

One Dollar

In a surprising celestial event, the Northern Lights were visible on Oct. 10, 2024, from the tristate area, including City Island. The spectacular aurora was captured from the American Legion looking eastward around sunset. A geomagnetic solar storm enabled Islanders to see the Northern Lights, which are usually only visible in this region from northern Canada and Alaska.

BRIEFLY...

THE PEARL, at 319 City Island Avenue, will offer three 30-minute mat classes at Turkey Tone on Nov. 16. The suggested donation is a \$20 supermarket gift card, and all proceeds will go to The Agatha House Foundation, a Bronx Food Bank. There will also be raffle prizes, making it a fun and meaningful way to give back. That same evening, Laura Aversano will be leading a Full Moon Ceremony, where attendees will build an altar to their family lineage and create space to find stillness.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present John Patrick’s “The Curious Savage” on Friday, Nov. 15, Saturday, Nov. 16, Friday, Nov. 22, and Saturday, Nov. 23, at 7:30 p.m. (new start time), as well as on Sunday, Nov. 17 and 24, at 3 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. Tickets will cost \$30 (\$25 for seniors and students) and can be purchased on line by visiting their website www.cityislandtheatergroup.org.

ELECTION DAY SALE: The Parent-Teacher Association of P.S. 175 invites you to stop by their Election Day sale on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The long-standing tradition helps fund a variety of programs and events for students at the Pre-K through eighth-grade school. There will be more than 50 great raffle prizes and gift baskets, including a television, a bicycle and gift cards, as well as yummy home-baked goods to choose from. Refreshments and school swag will be available for purchase. So stop by on your way to the voting booth.

CHAMBER DINNER AND TREE LIGHTING: The City Island Chamber of Commerce will be busy during November. The annual Dinner Dance to celebrate and honor City Island businesses will take place on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club (417 Hunter Avenue, City Island, NY). There may still be some tickets available (\$90 per person), so contact 718-885-9100 or e-mail contact@cityislandchamber.org. The annual tree lighting will be on Saturday, Nov. 30, in Hawkins Park at 7:30 p.m. So kick off the holiday season on City Island with caroling and photos by the festive tree.

CITY ISLAND INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be held at Trinity Methodist Church at the corner of Bay Street and City Island Avenue on Monday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. Clergy from all Island houses of worship will participate in the service. Refreshments will be served following the service.

CONCERT RETURNS: After a four-year absence, St. Mary, Star of the Sea’s Christmas concert returns on Dec. 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of Ken Farnum. All are welcome, so put it on your calendar.

PRINTING COST INCREASES

The Island Current has not raised its newsstand price (\$1 per issue) in more than 20 years, but printing and delivery costs have increased steadily, so it’s time for us to catch up. The newsstand price will increase to \$2 per issue starting December 2024. We rely on all our distribution outlets and on those who purchase *The Current* at City Island businesses, so we hope you understand the need for this increase and will continue to be loyal readers. Thank you for your continued support of *The Island Current*, City Island’s only newspaper, which has been published for 53 years.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 – ASSAULT OF A POLICE OFFICER
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – LOST PROPERTY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Sept. 18 to Oct. 20, 2024.

10/4 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, a report of theft of service was made at 11 p.m. A male employee told police that an off-Island male first tried to pay with counterfeit money and upon returning money to the defendant, he began harassing the employee and threatening to shoot him. No weapons were displayed. The defendant left the location and there were no injuries.

10/6 – An Island male reported being harassed on City Island Avenue at 4:40 p.m. The victim states that an unknown male made verbal threats toward him for no reason and that this has happened four other times in the past.

10/6 – On William Avenue and Bay Street at 5:30 p.m., an Island male told police that he parked his vehicle and upon returning noticed that both license plates were missing in an act of petit larceny.

10/10 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 48, on King Avenue at 12:27 a.m. and charged him with assault to a police officer. Defendant refused to comply with officer’s assessment to be evaluated by EMS. He then grabbed the officer by his uniform shirt and refused to let go. During the struggle, the officer sustained visible physical injury with pain and swelling on his right finger.

10/14 – On Marine Street at 12 p.m., an Island male states that he parked his trailer and when he returned he noticed that his license plate was missing.



Members of St. Mary, Star of the Sea choir are busy rehearsing for their Christmas concert on Dec. 22, 2024, under the direction of Ken Farnum (at right).



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The CI Theater Group Returns to the Stage

By MARY McINTYRE



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

Cast members of the City Island Theater Group rehearsing for their new production, “The Curious Savage,” which will open on Nov. 15.

The City Island Theater Group is happy to return to the stage in November with John Patrick’s “The Curious Savage.” Although this is a comedy, the production will leave its audiences with a sense that kindness has not been entirely lost in a world that seems at times to be strongly driven by greed and dishonesty.

Ethel P. Savage is a recent widow whose husband left her \$10 million. Having been a “good” wife for many years, Ethel chooses to establish a fund to help “average” people pursue their dreams as she herself enrolls in acting classes. Her three stepchildren find her behavior “eccentric” but are concerned that this fund will also, most likely, wipe out their inheritance. They move to commit her to the Cloisters

(a long-term care facility), where she will be cared for and they can move to manage her finances. As the audience becomes fond of the Cloisters residents, the questions become: Who are the eccentric ones? Who are the respectable ones? Who are the crazy ones?

“The Curious Savage” is being directed by Joseph Montano, with Pam Johnston as the production manager. The cast includes Brian Argiento, Olivia Chadwick, Elizabeth DiMeo, Tsuyako Sandy Dunn, Michele Keener, Elizabeth Mialaret, James Mohn, Elizabeth Paldino, Paula J. Rocheleau Hernandez, Joseph Scaduto and Derek Tarson.

Please see *BRIEFLY* on page 2 for information about dates, times and admissions.



Photo by MARGARITA PEREZ

On Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, Susan Rosendahl-Masella, Program Director of PSS City Island Older Adult Center, pictured here with several members holding a certificate of appreciation presented to the Center in recognition of National Older Adult Center Month.



Photo by SUSAN ROSENDAHL-MASELLA

On Oct. 16, 2024, Lori Sykes (seated) won first place in a talent show judged by Elliott Glick, Shlomit Oren and Rev. Sara D. Giron-Ortiz. PSS City Island Center held the Talent Show. The next round of competition will take place on Nov. 7. The other talented Center members are (l. to r.): Donald Fecher, Robert Brent and Elizabeth Brent.

FORGET THEM NOT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Two of the Chamber of Commerce awards are named for old-time City Island residents. Sam Bierman (top photo) was a pharmacist at 311 City Island Avenue (later a hardware store and now an office). He took a very active role in the City Island community as head of the Board of Trade, later the Chamber of Commerce. Tom Cerreta was well known on the Island for his shoe store, where shoes were made, repaired, polished for Islanders of all ages.

