King Avenue resident, Derek Daly, who works for the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) as a construction inspector in Manhattan. He told *The Current* that there are two types of construction: essential and non-essential. During this crisis, non-essential construction has been ordered to cease, while essential construction, including work on hospitals and healthcare facilities, schools and certain housing projects, is allowed to continue with special permits and in accordance with safety guidelines.

Derek’s job is to inspect sites throughout Manhattan and issue summonses to any non-essential construction in violation of city orders. He has been very busy since the start of the pandemic, often working 10-hour shifts. He has been able to stay safe, as he has limited contact with the public, and DOB pre-screens some of the sites he is inspecting to ask if any of the workers exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 infection.

Derek is very conscious of safety, especially as he has three young boys at home all remote learning with their teachers from P.S. 175. He is issued new PPE every week by DOB and is diligent about using it.

The Current appreciates each of these amazing, hardworking professionals for taking the time to answer our questions about what they are experiencing during this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

We hope to continue sharing stories of Islanders on the front lines in the upcoming July/August 2020 issue and for as long as the crisis continues.

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STAND TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR CITY ISLAND AND OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

A Message from Mark Gjonaj



My sincerest condolences to all of those who have lost loved ones. I pray and keep in my heart all who are currently fighting for their lives as they try to beat the Covid-19 virus.

As many of you know, I lived on City Island for 14 years. I am the proud father of two clam diggers, and to this day my wife serves as the school nurse at P.S. 175. Part of what makes living on City Island so special, besides the water views and village-like feel, is that we are fortunate to live in a place where everyone knows each other by name and by face, and where a sense of community acts in the best interest of City Island and the families that call it home. As your representative in the NYC Council, it is my honor to fight for this community to make sure that you get your fair share of city funding and resources to make City Island safer, cleaner and better for residents, businesses and visitors. To do this, I rely on an ongoing dialogue with community leaders and stakeholders to address the conditions and concerns of City Islanders.

We have made great strides together. After numerous public meetings, we developed proposals to address key issues, worked with the 45th Precinct to install NYPD Argus cameras, pushed for additional traffic officers, brought in Wildcats to clean up public areas from Saturdays through Mondays. When no public money could be secured to help initiate a pilot program to patrol the Island for quality of life issues, my campaign took the initiative to foot the costs for a licensed and insured patrol to observe and report issues in real time as they may come up. There are more improvements that are needed, but I'm proud of what we have achieved together so far.

Like any community, there will be different mindsets about its needs, direction and priorities. There should always be room for a healthy discussion. But we must do so in a way that unites and moves us forward as one community—especially during this time of crisis.

Together, we will weather this storm and come out safer, cleaner and stronger. Neighbors should continue doing wellness checks on each other, making sure that those who are homebound and vulnerable have the food and medicines that they need, running errands and shopping for the elderly to help them stay safe during the pandemic. Standing up for others in time of need. As the famous saying goes, "Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others."

May all of our families, loved ones and neighbors be protected and stay in our hearts and prayers.

Stand for City Island. Stand together and for one another.



Photo courtesy of COUNCILMAN GJONAJ

Wildcat volunteers, sent by New York City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, have been helping clean up the piles of trash left in the streets and on the sidewalks by many people getting takeout food from City Island restaurants since the weather has warmed up.

Woes for CI

Continued from page 3

ation on Mother’s Day weekend. The agents were not armed but they were instructed to alert the 45th Precinct if help was needed. At one point, the police responded to a report that a group was picnicking in Pelham Cemetery.

The Civic Association reached out to the 45th Precinct captain and the borough command for extra coverage, which City Island has always asked for on Mother’s Day, and followed up by asking State Senator Alessandra Biaggi to call the mayor’s office to stress the importance of police presence.

After the weekend, the restaurants did a great deal of the clean-up along the Avenue, as did Councilman Gjonaj’s Wildcats. Cathy Cebek, a board member of the Civic Association, placed a request with Department of Sanitation for more trash cans to be placed along City Island Avenue. The department approved the addition of 13 baskets “for the beach season,” as well as increased pickup service, but Stephen Caruso of the Bureau of Community Affairs told Ms. Cebek that “there have been citywide service cuts due to the need for emergency Covid relief funding” and that the department “may have no choice but to remove litter baskets and service the

remaining ones less often.”

There is no question that this unpleasant situation will continue well into the summer, since it seems unlikely that the restaurants will open soon, but fortunately, the managers of the restaurants, several of whom are residents themselves, have hired extra staff to keep the areas around their establishments as clean as possible. And with any luck, many customers will decide to go to Orchard Beach now that it is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to enjoy their meals instead of sitting in their cars on City Island. In the meantime, Island residents are urged to report any and all offenses to 311 or to notify the 45th Precinct community officers, Officer Jessica Griesinger, at jessica.griesinger@nypd.org; or Officer Neil Anderson, at neil.anderson@nypd.org.

Biaggi Message

Continued from page 6

beach. NYPD and the Department of Parks and Recreation will be increasing patrols. NYC will add fencing to control entry points. Access will be further restricted if social distancing or “no swim” rules are not observed. NYC will prepare for opening the beaches later in the summer if possible and will soon start training lifeguards for that eventuality.

For updated information on Covid-19 (in multiple languages) from trusted sources for your designated area, please visit Center for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State Department of Health, Westchester County Department of Health, or the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. You can also call the New York State Novel Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or the New York City Hotline at 1-844-NYC-4NYC with any questions.

While our physical offices remain closed, Team Biaggi continues to work remotely from home to meet the needs of our community during this time. You can contact us at biaggi@nysenate.gov or by calling 718-822-2049.

Team Biaggi has completed the Census – don’t forget to fill out yours! The self-response deadline has been extended through October. For more information, and to complete the census, you can go to www.census.gov/. Let’s make our communities count!

Stay up to date with Team Biaggi on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Stay strong.

No Gym? No Problem! Working Out During the Pandemic

By ROSE RODSTROM



Photo by LAUREN NYE

City Island’s “Bike Gang” getting its regular dose of exercise with a typical 20-mile round-trip ride, this time to the Larchmont Doggie Beach at 6:50 in the morning; (front to back): Tom Delaney, Eddie Ciarletta and Andrew Pollack.

To keep fit during the current quarantine situation, all you need is some good old-fashioned motivation and ingenuity! Easier said than done, I know, but it can be done! If this stay-at-home mandate has left us with anything, it is plenty of time, so what better time than now to start a new practice, a new sport or a new workout regime?

Start with what you like to do, or think that you might enjoy, and, if you have to, get creative. I like to jog, but my husband has been recovering from foot surgery and needs to walk every day, so I decided to walk with him in the morning but do it a bit differently. I wanted to get the same heart rate as my daily runs, so I added a bunch of high kicks, did some running in place, threw in some kickboxing jabs, hooks and punches along the way, and created a high-intensity walk that elevates the heart rate and allows me to keep company with my recovering husband. I’m sure I look a little funny going down the Avenue, but hey, at this point, whatever works!

If you have never exercised regularly, an easy way to get into walking is to listen to books or podcasts as you walk. Another way is to jog or run to music that is designed to help elevate your heart rate and keep it at your target rate. The equation for my target heart rate (THR) = (220 - your age) x 80 percent. So if you are 40 years old, your THR would be 144 beats per minute. It is recommended that we regularly elevate our heart rate to its target rate for a minimum of 20 minutes—five times per week if your goal is to increase your current fitness level and three times a week to maintain your current fitness level.

I love the mental, physical and spiritual benefits of both walking and running (preferably outside in a park) and of practicing yoga (anywhere, but especially in a peaceful space). The benefits for me are, of course, the obvious health benefits, but I feel better, am more energetic and more positive, and I have a better frame of mind after exercising. Often, when I am faced with a challenge at work or in my personal life, I go for a run, and I either figure out the next steps or I don’t feel as burdened by the problem when I get home. Mental clarity and focus are proven benefits of regular exercise.

Now that the weather is getting warmer, it is a great time to do some gardening. Who

says you can’t get a workout in the garden? Everyone knows what it is like to spend a peaceful and rewarding day outside mowing the lawn, raking, weeding, bagging leaves, planting flowers and just digging in the dirt. It requires flexibility, strength and endurance, and even light gardening burns over 300 calories an hour!

If you miss working out with others, how about starting a cycling club? It’s a great way to social distance and still be social while you exercise. Islanders Eddie Ciarletta and Tom Delaney started up a club and have visited Randall’s Island and the High Bridge Aqueduct, and they are hoping to complete a 100-mile trip in the not too distant future. Also, there are a multitude of YouTube videos and Zoom classes to try something new. Barbara Dolensek practices Tai Chi in her home using DVDs from the famed master Paul Lam (who is also offering free videos on YouTube). The ancient practice helps arthritis sufferers and improves relaxation, vitality, posture and immunity. Of course, Barbara also is an active gardener and doesn’t miss a day of Cuomo’s updates while working out vigorously on her stationary bike.

The City Island Roadies are hosting their first Virtual 5K over the weekend of June 6 through 8 to benefit the Food Pantry at Trinity Methodist Church. All participants are asked to walk, jog or run from any location over the weekend and to kindly donate \$10 (or more!) to Trinity Church. There will be a box set up on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for donations, or you can Venmo us. Please see the City Island Roadies Facebook page for more details. Clipper Coffee will once again sponsor this event, and anyone who completes the 5K will receive a celebratory cup of joe! The group is raising funds to help build an indoor year-round food pantry at Trinity Church. Reverend Jolly reports that as of May 19, the pantry had been open for four weeks and served roughly 40 families a week. We are all so fortunate to live in a community where our neighbors are there for one another.

Let’s face it, we all need motivation sometimes. Daniel Goleman, a psychologist and author of “Emotional Intelligence,” explains there are two types of motivation—extrinsic and intrinsic. Extrinsic refers to acts that people do to receive external rewards, such as wealth, power, fame or status, or simply to avoid punishment. Intrinsic motivation is doing something that is personally rewarding, such as helping other people, participating in a service project or studying something that interests us. I am very interested in learning more about how people are staying fit and exercising during this crisis. If you have other tips and ideas, please e-mail me at rrodstrom@gmail.com with your ideas on how to stay fit and healthy during the pandemic or if you would like to be a part of the City Island Roadies Virtual 5K. Here’s wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer!

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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.

Grace Episcopal Church

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends: The coronavirus has altered many aspects of our lives. People are confused and frightened and dealing with almost unprecedented uncertainty. As we explore new and different ways of living together, many of us find comfort in those things that are constant: family, dear friends, worship (in whatever form) and our congregation at Grace Church.

Our sincere thanks to Kevin Boyle, who is making it possible for us to connect and worship together on a regular basis. On Sundays at 10 a.m. we have our online church service. Please check our website, <https://www.gracecityisland.net>, for log-on information each week for how to join. Each Wednesday we have prayer service from our respective homes at 2 p.m. Although not physically together, we will be joined spiritually. Please join Father John in pausing weekly at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of prayer. We pray for each other, for ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers. And, as Father John suggests, "find a moment to be thankful for our lives and those things that bring us comfort and joy."

Our congregation will endure. Vestry is continuing to hold monthly online meetings coordinated by Senior Warden Bruce Weis. Paul Nani reports that Cuba, our sexton, checks on the building daily; our treasurer, Kathy Lonergan, sorts the mail and visits the office during the week; and Evyonne Baker, our volunteer office assistant, is working on updating our website, which will now have Father Covington's sermons posted, and will be available should you not be able to attend the service online.

Our Sunday School teacher, Karen Nani, is planning an online youth service for Sunday, May 31, The Feast of Pentecost. Mrs. Nani looks forward to meeting with her students again in person when the crisis abates.

GraceTones Music Ministry: One of our singers, Maurice Richards, lost family members to complications from Covid-19. Our hearts and prayers go out to Maurice and to all members of our Island community who have lost loved ones during these challenging times.

Be safe, and look forward to a future time when we will again gather at our parish church, remembering that, however precious and consecrated, the building is not the church; it is we who are the body of Christ.

Sandy Dunn

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, "your shul by the sea," will be offering for the general public Friday night services at 7:30 p.m., meditation classes at 10 a.m. and evening Breath/Prayer sessions via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free account with Zoom are available online. You do not need an account to join one of our offerings or meetings. In order to participate in any of our offerings, please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com and identify which offering(s) you would like to attend. Zoom allows access to these offerings to a limited number of participants, so if you are interested, please respond as soon as possible.

The annual meeting for members will be on June 23 at 7:30 p.m. via the Temple's Zoom room.

Our weekly Yoga, Tai Chi/Qi Gong can be attended via Zoom, but you must pre-register by e-mail.

For members, we are also offering Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics studies, social gatherings and Rabbinic office hours.

For membership details and in order to receive an invitation e-mail to any of these membership offerings, please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Additional offerings for our members will be announced in our weekly newsletter to be published on Sundays.

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

Paul Klein

Garden Club of City Island

Despite our having had to cancel our membership meetings, put special projects and field trips on hold and postpone our annual spring luncheon, the Garden Club is continuing its beautification work. The bulbs that the Garden Club planted in the Post Office garden last fall came up beautifully, and in May CJS Property Care did a great job of weeding and mowing there. We will continue to keep up the Post Office garden and to clean the tree pits on City Island Avenue.

The daffodils in the containers along the avenue put on quite a show this year, and the pansies planted last fall came back, thanks to a mild winter. We have added to the pansies to cover the fading daffodil foliage and are making plans for changing out the pansies in June for heat-tolerant plants.

We have postponed our annual luncheon and will let everyone know when and if we can reschedule it. For now, we have replaced our membership meetings with a monthly newsletter. The May newsletter contained an article by our local beekeepers, Nancy Kheck and Patrick Gannon, as well as the financial and committee reports that would have been presented at our in-person meetings. Although we have not yet distributed our fund-drive letter, we are gladly accepting donations, which can be sent to P.O. Box 43, City Island Station, Bronx, NY 10464.

Sharynne Wilder

American Legion Post 156

All meetings and Post events are cancelled until further notice. Dues (\$55) are past due; please drop them off at the Post via the mail slot and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall and Post are currently closed and will remain so until we are authorized to operate as directed by NYS/ NYC authority and the American Legion National/Department of New York.

The Queen of Hearts game is suspended until operation of the Post is restored.

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

Please note the following dates: April 15: IRS/NYS tax day has been changed to July 15, 2020. Happy Father's Day on June 21.

All future meetings and events will be posted as soon as possible. Please visit our website at Leonardhshawkinspost156.com for the latest information. The Post can be e-mailed at Leonardhshawkinspost156@gmail.com.

The Leonard H. Hawkins Family is proud to support the City Island Strong Group of community-based organizations that are aiding the residents of City Island during this Covid-19 pandemic. Please free to contact them at Cityislandstrong@gmail.com.

Thanks to Joseph Goonan, who helped Pastor David Jolly of Trinity Methodist Church and me to hand out meals to those in the community who wanted them.

The Post 156 urges all our members and their families to keep updated on the Covid-19 information through the news channel of



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The PSS Senior Center at Grace Church resumed distribution of food, hand sanitizers and protective masks in May. Shown above, PSS manager Patricia Attis and her assistant Susan Rosendahl-Masella distributed items to Island seniors on May 19, 2020.

your choice. Please resist the urge to go to the emergency room, or medical center. If you have the following symptoms—sore throat, cough, runny nose and fever—call your health care provider first.

I wish to thank our Legion family who came together and joined me to clean the Legion Triangle. A special thanks to Michael Jawski, Robert Whalen, Victor Anderson, Bill Clancy and Greg Clancy. Additionally, Tommy Vivola has been a vital member in getting things repaired around the Post. Without you all, my life would be more challenging than what it is, and I thank you all for your endless efforts in support of the Legion Post 156.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 101 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

In normal times, the Auxiliary would be holding its end-of-year dinner in June. When local restaurants are ready for full service, we may get together. If not, we hope to resume our normal service year in September.

Auxiliary leadership is extremely proud of our members and their sustained commitment to the community, each other and our mission during the "pause." For example, Phelps Hospital received a package of cards from Island youth organized by Auxiliary member and Girl Scout leader Vicki Sorvillo Weidemann. The staff there also took joy in a beautiful child's drawing sent by Maria

Livingston. The cards and the artwork are posted at the hospital.

Now is a good time to connect more deeply to the Island through one of the many community-minded groups. Think about joining the Auxiliary. Come to any of our meetings in the fall, talk to our membership chairwoman Viki Trifari at wik99@me.com about eligibility, and meet the members of the largest, oldest and most active women's group in our community.

Harlan Sexton

City Island Rising

On Tuesday, May 19, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, City Island Rising and the NY Renews coalition held a digital town hall on the intersections between the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. Communities exposed to air pollution are more at risk from Covid-19, and the response to the current pandemic foreshadows New York's response to future climate disaster. The Bronx is currently the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as home to some of the worst air pollution in New York City. Senator Biaggi, Assemblymember Benedetto, City Island Rising, the Point CDC and NY Renews presented on these issues, and then held an open Q&A and community brainstorming session on solutions to the joint Covid-19 and climate crises. Ms. Biaggi reported that the City of Mount Vernon has allocated \$500,000 toward cleaning up the Hutchinson River in the short term and is undergoing an audit so they can then borrow money to address this problem in the future.

John Doyle

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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.

Recently, the City Island Community Center Board of Directors had a Zoom meeting, and because this is your Center, we want to share that we are in a very difficult place. We are short of funds and will not be able to pay our bills next month. Because we are closed, we don't have a way to generate income. We thought some of you might have ideas to help us get through this difficult time. Others may be able to donate to save the Center. Either way we would like to hear from you. We need to hear from you.

The Center will be closed until our Governor and Mayor determine it is safe to reopen. The latest we have heard is that the shelter-in-place rules are extended to June 15. Please look at City Island Community Center on Facebook for the latest information.

While all in-person programs are canceled, some programs listed below are available on computers and smart phones

via Zoom.us.

We hope everyone is staying safe while enjoying the comforts of home and family and City Island.