For many years, the City Island Chamber of Commerce has honored individuals at its annual dinner for their contributions to the City Island community. Some of these awards bear the names of residents who played important roles here but whose contributions to City Island have long been forgotten.

Sam Bierman was born in Austria in 1900 and came to United States at the age of 12. He became a pharmacist and in the 1920s moved to City Island, where he opened a pharmacy at 311 City Island Avenue. He was one of the founders of Temple Beth-El in 1934 and used his home for services until the temple was built on City Island Avenue. He was also a founder of the City Island Board of Trade (now the Chamber of Commerce). He retired in 1970 and moved to Florida, where he died on September 7, 1977.

Tom Ceretta, a resident of Ditmars Street, owned and operated Tom’s Shoe Store at Buddy’s Hardware 268 City Island

Avenue selling, shining and repairing shoes, as well as hats. He specialized in selling shoes for children, especially ones with genuine sharkskin toes, according to his advertisements. During the 1950s and ‘60s, Tom served as president of the Board of Trade, later the Chamber of Commerce, and was held in high esteem in the community, where he owned several properties.

Catherine Scott, a lifelong City Island resident, was always interested in and deeply concerned about the City Island community. She was a reporter for *The Island Current* from 1975 until her death in 2001. She worked for 20 years as office administrator for Community Board 10, but she also volunteered for many Island organizations, including the Civic Association, the Community Center, the Historical Society and Nautical Museum, and the Parish Council of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. She wrote “City Island and Orchard Beach” for Arcadia Press in 1999 and many articles for the Bronx County Historical Society.

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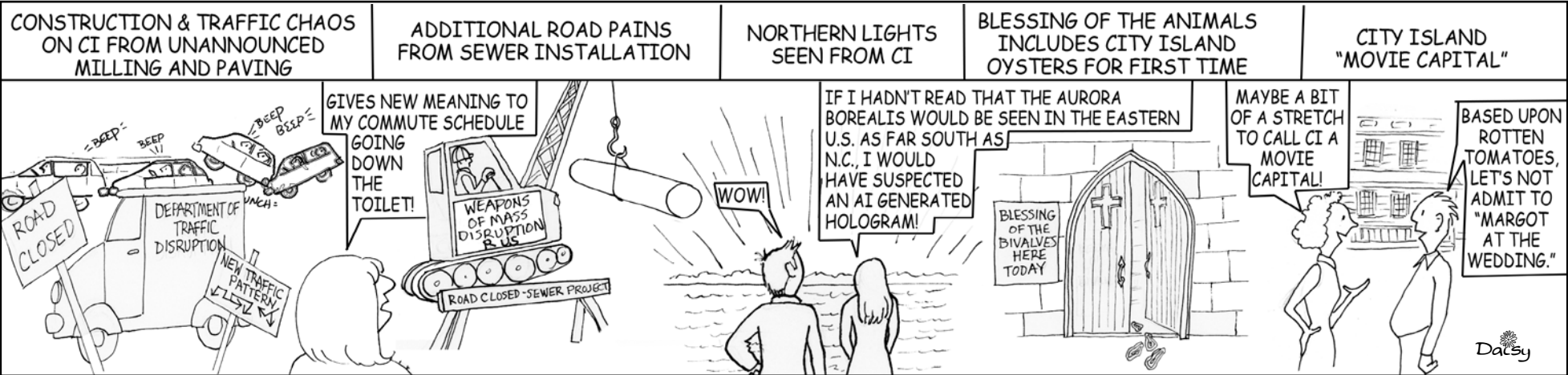


Photo by ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS

The City Island Oyster Reef would like to give special thanks to the City Island restaurants that donated food to the Viva la Sound Environmental Festival on Sept. 21, 2024: AB Catering, Artie's, City Island Diner, Dominick's Market, Harlem Yacht Club, Johnny's Reef, JP's, Lobster House, Little Frida's Eatery, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Sammy's Fish Box, Seafood City, Seafood Kingz, Sea Shore Restaurant, The Original Crab Shanty, Tony's Pier, Vistamar, Taste of Italy Deli, Little Greece, Ray's Café and Sea Breeze Deli.



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

Construction Chaos

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

To Anthony Perez, Bronx Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation

It was with astonishment that City Islanders awoke Monday morning, Oct. 21, 2024, to find that their cars had either been towed away or blocked in their driveways by a road milling project that was sprung on the community with no warning. A few “no parking” signs had been placed in some areas over the weekend, but otherwise there was absolutely no warning given to the island that a major project would be taking place and that cars would be towed if not removed by 6 a.m. Monday morning. Needless to say, rush hour was a disaster, and that will likely be repeated as DOT works its way south on the island.

I am a reporter for *The Island Current*, City Island’s monthly community newspaper (I attach a recent copy in case you are not familiar with the publication), and we are preparing a major article on recent construction projects on City Island. DDC has kept us well informed about the sewer project going on at the north end of the Island for many months; Community Board 10 has alerted us to new construction at Rodman’s Neck, and we have been given up-to-date information about the new Shore Road Bridge by DOT’s bridge department.

Please explain why City Island was given no head’s up about this “road milling” project, as well as some of the reasons (other than the occasional pot hole) that this major project was undertaken in the first place.

It would be good if you could make a comment about this project for the newspaper that might soothe some of the anger felt by most residents.

Barbara Burn Dolensek

Thanks from the City Island Oyster Reef

To the Editor,

The City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) is grateful to many individuals and organizations for their contributions to the fourth annual Viva la Sound environmental festival, which took place at Ambrosini Field on Saturday, Sept. 21. Thirty organizations came to show what they do for the environment, and several volunteers provided great entertainment and education for young people by organizing mural painting, face painting, knot tying and story readings. We are grateful as well to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation for their generous support of this annual

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event.

We would like to give special thanks to the City Island restaurants that donated food to the event, which was welcomed with great enthusiasm by our visitors: AB Catering, Dominick’s Market, Harlem Yacht Club, Johnny’s Reef, JP’s, Lobster House, Little Frida’s Eatery, Sammy’s Shrimp Box, Sammy’s Fish Box, Seafood City, Seafood Kingz, Sea Shore Restaurant, The Original Crab Shanty, Tony’s Pier, Vistamar, Taste of Italy Deli, Little Greece, Ray’s Café and Sea Breeze Deli.

Sally Connolly, Chair, CIOR

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CITY ISLAND, ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by CHLOE SABIN, WIKIPEDIA and NETFLIX

City Island has always been a popular site for movie makers to create their films and television programs, such as “Gorgeous,” which was filmed on Fordham Street, but it is also a popular place for people who star in and make movies to live. Island residents include Vincent Pastore (above right) and Michelle Buteau (far right).

For many years, City Island was a popular location for movie makers and television producers, as it had been for nearly a century, starting with silent movies and local film star Harry Carey. “Royal Tenenbaums,” “Boardwalk Empire,” “Law and Order”—all of them featured scenes on City Island, with famous actors, large crews and a lot of heavy traffic. Producers and directors loved City Island because it was part of New York City, close to studios and film personnel, but it didn’t look like New York City.