For up-to-date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for news and information.

Irish Dance for All Ages: On Zoom.us with Caitlin Nora Kelly; call 914-262-4517 for details.

Orchard Beach AA Group: Seven days a week at 7:30 a.m. Go to Zoom.us and put in #781-386-7680.

Rajasthani Folk Dance: Sundays at 12 noon on Zoom.us. Contact Lalitha Cosme for more information or to join at lalithadance@gmail.com.

Patty Grondahl

PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to distribute meals, masks, sanitizers and more as we receive them. Please be sure to listen to the One Call Now sent to members to update them on meal pickups, new groups and the steps we will take when reopening (hopefully soon!).

Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also shows instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote arthritis



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Judy McCormick and members of the Chadwick family distribute community face masks as part of an American Legion Auxiliary project.

class and our support group. Staff is regularly calling our members individually to check on their well-being. If you are not on our calling list, please e-mail pattis@pssusa.org with your name and phone number, or you can reach the center at 718-885-0727. Until we're together again, stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Because of the coronavirus, Masses at St. Mary's remain canceled until further notice. Please visit our website, www.olas-mss.com.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop remains closed until further notice.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Rose Dietz

City Island Civic Association

The leadership of the Civic Association, working with several other Island organizations, continues to offer assistance to City Island residents during the current coronavirus pandemic. If you need someone to do an errand for you, pick up groceries or take-out food, get something from the pharmacy, pick up the NYC sponsored "grab and go" meals at P.S. 175 or offer assistance with yard work, e-mail CityIslandStrong@gmail.com. We were happy to see the nice article by Jason Cohen about City Island Strong in the Bronx Times for the week of May 18; it can be read online at www.bxtimes.com.

Over Mother's Day weekend, City Island Strong gave away hundreds of meals provided by Senator Biaggi and delivered to us by the Teamsters. The Crab Shanty and Seafood City were kind enough to provide freezer space and support. The Methodist Church and St. Mary's, along with the Boy and Girl Scouts, American Legion Post 156, Community Board 10 member Marjorie Velázquez all helped with the distribution. Because of this we were able to provide meals not only to the residents of City Island but also to the 45th Precinct, the Outdoor Range and the City Island Firehouse.

Thanks to Councilman Mark Gjonaj for distributing PPEs at Lickety Split, with the support of the City Island Chamber of Commerce. The Municipal Relations Committee, chaired by Cathy Cebek, has secured 13 additional garbage cans and additional pickups from the DSNY, again with the help of Councilman Gjonaj, who has also enlisted the Wildcats to clean City Island Avenue. The committee has been working with Bronx DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez to paint lines at the merge of the I-95 exit and the southbound Hutchinson River Parkway at Exit 5. By the time you read this article the promised line markings may be a reality.

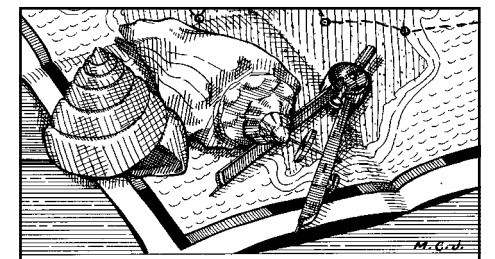
Our Water Safety Committee has heard

recently that the permanent Bronx-based Harbor Patrol idea is still a go, in spite of Covid-19, but that the schedule has not yet been decided.

Donations can be made to City Island Strong through PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Please note that the payment is for City Island Strong and use the "friends and family" option so that a service charge is not deducted. Or you can send a check to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx, NY 10464, indicating in the memo section that it is for City Island Strong.

Please take care of yourselves, and let's all look out for each other as we're better together to keep City Island Strong. We do not know when we will be able hold a meeting. Stay tuned. You can still send your annual dues (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY, or pay online at paypal.com to this e-mail city.island.civic@gmail.com, "friends and family" option.

Jane Protzman



City Island Indivisible

Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights, and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals and to support candidates who can help restore common sense in Washington. For more information contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook. Join us at our next meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. by asking for access at our e-mail address above.

Barbara Zahm

AARP 318

We will not be meeting for the month of June, because of the coronavirus. We do hope to resume in the fall.

For membership information or questions, please call 718-885-2016.

Carroll A. Reid

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Watch for our reopening. Signs and flyers will be posted. We hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



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Missing Baseball

At the time of this writing, the possible permutations of a 2020 baseball season were being considered. For those of you already missing the excitement of America's favorite pastime, there is a plethora of films that can be satisfying to watch.

The best and most famous of the classic baseball biographies is **Pride of the Yankees** (1942). It stars Gary Cooper as Lou Gehrig, first baseman for the New York Yankees in the 1920s and '30s. When his mother became ill, Gehrig signed with the Yankees to pay for her medical expenses and became known as the "Iron Man" of baseball, playing in more than 2,100 consecutive games. Tragically, he contracted amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, later known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a deadly neurological affliction, and he had to give up the game. This film has one of the most memorable finales in all sports movies.

A film from my childhood (made the year I was born), **It Happens Every Spring** (1949) is a personal favorite. This perfectly silly baseball comedy stars Ray Milland as Vernon Simpson, a chemist who develops a product that repels wood. Doctoring all his balls with his magical solution, he becomes a pitcher recruited by a major league team and a sensation who strikes out every batter he faces.

Based on a true story, **Fear Strikes Out** (1957) stars Anthony Perkins as Jimmy Piersall, who was literally driven mad by his father's (Karl Malden) insatiable vicarious desire to see Jimmy play for the Boston Red Sox. Always unable to please his dad, Jimmy finally does make the team, but the pressure is too great for him. Jimmy eventually has a mental breakdown and endures a difficult recovery in this powerful psychodrama.

Those interested in lighter fare can consider the baseball musical **Take Me Out to the Ball Game** (1949), in which vaudevillians Dennis Ryan (Frank Sinatra) and Eddie O'Brien (Gene Kelly) spend their summers playing semiprofessional baseball. When their team is inherited by K.C. Higgins (Esther Williams), she decides to manage it and creates sparks, along with a lot of fine singing and dancing.

In the classic family film **Angels in the Outfield** (1951), young Bridget (Donna Corcoran) prays for the team to win. We don't see the angel in the original, but baseball manager Guffy McGovern (Paul Douglas) can talk to his and is told that his team will win if Guffy can refrain from his ceaseless 1950s style, a muffled yelling that is consistently funny. In the 1994 remake of the movie, manager George Knox (Danny Glover) has to behave as well, but his advice comes from Roger (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), who alone can see all the angels (led by Christopher Lloyd). These films can be satisfying for a wide range of ages.

Everyone has heard of **The Bad News Bears** (1976), and it is in fact a descriptive term used for children's sports. This movie stars Walter Matthau as Buttermaker, a man hired to coach a Little League team in California (because they couldn't get a parent willing to do it). The grown-ups learn from the kids that cheating is wrong.

In Barry Levinson's classic baseball film **The Natural** (1984), young baseball sensation Roy Hobbs (Robert Redford) is shot on the way to a tryout with the Chicago Cubs by the unstable Harriet Bird (Barbara Hershey). After 16 years, Hobbs returns to professional baseball as a rookie for the last-place New York Knights. Despite strong resistance by the team manager, Pop Fisher (Wilford Brimley), Hobbs becomes one of the best players in the league, and the Knights start winning, much to the consternation of the team's owner, the Judge

(Robert Prosky), who has his own reasons for wanting the team to fail. Glenn Close co-stars as Iris Gaines, a woman who has a special place in Hobbs's heart.

Mr. Baseball (1992) stars Tom Selleck in the title role as fading American baseball star Jack Elliott (Tom Selleck). When he is traded to a baseball team in Japan, he is confronted by a formidable team manager Uchiyama (Ken Takakura) and wooed by the lovely Hiroko (Aya Takanashi). Utterly miserable, Jack is at first extremely rude, but he is protected by his interpreter Yoji (Toshi Shioya). This is a thought-provoking look at the clashes of the two cultures and the grudging respect that eventually evolves.

Little Big League (1994) stars Luke Edwards as Billy Heywood, a boy who inherits the Minnesota Twins from his grandfather (Jason Robards) and decides to take on the challenge of being manager of the team. Edwards does a fine job of portraying Billy as a smart kid, who ultimately starts to buckle under the pressure of his career. But he reminds the players about having fun, and everyone learns not to take life so seriously.

My all time favorite baseball film is the witty, intelligent sexy, non-formulaic **Bull Durham** (1988). It stars Kevin Costner in his best movie role ever as wise, intelligent, patient Crash Davis, a catcher in the Carolina Baseball League, who is recruited to control and teach loose-cannon rookie pitcher Nuke Laloosh (Tim Robbins). Susan Sarandon is Annie Savoy, a baseball groupie who picks one player a season to team up with. This love triangle is the heart of the film, but love of the sport is certainly there too.

Kevin Costner's love of baseball is also evident in the 1989 fantasy, **Field of Dreams**, in which he portrays farmer Ray Kinsella, who hears a voice that says "Build it and they will come." So he builds a baseball diamond in the middle of his Iowa cornfield, with the full support of his wife, Annie (Amy Madigan). Ray receives several other messages from the disembodied voice, one of which is "Ease his pain." He realizes that his ballfield has been divinely ordained to give a second chance to people who have sacrificed valuable aspects of their lives. The outstanding supporting cast includes James Earl Jones as Terence Mann, a reclusive writer; Burt Lancaster as a doctor who as a young man chose a career in medicine over baseball; Ray Liotta as Shoeless Joe Jackson; and Timothy Busfield as Annie's disbelieving brother-in-law.

Major League (1989) is literally the major league version of the formula film. The owner of the Cleveland Indians wants attendance at the stadium to fall so much that she can break her contract with the city and move the team to Florida. So she recruits a bunch of losers. The characters raise this simple plot above the ordinary with Wesley Snipes as Willy Mays Hayes, who runs like Hayes and wishes he could bat like Mays. Also starring are Tom Berenger, Corbin Bernsen and Charlie Sheen (as a pitcher called Wild Thing). This is the funniest of the baseball movies.

In A League of Their Own (1992), directed by Penny Marshall, women are recruited to keep baseball fever alive while the men are at war. Geena Davis stars as Dottie Hinson and Lori Petty is her kid sister, Kit. They are discovered by the hilarious scout Ernie (Jon Lovitz) and wind up on a team coached by has-been baseball player Jimmy Dugan (Tom Hanks). The terrific cast is rounded out by teammates Mae Mordabito (Madonna) and Doris Murphy (Rosie O'Donnell). The women on this team indeed become like sisters, who band together as Jimmy recites the unforgettable classic line "There's no crying in baseball!" in this fine family flick.

Another family film is **The Sandlot** (1993), a captivating tale of boys in the 1960s who spend their entire summer playing sandlot baseball. Featured are nerd Scotty Smalls (Tom Guiry), who is befriended by Benny (Mike Vitar) the star of the team. The movie is about adolescent angst, friendship and courage. When their baseballs go over the sandlot fence into the yard where a "beast" is king of the domain, their fears, real and imagined, must be faced.

Eight Men Out (1988) is the story of

what came to be known as the Black Sox Scandal of 1919 when athletes of another era were a different breed from the overpaid stars of today. At the time, Chicago White Sox owner Charlie Comiskey (Clifton James) was too cheap to reward his team for their spectacular season. A gambling syndicate led by Arnold Rothstein (Michael Lerner) offers eight players on the team, including pitcher Eddie Cicotte (David Strathairn), infielder Buck Weaver (John Cusack) and outfielder "Shoeless" Joe Jackson (D.B. Sweeney), more money to play badly than they ever would have earned trying to win the series against the Cincinnati Reds.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg (2000) is a documentary about the legendary Bronx-born Jewish baseball player who came close to breaking Babe Ruth's record by hitting 58 home runs in a single season. The film examines how Greenberg's status as a major star gave hope to American Jews who faced religious bigotry during the Depression and World War II.

Noted baseball fan Billy Crystal directed **61** (2001), a drama set in the summer of 1961, as two of the strongest hitters in the major leagues, New York Yankee players Mickey Mantle (Thomas Jane) and Roger Maris (Barry Pepper), find themselves competing to break Babe Ruth's long-standing record for most home runs in a season. As the two men came within grasping distance of Ruth's record, their loyalty as friends and teammates is sorely tested.

Based on a true story, **The Rookie** (2002) is a docudrama about high school science teacher Jim Morris (Dennis Quaid), whose dream had always been to be a major league pitcher but whose pitching career ended in the minors because of a shoulder injury. Twelve years later, at the age of 35, he is a married man with children and high school chemistry teacher and baseball coach

in Texas. His team makes a deal with him: if they can win the district championship, Jim will try out with a major league team.

Moneyball (2011) is based on the true story of Billy Beane (Brad Pitt), a former professional baseball player who became the general manager of the Oakland A's. He has an epiphany that convinces him that all of baseball's conventional wisdom is wrong, so he hires Ivy League grad Peter Brand (Jonah Hill). Together, they start recruiting bargain players based on mathematics (using a statistical analysis known as sabermetrics). They choose players whom the scouts call flawed, but all of whom demonstrate an ability to get on base. This challenges old-school traditions, much to the consternation of the Oakland A scouts and especially Manager Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman). Beane's success is ultimately recognized by an offer from Boston Red Sox owner John Henry (Arliss Howard).

42 (2013) is the retired number of baseball great and first black player in the major leagues, Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman). In 1946, when legendary Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford) signs Robinson, his brave stand against prejudice forever changes the world by changing the game of baseball. Presented with a team petition stating that they refuse to play with Robinson, manager Leo Durocher (Christopher Meloni) supports Robinson. Then teammate PeeWee Reese (Lucas Black) makes a public show of solidarity before a hostile crowd at Crosley Field in Cincinnati. Facing blatant racism from every side, Robinson demonstrates tremendous bravery and considerable restraint. He lets his talent on the field do the talking—ultimately winning over fans and his teammates and paving the way for others to follow.

And until next time, be safe and healthy, and happy viewing. . .

CI Businesses

Continued from page 5

recession in 2008, but he anticipates that many will file for bankruptcy and may go entirely out of business. It is impossible to predict recovery at this point; it could be a year from now or likely longer. The only saving grace is that business owners on nearly every level have suffered in this pandemic and share a sense of compassion for everyone affected by the crisis.

Island resident **Maria Caruso** is an independent contractor, a luxury travel consultant, who works from home here on City Island, so being under lockdown and not having access to her Manhattan space haven't impacted how she manages her business. However, when the travel bans began to be implemented and borders around the world shut down, the chaos that followed reminded her of the days following 9/11. As she puts it, "Everyone was suddenly afraid to get on an airplane, and since many people lost their jobs, they all wanted refunds for vacations they had already booked. Although airlines and hotels were encouraging clients to postpone instead of cancelling, most travelers just wanted their money back." For the first few days, she was relieved that airlines and hotels were providing



Pictured above, (left to right): Bill Rainford, Maria Caruso and Jen Maroney.

full refunds with no questions asked, but within a week, the airlines shut the floodgates and put in strict policies offering future travel vouchers instead of refunds.

During the lockdown for the past few months, travel revenue has been down 90 percent, which is obviously a disaster for a travel agent. As borders slowly open and bans are being lifted, business may return, but only if customers feel safe about getting on a plane or checking into a hotel. To combat these fears, Maria reports that many airlines have installed HEPA filters on their planes. The filters remove particulate and bacterial contamination and provide passengers with the same level of air filtration as hospital operating theaters. They are also experimenting with flying UV LED drones in baggage compartments to kill coronavirus that may be on the surfaces of luggage. And hotels are adding plexiglass dividers to their check-in counters where staff will be wearing masks.

Maria hopes that these measures will help customers feel more comfortable about traveling again sooner rather than later. But, she says, "weddings, honeymoons and vacations are being postponed until 2021 and beyond, so the hospitality industry is taking a major hit and the recovery may take longer than anticipated. I hope I can survive."

King Avenue resident **Jen Maroney** is a Senior Vice President at the advertising agency FCB (Foote, Cone & Belding) in Manhattan. Since the shelter-in-place orders in March, she has been working

from home and balancing her professional and personal responsibilities along with her three sons, who are remote learning with their different teachers from P.S. 175.

"It has been challenging to say the least," Jen told *The Current*, and she admits that some days she is ready to "pull her hair out." She is in charge of Customer Experience at FCB, and her clients are large pharmaceutical healthcare companies, including Pfizer, Gilead and Novartis. Jen supervises a team of 10 who specialize in digital communication and patient education.

"My team is in demand as our pharma clients are very busy supporting and maintaining communication with healthcare professionals on the front lines of Covid-19, as well as patients, during this crisis," she explained. She spends many hours a day on the phone and online with her team conducting meetings and overseeing program development for their clients.

Like many professionals working from home during the pandemic, she also has to support the needs of her children as they navigate in-home schooling. "Between all three boys, ages 9, 10 and 12, there are 10 different platforms being

utilized for remote learning, quizzes and tests!" Each boy has his own device (two PCs and one Chromebook) and a separate area in the house where they can study.

Jen applauds all the P.S. 175 teachers for their efforts and follow-up, but it's sometimes impossible to keep up with the issues that arise, including multiple passwords and problems with submitting homework. "I was running a large virtual meeting with a client and my team when I received a call from a teacher who said that my son didn't complete a quiz!"

On the positive side, Jen is grateful to be fully employed and that her company is thriving during this crisis while many businesses are suffering. "We are hiring like crazy and there are many openings for various positions at the agency [see fcb.com/careers]." In addition, her husband, Derek (see *Front Line* story this issue), is an essential worker with the NYC Department of Buildings.

Although she knows that the P.S. 175 teachers are doing their very best and innovating during this crisis, she looks forward to the time when her sons can return to the City Island School as in-person classes resume. Does she think it will be in September? "I hope so, but we may have to wait until there is a vaccine to return to 'normal' school days again."

Giving Yourself and Your Children "Permission to Feel"

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Marc Brackett, in his book "Permission to Feel," explores a variety of topics related to emotional health. Check him out: there is much good material on his website (www.marcbrackett.com).