Thanks to technological advances, it is now possible for a major film to be made entirely in a studio or on a computer, but City Island remains a place of interest for the film business—not so much for its scenery as for the community of directors, actors, producers, film editors, designers and camera operators that calls City Island home.

City Island’s first movie theater was in the same building where the Crab Shanty now serves seafood; the second movie theater, the Raymond, is now a supermarket; but the store at 270 City Island Avenue that used to be the City Island Bake Shop and then John Foley’s Rarities and Obscurities has become the third movie theater: Cinema on the Sound. This is the only independent movie theater in the Bronx and is owned by City Hawk LLC and operated by film maker Jerry Landi and Clipper Coffee owner Peter Gennari.

In addition to showing all kinds of films (scary ones at Halloween and colorful ones at Christmas), Cinema on the Sound also doubles as a theater for comedy shows and plays in the round, such as those produced by local playwright and actress Tygar Hall. Tygar and her partner, Cai Hall, who specializes in camera and electrical production and has also worked as a director and producer, moved to City Island after Cai came here when “Nurse Jackie” used City Island as a location in 2009.

Jerry Landi himself has worked as a director, producer, actor, writer, cameraman, you name it, and his most recent effort is in the works: “Tales of Clipper Coffee,” a fictional anthology film inspired

by the everyday, overheard conversations of patrons gossiping over a cup of coffee. “As we were working, you had so many crazy things happen and you’d say, ‘well, that would make a great movie,’” recalls Peter Gennari, who is set to play the role of producer.

Film maker Stephen Franciosa has worked for many years as a director and editor for both Harrington Talents, Inc., and Spot On, whose studios have been located on east Fordham Street since the early 2000s. An article in the New York Times in 2007 described the wide range of the work—from commercials to music videos and documentaries. He and his colleagues even helped to produce a feature film, “Doughboys,” which starred Vincent Pastore of “The Sopranos” (and of City Island, too).

King Avenue resident Hyonok Kim is an award-winning filmmaker and choreographer who creates innovative and experimental films using dance rather than dialogue to express interaction. She has choreographed and directed 15 dance films, many of which have been shown at international film festivals, and is just finishing a film focused on drought in the American Southwest.

Other Islanders who work as directors in film and television include Emily Kunkel, an actress whose recent short film, “Gorgeous,” was filmed near her home on Fordham Street, which she shares with her husband, Alden Ford, an award-winning producer and director of the children’s television series “Gabby’s Dollhouse.” Two of Emily’s neighbors happened to walk by during the filming and were incorporated into the plot. Connor Kelly is assistant director in the television series “The Sinner” (not for children, apparently). Katie Ennis of Hunter Avenue has worked as both a director and a film editor, most recently for “Dexter: New Blood.” Another Islander, Cathi Swett has been an attorney for years but now enjoys the role of background actor and has even appeared on “Saturday Night Live.”

City Island boasted two Emmy award nominations this year. Islander Wendy



Yang Clark, the owner of the new pilates studio “The Pearl” on City Island, was named for her work as an associate costume designer on the series “Fallout” in the Fantasy/Sci-Fi category. And Alison Wiedmann Cebek was nominated for an Emmy as part of the production team for “Hacks: Bit by Bit” in the Outstanding Short Form Nonfiction or Reality Series category.

Several other Island residents also work behind the camera. Mars Garcia has won awards for her work as a cinematographer; she has an extensive background in lighting and is also a photojournalist and fine art photographer. Mike and Megan Mervilde each work as grips, which are the technicians on a film set who are responsible for the equipment and rigging that support the camera and lighting. Another Islander grip is Glen Fishel, who worked in the camera and electrical department for “Men in Black” and “Salt.” Heidi Fishel



is a hair and makeup artist for films and television programs.

Although he was bumped off early in “The Sopranos” as Big Pussy, Vincent Pastore appeared in subsequent episodes, and he has also continued his acting career in both film (“The Zombie Wedding”) and television (“Gravesend”) and remained a City Island resident for many years. Another longtime resident, Mike Gilliam, has been an Emmy-award winning news anchor and reporter for decades but now focuses on his new CUNY-TV series, “A Slice of New York,” which presents interviews with New Yorkers and recently featured the local nonprofit City Island Oyster Reef.

City Island is home to another well-known actor, Michelle Buteau, a comedienne and writer who stars in the Netflix show “Survival of the Thickest,” which will soon begin its second season. She has worked on Comedy Central, has appeared in several movies and television series, including the popular Netflix comedy “Michelle Buteau: Welcome to Buteaupia.” In her spare time Michelle hosts podcasts, has published a book, and is raising twin girls with her husband, Gijs van der Most.



Photo by KAREN NANI

DDC highlighted the location of the sewer project with this detailed signage on City Island Avenue.

Construction Chaos

Continued from page 1

promised in 2017 by Mayor de Blasio, who actually established a budget for the project. At this rate, however, it is likely that rising tides will have inundated Rodman’s Neck completely by the time any construction is completed.

Shore Road Bridge

In spite of rumors that the bridge to replace the Shore Road Bridge (aka Pelham Bridge) over the Hutchinson River has been delayed for financial reasons, we are assured by Joannene Kidder of the Department of Transportation bridges staff that the project is funded and that a schedule and preliminary design will soon be shared with the Bronx community.

Islanders may have noticed that the number of very large and heavy trucks transporting cranes from City Island has diminished considerably, presumably because the bridge may be vulnerable to heavy loads. The first bridge over the Hutchinson River at this spot was a stone

structure built in 1815 and destroyed by a storm the following year. Another bridge was not built at the site for 18 years, and then it was replaced in 1908 with the current bridge, which was reconstructed in 1985.

DOT recognizes that the current bridge was built according to century-old standards and that it cannot accommodate modern vehicles and loads; it is repaired regularly, but its operating systems are not up to current code, although it is one of the busiest drawbridges in the city, accommodating commercial barges carrying oil, scrap metal and construction material. The lanes on the bridge are narrow with no shoulders, and the accommodation of pedestrians and bicycles is not sufficient.

The new bridge will be built alongside the current one, which has required environmental research as well as improvements in the height of the roadway. The Pelham Bridge that carries the Amtrak and Metro North lines is also scheduled for replacement within the next decade.



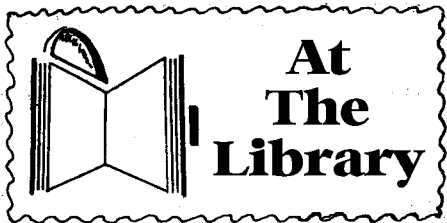
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NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

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

NOVEMBER TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.
Manga Art: Love anime? Come by to learn about different anime and manga, to debate about favorite characters, make to anime-inspired art and more! Tuesday, Nov. 5, 3 to 4 p.m.
Crafternoon: Create art—painting, crochet, writing, drawing and more—in any way you wish! Tuesday, Nov. 12, 3 to 4 p.m.
Siwanoy Trail: Celebrate Native American Heritage Month by learning about our local Siwanoy Hiking Trail, and all about the Siwanoy Tribe that occupied this land. We will also draw sights from the trail based

off of photography! Tuesday, Nov. 19, 3 to 4 p.m.
Unplug & Relax: Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles and anything else without a screen. Tuesday, Nov. 26, 3 to 4 p.m.

NOVEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include help with preparing resúmes and searching for a job. Online with Google Meet. Please register online at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

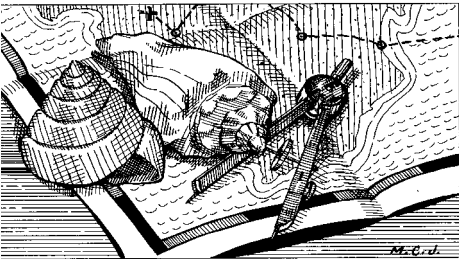
City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, Nov. 4, at 5 p.m.

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

Why Knot?: Declutter your yarn collection by crafting for a cause! The City Island Library invites knitters and crocheters of all levels to meet up and make scarves and hats to be donated to a non-profit organization that supports veterans. This program will be hosted by a staff member, and we will learn from each other as we work on our projects. Beginners should bring size 7 or 8 knitting needles or a size J or K crochet hook and a ball of worsted weight yarn to begin their crafty journey. Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Movie: "1984" : Saturday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m.

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



Clam digger Jack Jokinen (above left) signed copies of his book, *A Stray Dog for Christmas*, at Kaleidoscope Gallery on Sept. 28, 2024. Jack brought along the subject of the book, Suzy, and signed a copy for his former P.S. 175 teacher, Debbie McManus (photo above).



This fall **The Pearl**, at 319 City Island Avenue, will offer its regular classes in yoga, Pilates and dance along with some weekly sessions, including Sealegs Senior Yoga on Fridays at 2 p.m., Perinatal Yoga for expectant and new moms on Saturdays at 9:15 a.m., Free All-Levels Community Yoga class every Sunday at 5:15 p.m., which can be taught bilingually (English/Spanish) on request, and Kids' Yoga on Wednesday afternoons and Kids' Ballet on Sundays. For more information on the regular class schedule, special workshops, and upcoming events, visit www.pearl-

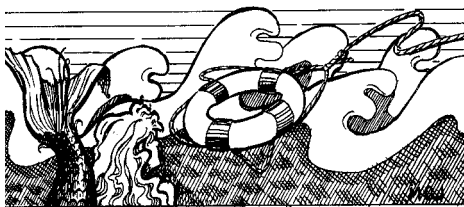
movement.com, or stop by 319 City Island Avenue.

"Of Land, Sea & Sky," paintings and photography by Laury Hopkins and Rick DeWitt, will be on exhibit at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, for the month of November. An opening reception will take place on Nov. 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
2 Bay Street	\$1,620,000	7/1/24
99A Schofield Street	\$495,000	7/24/24
168 Fordham Street	\$699,999	7/24/24
5 Rochelle Street	\$705,999	7/25/24
172 Ditmars Street	\$920,000	8/5/24
113 Buckley Street	\$580,000	8/26/24
98 Bay Street	\$649,000	8/26/24
180 Kilroe Street	\$750,000	8/28/24
Multi-Family Houses		
98 Fordham Street	\$750,000	8/23/24
Condominium		
1 Windward Lane	\$790,000	7/2/24
Cooperative		
30 Carroll Street #A	\$365,000	8/19/24



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United States Coast Guard on City Island

By BERNARD WITLIEB

Although the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard primarily protected the main access sea routes to New York Harbor during World War II, they were also responsible for preventing incursions through Long Island Sound, Hell Gate and the East River, an important responsibility since in wartime half the military supplies and one-third of the troops passed through the harbor.

The task of protecting the harbor was necessary and still is today. On Nov. 10, 1942, the German submarine U-608 laid 10 mines in the harbor. A minesweeper detected an underwater explosion, which resulted in a two-day harbor closure until the mines were detonated or rendered ineffective by 12 sweepers. And since Sept. 11, 2001, Coast Guard and Navy vessels have guarded our area waterways day in and day out.

Very soon after America entered World War II, the Coast Guard and Navy, as the 3rd Naval District, sought to forestall “back door” invasions by establishing harbor patrol stations at Pier 9 on Manhattan, on Ellis Island, on Pier 18 in Staten Island, at Perth Amboy and on City Island. The small office and dock on City Island were extensively upgraded so that it was a base of operations capable of handling ship boardings, harbor surveillance and boat patrols. The new name: USCG Boarding Station, City Island.

Merchant ships and pleasure craft, of course, had to be considered as well. To facilitate the supervised harbor approaches, the Coast Guard inducted all NY area harbor pilots, including City Island’s Hell Gate pilots, as temporary reserve personnel. Their knowledge of the waterways was especially useful because the harbor operated under a blackout protocol at night.

Most of the port security operations in western Long Island Sound during the immediate aftermath of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, were under the auspices of the Coast Guard Station at Eatons Neck in Huntington. The facility employed regular Coast Guard rescue and utility craft as well as temporary wartime additions, such as fishing boats, recreational craft and private yachts, like one temporarily designated CGR-550 loaned by volunteer reservist and City Island resident Albert J. Schwarzler.

Schwarzler was a real estate magnate, an inventor (he held a patent for a “mold for concrete walls or the like”) and a contractor, who developed the 13-story Lewis Morris Apartments on the Grand Concourse. On a typical day Chief (Temporary) Boatswains Mate Schwarzler would leave Eatons Neck on his yacht and head westbound to patrol Hell Gate approaches. Authorities soon realized that the time needed to get to the designated area was unsatisfactory, so it was decided to change the base of operations

base to City Island, which was closer to Hell Gate and home to larger berthing areas and many boatyards that stood ready to repair and maintain the Coast Guard vessels.

Early in 1942, the Coast Guard temporarily leased some partially vacant land that included a pier at the southern tip of the island just below Horton Street. Plans called for housing, logistics and operations facilities, but while construction was being completed, Schwarzler donated his private floating pier on the Island’s east side as a temporary patrol boat station. Eventually, a Coast Guard building was placed on the city pier; after the war the building was moved to Belden Street and is now a private house.

By the fall of 1942, barracks for 150, a dining hall capable of accommodating 250, a harbor surveillance and operations building, repair shops, an armory, a warehouse and a recreation hall occupied the property. Some U.S. Customs Service personnel also were assigned to the station, which became a site for the inspection of all merchant shipping vessels going past City Island. As one can see in the Coast Guard photograph, the southernmost building appears to be what is now Johnny’s Reef, and the northernmost building is the Horton-Duryea house facing Belden Street, with the restaurant, a separate building facing City Island Avenue that later became the Lobster Box. During the war, Norma Duryea, who ran the restaurant, would often feed the Coast Guardsmen by supplementing their government-issue meals.