Here are some quick take-aways I have put together that you might find helpful when dealing with your own feelings and those of your children:

- All feelings are just feelings—not facts or truths.
- Feelings are not permanent; they change over time.
- You cannot get in trouble for what you feel; you only get in trouble for what you say and do with those feelings.
- Naming your feelings can be helpful: instead of "I feel bad," you might explore a little deeper: Am I actually sad? ... angry? ... worried?... anxious?
- Ranking your feelings on a scale of 1 to 10 can be helpful (10 being the most extreme expression of that feeling, 1 being the least expression of that feeling). Then you ask yourself and your child: What would

make this better?

- Feelings like anger and hurt are often expressed as reactions, immediate and unthinking actions. We hope for the gift of time—even just a moment!—so that we can breathe, think and create a response. Responses often reflect our "better selves" and create less emotional havoc.

- Taking everything personally is a difficult way to live. Believe me, I know!

- If your child (or you) is not a talker, sit down and try some other ways to communicate what is inside: draw a picture, mold some clay, act out the feeling, make up and sing a song, make a face, act like the animal version of your feeling.

- If things get too "hot," have everyone take a time out. If you need to settle down, or apologize for your own outburst, give yourself a time out. It actually works wonders!

- Forgive and then forgive and then forgive, including yourself!

- Try to end the day with hugs and humor. I guarantee that it will help you sleep better.

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Island Current					Tide Calendar					
June 2020					Tide Calendar					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
MAY 31 H 1:02A L 7:57A H 1:46P L 7:59P	1 H 8:35P L 2:37P H 2:38P L 8:47A	2 H 9:36P L 3:40P H 3:32P L 8:49P	3 H 10:31P L 4:36P H 4:28P L 10:39P	4 H 11:23P L 5:29P H 5:25P L 11:38P	5 H 6:20P L 12:04P H 6:21P L 11:38P	6 H 7:10P L 12:56P H 7:16P L 11:38P	7 H 8:07P L 1:23P H 8:07P L 11:02P	8 H 8:55P L 2:39P H 8:35A L 10:39P	9 H 9:38P L 3:21P H 9:24A L 10:09A	10 H 10:16P L 4:27P H 10:09A L 9:58P
21 H 5:16A L 11:53A H 5:59P	22 L 6:50P H 12:47P L 1:06P H 7:11P	23 L 7:36P H 1:28P L 2:21P H 8:24P	24 L 8:26P H 2:13P L 3:02P H 9:19P	25 L 9:19P H 3:02P L 3:55P H 10:19P	26 L 10:19P H 3:55P L 4:18A H 11:01P	27 L 11:29P H 4:54P L 5:28P H 11:29P	28 H 5:16A L 11:53A H 5:59P	29 H 6:07P L 12:13P H 6:07P	30 H 6:59A L 1:06P H 7:11P	
Tide Calendar July 2020					Tide Calendar by Tom Smith					
Island Current					Yellow = optimal swimming time					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
1 L = Low Tide H = High Tide	2 H 12:09A L 6:55A H 12:46P L 7:00P	3 H 1:42A L 8:26A H 2:19P L 8:30P	4 H 2:27A L 9:08A H 3:03P L 9:13P	5 H 3:11A L 9:48A H 3:48P L 9:55P	6 H 3:55A L 10:23A H 4:33P L 10:37P	7 H 4:43A L 10:49A H 5:21P L 11:24P	8 H 5:25A L 11:16A H 6:12P	9 H 6:06A L 11:57A H 7:04P	10 H 6:51A L 12:47P H 7:54P	
11 H 11:06P L 5:06P	12 H 11:17A L 5:06P	13 H 11:57A L 5:52P	14 H 12:34A L 6:06A	15 H 12:34A L 6:44A	16 H 1:02A L 6:51A	17 H 1:45A L 7:39P	18 H 2:19A L 8:39P	19 H 3:04A L 9:40A	20 H 3:51A L 10:51A	
26 L 11:28P H 4:36P	27 H 5:07A L 11:38A H 5:43P	28 L 12:51A H 6:29A L 12:56P H 7:03P	29 L 2:04A H 7:55A L 2:13P H 8:20P	30 L 3:09A H 9:04A L 3:19P H 9:25P	31 L 4:08A H 10:03A L 4:18P H 10:22P	AUG 1 L 5:02A H 10:56A L 5:12P H 11:14P	2 L 5:52A H 11:46A L 6:01P H 12:31P	3 L 6:47P H 12:31P L 7:21A H 1:14P	4 L 7:29P H 1:14P L 8:07P H 2:05P	

Island Current					Tide Calendar				
August 2020					Tide Calendar				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
16 H 2:51A L 9:21A H 3:18P L 10:08P	17 H 3:50A L 10:16A H 4:16P L 11:22P	18 H 5:01A L 11:26A H 5:29P	19 L 12:40A H 6:31A L 12:50P H 6:59P	20 L 1:50A H 7:48A L 2:05P H 8:14P	21 L 2:55A H 8:53A L 3:10P H 9:17P	22 L 3:53A H 9:50A L 4:07P H 10:13P	23 L 4:45A H 10:42A L 4:59P H 11:03P	24 L 5:32A H 11:28A L 5:46P H 11:48P	25 L 6:16A H 12:11P L 6:29P H 12:50P
30 H 11:03P L 4:45A H 10:42A L 4:59P	31 H 11:48P L 5:32A H 11:28A L 5:46P	1 L = Low Tide H = High Tide	2 H 2:19A L 8:18A H 2:27P L 8:43P	3 H 3:00P L 9:20P H 3:40P L 10:04P	4 H 3:51A L 10:16A H 4:26P L 10:55P	5 H 4:43A L 11:08A H 5:21P L 11:52P	6 H 5:31A L 12:00A H 6:06A L 12:40A	7 H 6:21A L 12:51A H 6:51A L 1:41P	8 H 7:11A L 1:41P H 7:54A L 2:30P
Tide Calendar September 2020					Tide Calendar				
Island Current					Yellow = optimal swimming time				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
13 H 8:28P L 2:21P H 2:05P L 8:56P	14 H 9:30P L 3:33P H 3:00P L 9:20P	15 H 10:26P L 4:34P H 3:58P L 11:10P	16 H 11:16P L 5:28P H 4:58A L 11:17A	17 H 12:02A L 6:18P H 5:56A L 12:39P	18 H 1:00A L 7:08P H 6:54A L 1:49P	19 H 2:00A L 8:00P H 7:54A L 2:46P	20 H 3:04A L 9:00A H 8:51A L 3:05P	21 H 4:12A L 10:00A H 9:51A L 3:58P	22 H 5:21A L 11:00A H 10:51A L 4:51P
27 H 9:55P L 3:31A H 9:31A L 3:50P	28 H 10:43P L 4:40P H 10:20A L 4:40P	29 H 11:27P L 5:25P H 11:05A L 5:25P	30 L 6:06P H 11:46A L 6:06P	31 L 6:56A H 12:36A L 7:42A H 1:32A	1 L 7:42A H 2:26A L 8:36A H 3:16P	2 L 8:36A H 3:16P L 9:30A H 4:06A	3 L 9:30A H 4:06A L 10:24A H 4:56A	4 L 10:24A H 4:56A L 11:16A H 5:46A	5 L 11:16A H 5:46A L 12:06A H 6:36A
Tide Calendar					Tide Calendar				
Island Current					Island Current				
Welcome Fall!					Welcome Fall!				

CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK

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

JUNE 2020

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0222	0.40	0800	7.27	1437	0.25	2035	8.07	Mon 01
02 Tue	0331	-0.12	0914	7.38	1540	0.01	2136	8.36	Tue 02
03 Wed	0430	-0.60	1016	7.51	1636	-0.19	2231	8.58	Wed 03
04 Thu	0525	-0.95	1112	7.60	1729	-0.30	2323	8.69	Thu 04
05 Fri	0617	-1.11	1204	7.63	1820	-0.28			Fri 05
06 Sat	0013	8.66	0708	-1.08	1256	7.59	1910	-0.14	Sat 06
07 Sun	0102	8.50	0757	-0.87	1346	7.49	1959	0.12	Sun 07
08 Mon	0152	8.24	0847	-0.52	1438	7.36	2049	0.44	Mon 08
09 Tue	0244	7.90	0936	-0.09	1532	7.23	2142	0.79	Tue 09
10 Wed	0340	7.54	1027	0.35	1628	7.12	2239	1.11	Wed 10
11 Thu	0441	7.21	1118	0.75	1725	7.06	2338	1.34	Thu 11
12 Fri	0544	6.95	1210	1.06	1821	7.06			Fri 12
13 Sat	0038	1.44	0645	6.79	1302	1.27	1916	7.12	Sat 13
14 Sun	0136	1.42	0742	6.72	1352	1.37	2007	7.22	Sun 14
15 Mon	0229	1.28	0835	6.72	1439	1.39	2055	7.33	Mon 15
16 Tue	0319	1.08	0924	6.74	1521	1.34	2138	7.43	Tue 16
17 Wed	0404	0.85	1009	6.79	1558	1.26	2216	7.52	Wed 17
18 Thu	0446	0.62	1050	6.83	1627	1.15	2243	7.63	Thu 18
19 Fri	0524	0.42	1124	6.89	1654	1.01	2301	7.79	Fri 19
20 Sat	0557	0.24	1149	6.97	1728	0.86	2329	7.98	Sat 20
21 Sun	0627	0.08	1213	7.11	1807	0.72			Sun 21
22 Mon	0007	8.17	0659	-0.04	1247	7.28	1850	0.62	Mon 22
23 Tue	0048	8.28	0736	-0.11	1328	7.45	1936	0.56	Tue 23
24 Wed	0134	8.30	0818	-0.11	1413	7.58	2026	0.55	Wed 24
25 Thu	0223	8.20	0904	-0.05	1502	7.66	2119	0.58	Thu 25
26 Fri	0315	7.97	0954	0.07	1555	7.70	2219	0.62	Fri 26
27 Sat	0413	7.67	1050	0.21	1654	7.72	2329	0.63	Sat 27
28 Sun	0516	7.35	1153	0.35	1759	7.75			Sun 28
29 Mon	0056	0.52	0631	7.10	1306	0.42	1911	7.84	Mon 29
30 Tue	0215	0.24	0756	7.01	1421	0.38	2024	8.00	Tue 30
JULY 2020									
01 Wed	0321	-0.12	0909	7.07	1527	0.27	2128	8.19	Wed 01
02 Thu	0420	-0.46	1010	7.19	1626	0.14	2226	8.35	Thu 02
03 Fri	0515	-0.70	1106	7.32	1720	0.05	2319	8.43	Fri 03
04 Sat	0606	-0.80	1157	7.42	1811	0.04			Sat 04
05 Sun	0009	8.42	0655	-0.75	1246	7.48	1900	0.12	Sun 05



CAUSE AND EFFECT

While the rest of New Yorkers have begun the slow slog back to something like normal living, here in New York City (and its environs) officials continue to encourage residents to follow the protocols for protecting against Covid-19. As *The Current* was going to press, Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo had set the middle of June as a potential target time frame for easing certain restrictions in and around the city. But as City Islanders can attest, many of those same restrictions had already been eased, for all intents and purposes, by the middle of April.

It began the first week of April, as a matter of fact, with the mayor's decision to close Orchard Beach parking lot at 3 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m. (by late May that had been upped to 7 p.m.). Then, instead of fining individuals for flouting social distancing directives, the mayor chose to run with a patently unfair policy that amounted to punishing everyone for the sins of a few. This had the effect of not only closing the largest open space in our area—space for all New Yorkers, especially Bronxites, to take in the fresh air and sun in a responsible manner—but of moving the crowds at Orchard Beach to City Island earlier in the day than usual.

The situation came to a head on City Island when calls were made to 311 expressing concerns about the lack of social distancing in restaurant parking lots. As a result, some restaurateurs were forced to close their lots. And rather than customers taking their food home, they took it to City Island side streets, and that's when things took a turn for the worse.

(Warning: the following paragraph is R-rated, for mature audiences only.) The same distances that were not being maintained at Orchard Beach were definitely not maintained on side streets. At the end of west Fordham Street, for example, there were multiple gatherings (and still are!), on

the weekends especially. There's been a lot of litter, too. And not the usual kind of litter, either, unless clam shells and take-out tins are the usual kinds of refuse left behind on other City Island streets. Some visitors are letting their dogs out of their cars to relieve themselves on lawns, as if they are city parks.

There has been music, too, often loud music, day and night. And drinking. And drugs. Not surprisingly, people are taking to urinating in the streets—men and women, in broad daylight. Others are engaging in lewd behavior within mere feet of homes with families and children. One afternoon, four young gentlemen brought a drone to fly over residents' houses! They were persuaded not to do so, but not without surly resistance on their part. Some of those who have to be reminded where they are—on a residential street—catch themselves and move on. Others make it F#@ing clear that they do not care.

It goes without saying that these are not the sights and sounds we're accustomed to on City Island. We would much prefer to be writing about the new sandy beach at Cuban Ledge in Eastchester Bay or the pair of common loons who spent one recent early morning calling out to one another in their singular fashion. But actions have consequences and causes have their effects. And in this instance City Islanders were being disproportionately impacted.

On a more uplifting and closing note, we bring to your attention the participation of street loads of City Islanders who at 7 p.m. have been banging the drum, literally, for first responders. This practice, which by most accounts was begun spontaneously in the high rises of Manhattan, has become about as pleasant a way to end a day in the age of Covid-19 as we can imagine. Kudos to City Islanders for their enthusiasm, and kudos to first responders everywhere!

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Photo by LUCY BROWN

On Monday, May 11, 2020, shortly before 6 p.m., this double rainbow appeared hovering over Hart Island between rainstorms as the sun shone from the west. Note that the colors in the second rainbow above are in reverse order, caused by the double reflection of sunlight inside the water droplets.



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

Tax Deadlines

A reminder: taxpayers now have until July 15, 2020, to file and pay federal income taxes that were originally due on April 15; there will be no late-filing penalty, late-payment penalty or interest due. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this relief has been expanded to include additional returns, tax payments and other actions, including all taxpayers who have a filing or payment deadline falling on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020. Individuals, trusts, estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers now qualify for the extra time, and Americans who live and work abroad can now wait until July 15 to file their 2019 federal income tax return and pay any tax due.

Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline can request an extension to Oct. 15, 2020, by filing Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. Businesses that need additional time must file Form 7004, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File Certain Business Income Tax, Information, and Other Returns.

An extension to file is not an extension to pay any taxes owed. Taxpayers requesting additional time to file should estimate their tax liability and pay any taxes owed by the July 15, 2020, deadline to avoid additional interest and penalties.

Relief is also extended to estimated tax payments due June 15, 2020. This means that any individual or corporation that has a quarterly estimated tax payment due on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020,

can wait until July 15 to make that payment, without penalty.

There is a three-year window of opportunity to claim a refund from prior years' tax returns. If taxpayers do not file a return within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2016 tax returns, the normal April 15 deadline to claim a refund has also been extended to July 15, 2020.

The Effect of Job Loss on Taxes

If you have lost your job, you may have questions about how it could affect your tax situation. Here are some answers:

Q: I lost my job. How does this affect my tax situation?

A: The loss of a job may create new tax issues. For example, any severance pay you receive is considered taxable income, as are any payments for accumulated vacation or sick time. While it is not always possible to do so, making sure that enough taxes are withheld from these payments will help you to avoid a big bill at tax time. Another thing to keep in mind is that if you receive unemployment compensation, this money is taxable. SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and public assistance, however, are not taxable, nor are Economic Recovery Payments sent during the coronavirus pandemic.

Q: Am I eligible to receive unemployment compensation?

A: Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for one of the following types unemployment compensation:

- Benefits paid by a state or the District of Columbia from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund
- Railroad unemployment compensation benefits
- Disability payments from a government program paid as a substitute for unemployment compensation
- Trade readjustment allowances under the Trade Act of 1974
- Unemployment assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) under the CARES Act of 2020

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, states are permitted to provide Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to individuals who are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, or who otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment compensation. To verify income, states are generally requiring applicants to provide current year tax forms.

Voluntarily deciding to quit your job out of a general concern about exposure to Covid-19 does not make you eligible for PUA; however, there are circumstances where an individual may be eligible for PUA.

Q: Is unemployment compensation tax-free?

A: No. Unemployment compensation received under the unemployment compensation laws of the United States or of a state is considered taxable income and must be reported on your federal tax return.

You must also include benefits from regular union dues paid to you as an unemployed member of a union in your income. However, if you contribute to a special union fund and your contributions are not deductible, then other rules apply. If this applies to you, only include in income the amount you received from the fund that is more than your contributions.

You can choose to have federal income tax withheld from your unemployment benefits by filling out Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request. If you complete the form and give it to the paying office (e.g., your state's Department of Labor), 10 percent of your payment amount will be held as tax. If you choose not to have tax withheld, you may have to make estimated tax payments throughout the year. You may also owe tax when you file your tax return next year.

If you received unemployment compensation, you will receive Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments (Info Copy Only), showing the amount you were paid and any federal income tax you elected to have withheld.

Q: Can I deduct expenses related to a job search?

A: Under tax reform, many miscellaneous deductions were eliminated. As such, for tax years 2018–2025, you are no longer able to deduct certain expenses such as travel, resume preparation, and outplacement agency fees incurred while looking for a new job. In prior years, jobseekers were able to deduct these expenses even if they did not get a new job.

Normally, to collect unemployment compensation you have to actively be searching for work. However, the CARES Act gives states flexibility in determining whether an individual is "actively seeking work" if he or she is unable to search for work because of Covid-19, including because of illness, quarantine, or movement restrictions.

Q: What if my employer went out of business or into bankruptcy?