Designated as Division No. 8 of the harbor patrol fleet, the City Island boat forces were all, with one exception, converted civilian craft. They patrolled the area around Throggs Neck, a geographic choke point in the approaches to Hell Gate and the East River, as well as Hempstead Harbor, which was the anchorage for munitions ships and barges.

A more detailed description of the Coast Guard’s presence on City Island during World War Two can be found at <https://liboatingworld.com/uscg-activities-on-city-island-ny-during-wwii/>, in an article written by Commander Timothy Dring. As he puts it, “the USCG Boarding Station City Island . . . was an important site for the boarding/inspection of all merchant shipping entering and leaving the Hell’s Gate/western Long Island Sound approaches, as well as for harbor security boat patrols of the immediate area.”

Occasionally, the Coast Guard assisted in maritime incidents. In the early evening of Feb 15, 1942, the engine room of the oil tanker *Point Breeze* exploded when the vessel ran aground at the bottom of a shallow inlet near Stepping Stone lighthouse. One crewman died in the blast and another died when its force hurled him overboard. Two



Photo by U.S. COAST GUARD
During World War II, the U.S. Coast Guard covered the south end of City Island with barracks, as well as this building that was located on the pier that once extended south of Belden Point and is now a private house on Belden Street.

Coast Guard boats, a Navy launch and New York City Police harbor craft monitored the flaming tanker through the night, and the next morning it was towed to dry dock at City Island.

On July 1, 1944, Ensign Robert Hamilton’s Grumman Hellcat experienced engine trouble and crashed into the Sound about 1 p.m. A tug rescued the pilot and transferred him to a Coast Guard cutter, which took him to City Island. Near the end of the war after recreational boating restrictions were lifted, the City Island station rendered search and

rescue services to boaters in the western Sound.

After Germany and Japan surrendered, the Coast Guard station on City Island was decommissioned and vacated in August 1945, and the property was returned to its original owners. A few buildings still stand, including what is now Johnny’s Reef and the Duryea restaurant, now the Lobster Box. But the barracks that were in Johnny’s parking lot are long gone, as is the pier that was demolished in the 1960s after it was damaged in a hurricane.

MUMS THE WORD!



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI
It was a four-day Legion Pumpkin Sale over Columbus Day weekend from Oct. 11 to 14, 2024. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members offered gorgeous gourds and chrysanthemums, along with sweet treats for sale. City Island scouts Jake Penny and Matt Clancy helped customers carry their purchases to their cars (bottom photo). Beautiful and mild weather helped to make the fundraising event a sunny success.

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Organization News

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

City Island Nautical Museum

Summer has drawn to a close, and so has the Nautical Museum, which will no longer be open on Saturday or Sunday. However, we welcome visiting groups, students and families and recommend that you call in advance to book a special tour. Please call 718-885-0507 to make an appointment. The admission fee will remain \$8 per person.

The holidays are on us, and the Nautical Museum shop is stocked with unique City Island-themed gifts and apparel. Please visit our website at cityislandmuseum.org to see what we have and to place an order. Or you can visit Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (271 City Island Avenue), which has some museum gifts for sale.

Stay in touch with us through our beautiful new website, which is rich in stories about City Island history, especially the boat-building business, and check out our Facebook page for many fabulous albums of City Island images.

Like all other nonprofit organizations, the City Island Historical Society, which runs the museum, welcomes donations, which are fully tax deductible. The best way to support us is to renew your membership or become a member! Individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free and a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop.

Barbara Dolensek

Garden Club of City Island

Garden Club members have continued to take care of the containers and the garden at the Post Office. We have had a very dry fall, and many plants, including the grass, have gone dormant already. We want to remind residents and businesses that the newly planted street trees need gallons and gallons of water in order to survive. If you have access to a hose, please include the street tree in front of your building in your bi-weekly watering program.

This month we will remove the summer plants from our containers on the Avenue with help from the Boy Scout Troop 211. Members will then install winter greenery and decorations in time to kick off the holiday season. Please be patient while we are in this process.

In this issue of *The Island Current*, the Garden Club highlights Jack's Bait and Tackle as its example of a business with curb appeal. Every year, as the days get shorter, Jack's celebrates fall by decorating with hay bales, mums and corn stalks. The colorful display catches everyone's eye. Thank you for contributing to the attractiveness of our community, and thank you for watering our container.

Our beautification projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Nancy White, owner of The Flower Bar in Larchmont, will giving a demonstration of holiday flower arranging. Please join us!

Judy Judson

Quilters by the Sea QOV

QBTS awarded a Quilt of Valor to Legionnaire Mattia Panza, U.S. Army, Vietnam War in October. The event was held

at the Legion Post and was well attended by family, friends and the leadership and members of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. The Quilt of Valor is an original design by group member Nancy Scotford. QBTS will have a fun Paint Night on Nov. 15. Contact harlan.sexton1@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

Harlan Sexton

Trinity United Methodist Church

Please note that church service now begins at 9:45 on Sunday mornings and that communion is the second Sunday of the month. Sunday School is every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

An Advent Study will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., "An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story" by R. Billups.

Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Nov. 28 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall,

Our Advent Party and Decorating the Sanctuary will take place on Dec. 1 at 10:45 after worship.

Our Christmas Fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Budget Shop is open Saturday mornings and is fully stocked with bargains galore. Thanks to everyone for their patronage and donations.

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 3, at 12 noon. Dues for 2025 are \$55; please mail the dues as soon as possible or drop them off at the Post. Make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next event. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call 718-885-0639 and ask our Activities Vice Commander Greg Clancy about availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

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

Please visit our website, Leonardh-hawkinspost156.com, to find the latest community information and downloadable flyers of veteran events.

Thank you for your support for yet another successful Pumpkin Sale and the Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale. The community support is much needed and gratefully appreciated.

The following are dates of upcoming events:

Nov. 3: Regular Post Meeting at 12 noon (Daylight Savings ends)

Nov. 5: Election Day. Get-Out-The-Vote!!

Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919), U.S. Marines Birthday

Nov. 10: Bronx Veterans Day Parade forms at East Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Avenue at 12 noon. We will step off under the Bronx County Banner.

Nov. 11: Pelham Grove (Winged Victory Monument) Veterans Day Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in Pelham Bay Park. Please arrive promptly at 10:30 as the ceremony will start on time.

Nov. 11: NYC Veterans Day Parade forms at 26th Street and Fifth Avenue at 1 p.m. Uniform: blue jacket, gray pants, shirt and tie, and the Legion cap.

Nov. 28: Happy Thanksgiving to all!

The American Legion Family of City Island Post 156 is starting a beautification project at the Veterans Memorial Triangle, also known as the Legion Triangle. The invasive weeds are being removed and the soil quality improved. This project started on Monday, Oct. 21, and will be concluded as soon as possible.



Photo by THERESA PANZA
Post 156 Legionnaire Mattia Panza was wrapped in his Quilt of Valor on Oct. 13, 2024, in a festive ceremony. He served 24 years in the U.S. Army (Vietnam War) and Army Reserves. He also served in the NYPD Organized Crime Control Bureau.

Over the next two to three years the triangle will become established with a host of variety and robust plantings that are native to New York City. The funding for this project comes from the Queen of Hearts game of chance and is part of our goal to provide a gift of beauty to the City Island community.

We thank you all for your continued support of Leonard H. Hawkins, Post 156, as we incorporate this community project as a fitting tribute to our veterans.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Sons of the American Legion

Greetings to all. I hope everyone had a fun and safe Halloween. I'd like to start with a thank you to the members of our local fire house for mounting the banner for the annual Legion Pumpkin Sale. I would also like to thank all those members of both the Legion family and Troop 211 who helped set up, work the sale and close down every day. And finally thank you to all who came to the Pumpkin Sale and supported the Legion by making a purchase.

Our meeting this month will be on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. If you have not already done so, we ask that you send in your \$30 membership dues for 2025 to American Legion Post 156, Attn: SAL, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. You can also drop the dues off in person. Please make sure your name is on the envelope.

On Nov. 10, there will be an early Giants game against the Panthers in Munich, Germany. For \$25, we will be serving a breakfast sandwich of your choice with a side of home fries, Bloody Marys, screwdrivers and canned beer. Kickoff is at 9:30 a.m. Come to the Post by 9:15 to get your sandwich order in.

Also on the 10th, the Bronx Veterans Day Parade will start at Lafayette and Tremont Avenues and proceed to Veterans Memorial Park in Throggs Neck, with a ceremony to follow. Step-off is at 12 noon.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the Legion family will gather at the Winged Victory Monument in Pelham Bay Park for the Veterans Day Ceremony. We will gather there at 10:30 a.m.; the ceremony will begin at 10:45. Veterans and attendees of the service are invited back to Post 156 for a lunch hosted by the SAL.

Finally I would ask, once again, as you gather around your tables this Thanksgiving, that you take time to give thanks to those who have served and are serving in our armed forces. Let's thank them with our voices when we can, our prayers when we can't and in our hearts always.

Here's wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Peter Chadwick

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. We will host a candidates' night for

Assembly District, State Senate District and Congressional District. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the meeting, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity is being reviewed by the NY City Council Land Use Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises and will then go to the full Land Use Committee and eventually to the City Council General Meeting, presumably by the end of 2024. Hundreds of New Yorkers, including a number of City Islanders, shared their views at a City Council hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 22, in response to Monday's hearing in which Daniel Garodnick, director of the Department of City Planning, and City Island resident Adolfo Carrion, commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development, presented testimony promoting the overhaul of existing zoning regulations. At the Tuesday hearing, City Planning reassured Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato that City Island Special District Zoning will remain in place, as requested also by Borough President Vanessa Gibson, but this would not prevent revisions to specific aspects of the zoning in the future.

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

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 1925 Williamsbridge Road, Floor 2, Bronx, NY 10461. Phone: 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554, New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@council.nyc.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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Community Center News

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

Fall greetings and thank you to all who supported our Women’s Wellness Workshop on Oct. 13 in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We are looking forward to making this a tradition that the Center does every year. Our Center is in full swing with our membership drive. You now can pay your dues for the very first time by Zelle; our QR Code will be on our Facebook page and on our Instagram page. Thank you to all our current members for your loyal commitment to the Community Center. You can find all of our up-to-date happenings on our Facebook page and on our bulletin board, which is located near the main entrance of the Center by the ramp.

Monday: **Latin Dance** private lessons are available after 6:30 p.m. Have you ever wanted to feel as if you could join “Dancing with the Stars”? Well, here is your opportunity. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Tuesday: **City Island Civic Association** meets last Tuesday of the month (except December).

Wednesday: **Irish Dance**, 6 to 8 p.m. Kids and adults are both welcome, even just to observe the class. Contact Caitlin Kelly at 914-262-4517.

Wednesday: **Latin Dance** private lessons available before 1 p.m. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Thursday: **Family Zumba Class**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. With its high energy and simple dance moves, Zumba is the perfect physical activity for parents and kids. Contact Teasha at 646-770-4254.

Friday: **Girl Scouts Troop 1814**, every other week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Saturday: **AA**, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Contact Jason at 917-496-9615 or Jay at 201-988-2515.

Saturday: **Yoga** from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact Teasha at 646-770-4254.

Sunday: **AA**, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Contact Jason at 917-496-9615 or Jay at 201-988-2515.

All classes taught at the Center can be paid to our amazing teachers by Zelle.

Thinking of a place to host your next workshop or kid’s birthday? How about a work event or a holiday work party? Rent our affordable venue and directly support our non-for-profit organization.

For availability, call Cheryl Riordan at 347-843-5076.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Melissa Cebollero

Peace at Home, Then on Earth.



Cathi Swett

Wish You a Warm and Joyful Thanksgiving!



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PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island Center is located at 116 City Island Avenue at Grace Episcopal Church. Stop by the center to check out the many exciting activities scheduled for November.

Our Gleeful Dance program is being offered on Monday, Nov. 4, and Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 12:30 p.m. Join Julio Melo-Ramos for a special Virtual Reality program on Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 12 to 3 p.m. Information about the latest financial scams will be presented by staff from Ridgewood Savings Bank on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Please stop by PSS City Island Center and check out our calendar for more details on these and other activities we have to offer. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free so if you are 60 or older please join us. Members have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, stop by the Center on Tuesday mornings to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos or on Wednesday afternoons to meet with our new technology instructor, Louis Armstrong.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available at noon as well.

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

November Activities

(get our calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 11 a.m., Diabetes Virtual Presentation with Montefiore

Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 11 a.m., Fraud Virtual Presentation with Helper Bears

Thursday, Nov. 7, Virtual Streaming of Talent Show Competition among Centers from PSS Jackson Center

Friday, Nov. 8, at 10 a.m., COPD: What Is It? Hosted by Students and Faculty from St. John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (virtual presentation only—call for meeting ID)

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 12 to 3 p.m., Experience Virtual Reality with PSS Tech Instructor, Julio Melo-Ramos.

Thursday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m., Diabetes Nutrition with Dina (virtual presentation)

Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 12:30 p.m., Financial Scams with Ridgewood Savings Bank

Thursday, Nov. 21, Birthday Party with Live Entertainment with Jimmy

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified. Classes are free but donations are much appreciated.

Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in-person)

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 p.m. Introductory Spanish with Maria

Tuesday

9 a.m. Individual tech assistance with Julio

9 a.m. Cardio Fit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

11 a.m. Tech Instruction with Julio

12 p.m. In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1 p.m. Board Games-Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise with Patty G. (remote and in person)

12:45 p.m. Crafter’s Corner/Crochet with Sandra and Carla

12 to 3 p.m. Tech instruction and assistance with Louis Armstrong

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

9 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (in person)



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The altar servers of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church were honored and received a special blessing at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024. Afterwards these young boys and girls who assist the celebrant at Mass posed with Deacon Bill Mueller outside the church.

and remote)

10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe’s and Target. We will be going to Lidl once it opens. On-Island afternoon trips are also available. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Two bus trips are being planned for December, so be sure to stop by the Center to sign up when the trips are finalized. One trip is to the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown for the holidays; the other holiday trip is still in the planning stages.

Please note the Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28, for Thanksgiving, as well as Friday, Nov. 29. The Center will be reopening on Monday, Dec. 2.

All of us at PSS City Island wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to Temple Beth-El (TBE), “your shul by the sea,” with Rabbi Barbara Symons. We look forward to singing and dancing in prayer and studying Torah and the world with any and all peoples.

Our shul is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for the observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive, and open-minded worship. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and let us know which event you would like to attend.

To members and non-members, we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following are events for November 2024.

EREV Shabbat Services (All services begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.)

Nov. 1: Shabbat at TBE with Rabbi Barbara and the band

Nov. 8: Zoom Shabbat with Stu and Leslie

Nov. 15: Zoom Shabbat with Shari and Monty

Nov. 22: Shabbat at TBE with Rabbi Barbara and the band

Nov. 29: Shabbat, but where? and with whom? TBD

Torah Study, Saturday, Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at TBE. Coffee, bagels, Torah and a mini-Saturday morning Shacharit Lech-Lecha—Genesis 12:1–17:27. The birth of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, and the covenant between Abraham, his descendants and God.

City Island Sunday at the Movies with TBE. Join us on Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. for a screening of “Yentl” starring (do we really have to say?) at Cinema on the Sound, 272 City Island Avenue. Tickets: \$20 and a 50/50 raffle. Afterwards, join us at City Island Pizza Company.

Study with Rabbi Barbara: “What do Our

Prayers Mean?” We will take a deep dive into three primary Shabbat prayers, so we know what we’re talking about when we talk to God. Three Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14 and 21, at 7:30 p.m., Zoom only. Register and pay on our webpage: www.yourshulbythesea.org. Members: \$18, Non-members: \$36.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We’d be happy to host you.

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

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

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

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

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

City Island Oyster Reef

We have been active on the CIOR skiff throughout the spring, summer and fall, monitoring water-quality parameters, measuring oysters and identifying biodiversity. This season CIOR interns and volunteers found a variety of biodiversity, including fish of these species: blackfish, goby, skillet, oyster toadfish, feather blenny and sea robin. A variety of crabs—mud crabs, green and Asian shore crabs—as well as a variety of sessile organisms such as chain and golden star tunicates, boring sponges, bushy and lacy bryozoans were found attached to our oyster cages. A multitude of shrimp and worms—even frilled anemones—were attracted to the cages as their marine home. CIOR is grateful to the Billion Oyster Project for providing these Oyster Research Stations for the past five years.

CIOR needs help bagging cured shells at the Pelham Bay landfill on Nov. 11 and loading shells on Dec. 9. Shells are collected from City Island restaurants throughout the spring and summer, cured at Pelham Bay landfill and delivered to the Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Marine Center at Southold, where they will be set with spat (baby oysters) and then returned to Long Island Sound environmental projects and to CIOR’s oyster cages in the spring. Thank you to all our participating restaurants: Sammy’s Fish Box, Sammy’s Shrimp Box, Sea Shore Restaurant, Tony’s Pier, Johnny’s Reef and Seafood City for all their tremendous support.

Learn about CIOR’s monitoring of RCRA metals, phosphorus, nitrogen and fecal coliform in the waters off City Island at our webinar on Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., presented by CIOR intern Kaitlyn Mohammed.

To register for all CIOR activities check out our website: www.cioysterreef.org.

Sally Connolly

Continued on page 11



Unexpected Performances

Movies are replete with performances by members of the acting community who have developed their own particular style and preferred genre. However, when these actors step out of their comfort zone, the results can be unexpected and quite a sight to behold.

In **Yankee Doodle Dandy** (1942) Broadway legend George M. Cohan (James Cagney) is brought to the White House to receive a Congressional Gold Medal from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Cohan reflects on his life, and flashbacks trace his rise from a childhood performing in his family’s vaudeville act to his early days as a struggling Tin Pan Alley songwriter to his overwhelming success as an actor, writer, director and producer known for patriotic songs like “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” “You’re a Grand Old Flag” and “Over There.” Seeing Cagney dance is amazing!

Judgment at Nuremberg (1961) is the greatest judge movie ever made. It tells the story of the aftermath of WWII when in 1948, a series of trials were held in Nuremberg, Germany, by an international tribunal headed by American legal and military officials. The intent was to bring to justice those guilty of crimes against humanity. This film is a dramatized version of the proceedings at one such trial against four German judges—most notably Dr. Ernst Janning (Burt Lancaster) and Emil Hahn (Werner Klemperer)—accused of knowingly sentencing innocent men to death in collusion with the Nazis. Judge Dan Haywood (Spencer Tracy) is overseeing the trials, while Maximilian Schell gives an Oscar-winning performance as defense attorney Hans Rolfe. Although she didn’t win, Judy Garland was nominated for her Supporting Actress role as Irene Wallner, a reluctant witness who was a concentration camp survivor. It was a memorable, heartbreaking performance.

In **The Misfits** (1961) while filing for a divorce, beautiful ex-stripper Roslyn Taber (Marilyn Monroe) meets aging cowboy-turned-gambler Gay Langland (Clark Gable), former World War II aviator Guido Racanelli (Eli Wallach) and ex-rodeo rider Perce Howland (Montgomery Clift). The unlikely four-some strike up a business capturing wild horses. The film was the last completed film for both Gable (who died three months before the premiere) and Monroe (who died a year after its release). Monroe presented a significantly more vulnerable and emotionally complex portrayal compared to her previous roles, showcasing a deeply troubled woman rather than the stereotypical glamorous blonde bombshell.

Once Upon a Time in the West aka *C’era una volta il West* (1968; U.S.-Italian) is a highly stylized Sergio Leone western in which the soundtrack is a significant part of the film. A mysterious stranger with a harmonica (Charles Bronson) joins forces with a notorious desperado (Henry Fonda) to protect a beautiful widow (Claudia Cardinale) from a ruthless assassin working for the railroad. This is the one film in which Fonda plays a villain. Beware of the chopped-up two-hour and 20 minute version. The original two-hour 45-minute version was released in Europe and was very successful. When it was edited for the American release, it didn’t do well at all.