A: Your employer must provide you with a Form W-2 showing your wages and withholding by Jan. 31. You should keep up-to-date records or pay stubs until you receive your Form W-2. If your employer or its representatives fail to provide you with a Form W-2, contact the IRS. They can help by providing you with a substitute Form W-2. If your employer liquidated your 401(k) plan, you have 60 days to roll it over into another

qualified retirement plan or IRA.

Employee Retention Credit

Businesses that have been impacted financially by Covid-19 may be able to take advantage of a new, refundable tax credit called the Employee Retention Credit. The credit is designed to encourage businesses to keep employees on their payroll and is worth 50 percent of qualifying wages up to \$10,000 that are paid by an eligible employer.

The credit is available to all qualified employers regardless of size, including tax-exempt organizations. The credit is not available to small businesses who take small business loans or state and local governments and their instrumentalities.

There are two categories of qualified employers: 1) The employer's business is fully or partially suspended by government order due to Covid-19 during a calendar quarter and 2) the employer's gross receipts are below 50 percent of the comparable quarter in 2019. Once the employer's gross receipts go above 80 percent of a comparable quarter in 2019, they no longer qualify after the end of that quarter.

The amount of the credit is 50 percent of qualifying wages paid up to \$10,000 in total. Wages to be considered are not limited to cash payments, but also include a portion of the cost of employer-provided health care. Qualified health plan expenses generally include both the portion of the cost paid by the employer and the portion of the cost paid by the employee with pretax salary reduction contributions. Amounts paid by the employee with after-tax contributions are not included.

Qualifying wages are wages that are based on the average number of a business's employees in 2019. There are two different measures for business, depending on size: 1) Employers with less than 100 employees. If the employer had 100 or fewer employees on average in 2019, the credit is based on wages paid to all employees, regardless if they worked or not. If the employees worked full time and were paid for full-time work, the employer still receives the credit. 2) Employers with more than 100 employees. If the employer had more than 100 employees on average in 2019, then the credit is allowed only for wages paid to employees who did not work during the calendar quarter.

Although many tax credits are available when filing a tax return, the employee retention credit works differently in that employers can be reimbursed immediately by reducing their required payroll tax deposits. Payroll taxes, which include federal income tax withheld as well as taxable social security wages and tips, taxable Medicare wages and tips, and additional Medicare tax withholding, are taxes that have been withheld from employees' wages. Generally, these payroll tax deposits are filed quarterly on Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return.

Eligible employers should report their total qualified wages and the related health insurance costs for each quarter on Form 941 beginning with the second quarter (March 12, 2020). Wages paid through Dec. 31, 2020, are also eligible for the credit.

If the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may receive an advance payment from the IRS by submitting Form 7200, Advance Payment of Employer Credits Due to Covid-19.

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

The GraceTones (led by Sandy Dunn) sang to Islander Maurice Richards (right in red shirt) on May 2, 2020, in front of the Black Whale, where he works. He lost both his sister and brother to Covid-19 (they lived in Massachusetts). Mr. Richards often sings with the GraceTones and was very moved by the socially distanced concert.

Obituaries

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



Gregory Penny Sr.

Gregory Penny Sr. passed away on April 30, 2020, at the age of 74 from complications of the coronavirus. He was born on March 6, 1946, on Staten Island to Ann and Marty Penny.

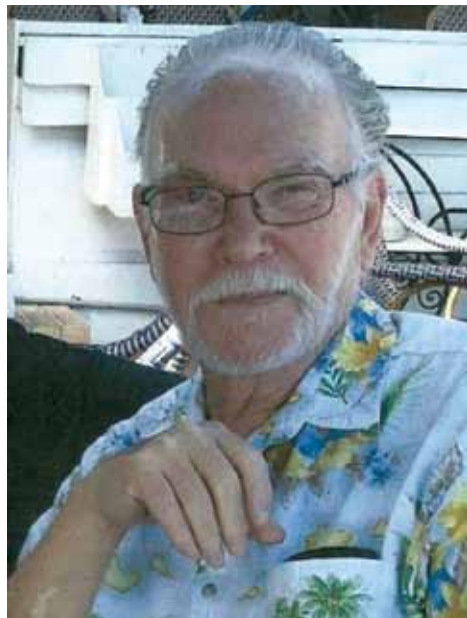
Greg went to St. Francis Xavier School in Morris Park and Christopher Columbus High School. He joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and served for three years in Germany. When he came home from the service in 1966, his parents had recently moved to City Island.

In 1971 he and his bride, Irene, moved to City Island. Greg loved City Island and used to joke that he would be content just to stay on this side of the bridge forever. He worked as a dock builder before becoming an NYC dock builder foreman, a job from which he retired after 25 years. He loved the trade, having followed in the footsteps of his father, uncles and brother.

Greg was a member for 49 years of the American Legion and a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, which he had loved from the time he was a boy, and was currently serving as the Morris's chairman of the board.

Greg was predeceased by his sister, Alana Peterson. He is survived by his beloved wife, Irene; his son, Gregory Jr. (Trish), daughter Kim Fusco (John); his four cherished grandchildren, Kayla, Alyssa, Joseph and Jake; his brothers Donald and Martin, his sister Barbara Pinder, four brothers-in-law, five sisters-in-law and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and godchildren. His family will keep his legacy alive and continue to always make him proud.

Greg had a colorful personality and a great sense of humor. His family and friends will miss his presence dearly. He was given a heartfelt sendoff by his family and many friends who came to bid him farewell at the Morris. He was interred in Pelham Cemetery.



Charles Vincent

Charles (Charlie) Vincent, a former resident of City Island, passed away at the age of 77 on March 8, 2020, at his home in Vero Beach, FL, surrounded by his loving family.

Charlie was born in the Bronx on June 15, 1942, to Charles and Valentina Vincent. When he was 10, his family moved to City Island, where he attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and served as an altar boy at St. Mary's church. He would go on to graduate from Christopher Columbus High School in 1960.

In 1962, Charlie joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed aboard the USS *Compass Island*. After the Navy, he went to work for the New York Transit Authority for a few years, and then he went to work alongside his father in the HVAC industry, where he remained until his retirement.

Charlie married his childhood sweetheart, Holly Hild, on Feb. 22, 1964, and they raised two children, Michelle Vincent Togher (Edward) and Peter A. Vincent. Charlie was a very active member of the City Island community. He served as a trustee for Trinity United Methodist Church, was president of the Pelham Cemetery Association and a member of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 for 39 years. He enjoyed volunteering his time whenever possible. For many years, he was a driver for the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC) and after moving to Florida, he volunteered alongside Holly at the Habitat for Humanity in Vero Beach.

He is survived by his wife; two brothers, Edward Vincent of Suffield, OH, and William Vincent of Vero Beach; his uncle and aunt, John and Alice Zizewski, of Mooresville, NC, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Charlie was a loving and thoughtful husband, a wonderful father and great friend to many, always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He will be interred in Pelham Cemetery at a future date.



Ethel Wilson Baumann

Ethel Mae Wilson Baumann passed away on April 28, 2020, at the age of 92. The cause of death was complications due to Covid-19.

Ethel Wilson was born on April 6, 1928. She lived at 64 Earley Street on City Island with her mother, Ethel Jenkins Wilson; her father, Howard (Hon) Wilson; and

her brother, Edwin Wilson.

She married Island resident Donald Baumann on Nov. 20, 1948. They moved to Bayside, Queens, where they resided for over 60 years. Ethel worked at P.S. 158 for 25 years as a teacher's aide. She was on the altar guild of her beloved church, All Saints in Bayside. She also worked in the church thrift shop until she was 88 years old.

Ethel and her husband remained lifelong friends with many City Islanders, including Ducky and Lorraine Rauhauser and Rita Lynch.

She is survived by her husband, Donald, who is residing in Brandywine Assisted Living in Little Neck, Queens, and her three sons, Robert (Brenda) from Baton Rouge, LA; William (Joann) from Bayside; and James (Melody) from Bellrose Terrace, NY. She had seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

At the time of her death, Ethel had been in Ozanam Hall nursing facility in Bayside, where she had lived since October 2018.

Ethel is interred at Ferncliff Cemetery in Westchester. There will be a memorial service for her at a later date to be announced.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church on the corner of Bay Street offers free food to everyone who is hungry. Here Olivia Chadwick minds the table, while Pastor David Jolly and members of the American Legion stand near the front door of the church offering prepared meals.

Organization News

Continued from page 11

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church, City Island the Bronx continues holding all our neighbors near and far in prayer and we continue to offer free food for all who are hungry. Currently the hours are from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each Sunday. Please have one member from the family come, please wear a mask, and please maintain six feet or more of separation.

In person in the Sanctuary Worship is still suspended until further notice. You can receive the link to our devotions and online worship by sending your email to Pastor Dave at David.jolly@nyac-umc.com.

Faith is key - with prayer and action for others. By the power of the Holy Spirit we seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ. Pastor's cell phone: 845-532-3378.

Rick DeWitt

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FOR SALE: Port St. Lucie, Florida. Gorgeous fully renovated 2BR/2Bath fully furnished waterfront mobile home in 55+ "Treasure Coast" community featuring pool, sauna, fitness room, library, billiards, craft room, shuffleball, pickleball, tennis and 9 hole golf course. Asking \$29,500 HOA fees \$645 per month. Sorry no pets. For more info, please call Susan at 914-469-5823.

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O'PIDDLE D'POO! Daily individualized walks, leash training, pet sitting. Caring for City Island's adorable pets for 20+ years. References available. Call 646-316-6089.

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

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CITY ISLAND NOTARY PUBLIC: Certified in New York State. By appointment only, including weekends. Call Johanna at 914-299-1414.

MARY COLBY is giving free art assignments, dialogue & critique- Mary Colby studio art class on Facebook.

LOCAL COMPUTER TECH: PC hardware and software repairs, anti-virus, home networking, WIFI set-up, home security and CCTV. Call 718-885-2461 or e-mail Keith35@aol.com.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Commercial building, centrally located on City Island with office and warehouse spaces available for rent. Please call 914-760-1106.

SCHOOL AND FAMILY SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE FOR ALL: As an experienced child development specialist/certified school psychologist/parent educator who has worked in schools for over forty years, I will help you unlock the potential inside your student and yourself and develop a plan for success at home and in school right here on City Island - you can walk to my home office! Visit www.ThinkLaughLearn.com for details or call John Scardina 718-885-9305.

CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

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BOAT SUPPLIES: Burck's Boat Store, customer parking, Master-Visa accepted. 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559.

In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo courtesy of Northeast Smart Garden Regional Guide

Magnolia stellata flowers

Some Favorite New Trees

The other day a friend phoned me for advice in buying a peach tree for her front yard. Although peach trees are heavenly in bloom, I explained that small trees grow to a height between 20 and 30 feet, and when pruned they can be kept to a minimum of 10 to 12, but this requires pruning every year. She then happily decided on a shrub. This led me to think about small trees and ones that are underused in gardens today.

My daughter is moving to a new house this month. We looked at three houses together, and one, the one she bought, really stuck out in my mind because it had two acer griseums (paperbark maple) on the property. This was a surprise as I had only seen them in botanical gardens. This maple is a small tree that grows 20 to 30 feet and offers four-season interest. Its bark is an exfoliating, reddish-cinnamon color, and its trifoliate leaves are a bluish green that turn red in the fall. Outstanding in full sun.

Under the category of spring blooming, I would have on my list a magnolia stellata, which is small in stature and laden with white starry flowers that emerge from furry pubescent buds.

If you would like something native, Amelanchier arborea, the shadblow or serviceberry, is an elegant choice. Its grayish, multi-stemmed, streaked bark stands out in winter, and the fruit tastes like a blueberry but sweeter. It colors up nicely in part shade in the fall with white flowers and grows from 15 to 20 feet.

How about the eastern redbud, what I call the fairy tree? Bejeweled down every branch, like tiny lilacs in violet red, this tree with its rounded leaves is a spectacle from March to May. It grows to 30 feet in part shade or sun.

Pagoda dogwood (Cornus alternifolia) is a favorite and one I hope to have in my front yard. The variety Cornus controversa variegata is shaped like a wedding cake with creamy white-margined leaves. It grows slowly to only 20 feet and prefers partial shade. It can be seen at the New York Botanical Garden perennial garden growing under the branches of a white pine.

The ultimate in silvery foliage is the weeping willow-leaved pear (Pyrus salicifolia 'pendula'). It has a very graceful form, silver oblong leaves, white flowers all the more precious against the foliage, and in the fall tiny pears that are adorable and ornamental. Because these trees are not readily found in nurseries, you can order whips (seedlings) and stake them; try www.whiteflowerfarm.com. They grow very fast, and when they eventually reach the desired height, 10 feet or so, you can prune the top into a dome. This makes a lovely standard in full sun, especially against a wall of arborvitae or evergreen.

Japanese crab apples (Malus floribunda) are so lovely and grow to 20 feet in full sun. Their beauty lies in unusual twisting trunks and limbs, beautiful white blossoms and decorative fruit. With leaves that turn yellow in the fall and little red clusters of apples, I would rank this as a must-have. In my old garden I cherished it, pruning to 10 feet every year, a bonsai of sorts.

Last but not least, I would choose to include a pine, the golden scots pine. Growing to 33 feet in full sun, it has beautiful rusty red bark and shimmering yellow needles. This tree is a standout and an exclamation mark, so site it well. You can also use boxwood, holly or yew as evergreens with all these trees, for these add structure and fullness to the garden.


Right now, the sun is out and it's pouring rain. It snowed upstate Saturday. The weather, like the political climate, seems to be off kilter. Not to mention the pandemic. The world is off its axis, but it will right itself again. Hopefully, there will be a sea change, a reset for the care of the planet. We used to take so much for granted, but now the Met or the NYBG seem like far-off pleasure palaces. For now, I play by the rules: I stay in my garden, I read. It's a brave new world, but we adapt. I hope this finds you well physically. I know the mind has a lot to do with the body, so keep that safe and well too.

Think positive, and try to include in your thoughts a bit of art, music, literature and of course the sky, the sea and the flowers.

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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.



Best of luck to Chris Tomsen and Brandon McGaughan on their graduation from Iona Prep High School (photo above). Chris will be attending Fairfield University in the fall, and Brandon will be going to Annapolis Naval Academy in June. So proud of you!

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

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Nicole and Justin Rodstrom, who are celebrating their fourth wedding anniversary on June 17.

Greetings to two of *The Island Current's* staffers who share a birthday on June 7—Karen Nani and Margaret Lenz.

Congratulations to Lily Kolb on her graduation from Binghamton University as a neuroscience major. Mom, Dad, Donny, Rob, Parker, Chris and Thailine couldn't be more proud of you. It is said that the best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today, and you crushed it! We know all your dreams will come true because you have the courage to pursue them! All our love always and God's blessings.



Centre Street resident Joe Nochese graduated with his MBA from Villanova University in May.

Barbara (Haas) Lynch wishes happy birthday greetings across the miles to her special pal, Carolyn (Foley) Peters, who will celebrate her birthday on June 21. Carolyn and Barbara spent happy years in P.S. 17 and graduated in the Class of '52. Many more happy birthday celebrations!

Congratulations to my nephew Paul Goonan, who is graduating from P.S. 175 this month. I'm so proud of you and your accomplishments! Wishing you lots of luck in September at Stepinac High School. I know you will do well. XOXO, Auntie Em.

Congratulations to our nephew, Benjamin Chadwick, on his graduation from Salesian High School. Wishing you success in finding your dream in college, Aunt Marg and Uncle Pete.

Joe Noschese, a lifelong City Islander and 36-year resident of Centre Street, graduated on May 15 with an MBA from Villanova University. This happy occasion was celebrated with his wife, Carmen, their son, Joseph, and his family and friends, who joined in the festivities via Zoom! Good job! GO WILDCATS!

Best of luck to my two granddaughters, Francesca and Victoria Strazzera, upon their recent educational successes! Francesca completed four years of college at the University of South Carolina, and Victoria has just earned her master's degree. We are all so proud of our girls! Susan Strazzera

Wishing a happy birthday to my wife, Ann Butterworth, on June 29. You've always been my rock, and I am so lucky to have you in my life. Thanks for giving me a wonderful life with three great sons. Here's to another great year! Love, Chuck and the boys.

Congratulations to our granddaughter Emma Rose for reaching a milestone, her 16th birthday! I know Mom was supposed to take you for your permit on your March 22 birthday, but they were closed. Don't worry; it was fun celebrating with you on Zoom!

Best of luck to our Cameron Avery Kratzer on her graduation to middle school. We are so proud of your achievements!

Happy birthday wishes on June 22 to our son, John Ulmer. Sorry we couldn't be with you this year—darn corona!

Happy "Sweet 16" to our beautiful daughter, granddaughter and niece, Samantha Kucerak. We love you to the moon and back!

Happy belated "golden" birthday to Briana Lotrionte on May 28. With love from Mom and Dad and your family, Kona and Stella too!

Congratulations Lily Kolb on your graduation from University of Binghamton – from Aunt Nancy, Uncle Nicky and cousins.

Happy special birthday to Rose Kolb on June 4. Hope this year is filled with good health and much joy.

Kudos to energetic *Island Current* staff members Ginger Dannegger, Emily Leni, Margaret Lenz, Judy Rauh, Barbara Dolensek and Karen Nani, who had to hand deliver copies of the May issue of *The Current* to City Island subscribers early in May. The U. S. Post Office has been experiencing delays during the crisis, and issues of our newspaper have been taking more than two weeks to reach subscribers after delivery to the central post office. We apologize for the delay and are doing our best to get the City Island newspaper out to our readers as quickly as possible.

Special thanks also to all of the Islanders who have pitched in to help people get meals and medications, especially the scouts, and a special shout-out to off-Islanders Alessandra Biaggi and Marjorie Velázquez for helping City Island Strong.

Wishing all our fathers and grandfathers a very happy Father's Day on June 21! You've earned the day off!

Maria Swieciki



Hawkins Street resident Lily Kolb graduated from SUNY Binghamton in May 2020.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Island Current staff member Ginger Dannegger was part of a team hand-delivering the June issue to City Island subscribers on May 6, 2020, because of delays in delivery by the post office.

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