A classic satire of the time is **Being There** (1979), starring Peter Sellers as Chauncey Gardener, a simpleton gardener for a wealthy man who has just died. Chauncey is taken in by Ben (Melvyn Douglas), a personal friend of the U.S. President (Jack Warden), and Ben’s wife, Eve (Shirley MacLaine), becomes infatuated with him. The script is fascinating because we see how a man who speaks sparingly and simply can be mistaken for a political genius. This role was quite a departure for Sellers’ usual slapstick roles.

Don’t miss the out-takes during the closing credits.

Although Jeff Bridges had been acting throughout the 1970’s, he didn’t really appear on the cinema map for me until his Oscar-nominated performance as an extraterrestrial being in **Starman** (1984). When he crash lands on earth, he takes the shape of the recently deceased husband of the grieving young Jenny Hayden (Karen Allen). He has come with greetings in response to messages from the earth sent out by Voyager II. He must rendezvous with his ship in the Arizona desert before his earthly form dies, so Jenny drives him there. Bridges is impressive as the alien whose stilted unnatural bodily movements are quite convincing.

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker that spans 1909 to 1949 in the Deep South, **The Color Purple** (1985) stars Whoopi Goldberg in a spectacular performance as Celie, the center of the film. She is sold into a life of servitude to her brutal husband, Albert (Danny Glover), after having been raped by her father and having borne two children who were taken away from her. Another remarkable performance is that of Oprah Winfrey as Sofia, the strong-willed wife of Albert’s son from a former marriage. Celie forms a strong friendship with Albert’s mistress, Shug (Margaret Avery), which empowers her. She searches through her husband’s belongings and discovers that her sister Nettie (Akousa Bousia) had been writing to her for years from Africa. This film’s final reconciliation of forces that had been beyond Celie’s control is profoundly moving.

Do the Right Thing (1989) is the third (and breakout) feature film for African-American writer/director Spike Lee (who also starred as the pizzeria’s delivery boy Mookie). Based on real-life events, this controversial thought-provoking film depicts an explosive conflict and relations between Italian- and African-Americans, Koreans and white law enforcement in a multi-ethnic Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood block during a stifling hot summer day. The multi-ethnic cast of the film provided three-dimensional characters and featured the early career work of Samuel L. Jackson (as local black DJ Mister Señor Love Daddy providing commentary) and Rosie Perez. An outstanding, unexpected performance is given by Giancarlo Esposito as militant patron named Buggin’ Out, who exacerbates tension in this explosive community by complaining that there were no pictures of “brothers” on the Wall of Fame in a white-operated, Italian pizza restaurant owned by Sal (Danny Aiello). A boiling point is eventually reached in this street-wise landmark film.

In **Regarding Henry** (1991) Harrison Ford stars as Henry Turner, a slick, ruthless corporate attorney who is a bully to his adolescent daughter, Rachel (Mikki Allen). Henry cheats on his wife, Sarah (Annette Bening), and treats everyone from the maid to his assistant with cruel selfishness. When tragedy strikes him, after a long coma, Henry survives only to find that he has no memory and must re-learn everything from reading to tying his shoes. Henry’s therapist (Bill Nunn) helps him reconnect with his family and become a much better person than he once was. Turner’s transformation is mesmerizing.

What’s Eating Gilbert Grape (1993) stars Johnny Depp in the title role as a young man who serves as breadwinner and caretaker for his mother and siblings. Momma (Darlene Cates) is a morbidly obese shut-in who hasn’t left the house in seven years. Her children include retarded Arnie (Leonardo DiCaprio in a stunning Oscar-nominated screen debut), who is about to turn 18. Arnie is unlike any other character DiCaprio has ever portrayed thus far. When Becky (Juliette Lewis), a young woman who has been escorting her grandmother on a road trip arrives, Gilbert begins to consider his own happiness for a change.

Twelve Monkeys (1995) stars Bruce Willis as James Cole, a prisoner from the future where everyone lives below ground. He is forced to travel back in time over and over again to gather information to help scientists prevent the death of five billion people due to a deadly germ. He is aided by a psychiatrist, Dr. Kathryn Railly (Madeleine Stowe). Brad Pitt gives a Golden Globe-winning performance as the very crazy Jeffrey Goines, who

is a key to saving the world.

In **One Hour Photo** (2002) Robin Williams has the very creepy role as Parrish, the control-freak manager of a one-hour photo stand in the Sav-Mart superstore, which allows him to peer into the lives of his customers. He becomes obsessed with the Yorkin family, especially the son, Jakob (Dylan Smith), and the smiling, beautiful mother, Nina (Connie Nielsen). When he discovers that Nina is upset with her husband, Will (Michael Vartan), Sy starts stalking him. As his life starts to unravel, the audience is riveted by Williams’ outstanding performance.

In her Oscar-winning best actress performance, Charlize Theron completely disappears into the character of the disturbed and violent notorious Florida murderer Aileen Wuornos in the graphic film **Monster** (2003). Having survived as a prostitute, Aileen meets Selby Wall (Christine Ricci) and wants to make honest money to support them both. Her efforts are thwarted at every turn, and the rage she exudes is palpable. There is a graphic rape scene in this film, so be forewarned.

The Devil Wears Prada (2006) is the story of Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), a would-be journalist who “settles” for a job for which scores of young women would sell their souls—that of assistant to the managing editor of Vogue Magazine, Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep). The supporting cast includes Stanley Tucci as designer Nigel, Emily Blunt as Miranda’s primary assistant, Andrian Grenier as Andy’s boyfriend Nate and Simon Baker as Christian Thompson, a rakish writer who tries to capture Andy’s heart. Streep steps out of her usual roles to play an arrogant, megalomaniacal, icy manager who mistreats all her employees.

Lars and the Real Girl (2007) stars Ryan Gosling as the extremely shy Lars, who finds it impossible to make friends or socialize. His brother (Paul Schneider) and sister-in-law (Emily Mortimer) worry about him, so when he announces that he has a girlfriend whom he met on the Internet, they are overjoyed. But Lars’ new lady is a life-size plastic woman. On the advice of a doctor (Patricia Clarkson), his family and the rest of the community go along with his delusion.

The Dark Knight (2008) is the second in the Batman trilogy. The key performance

in the movie is by the late Heath Ledger in his posthumous Oscar-winning performance as the Joker. He seeks revenge for the horrible punishment his father exacted on him when he was a child. Throughout the film, he devises ingenious situations that force Batman (Christian Bale), Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) to make impossible ethical decisions. By the end, the whole moral foundation of the Batman legend is threatened.

Roman J. Israel Esq. (2018) stars Denzel Washington in the title role of a very odd legal savant with a talent for alienating potential allies. His attire of ill-fitting maroon suits is as outdated as his righteous progressiveness. He is appalled by the mercenary legal system and uncaring society. An idealistic defense lawyer, Israel has spent his career working behind the scenes in the law office of a legendary civil rights attorney. Israel’s life is upended when his boss and mentor dies unexpectedly and the cases are take over by ambitious lawyer George Pierce (Colin Farrell) whom Israel thinks is the devil. Completely opposite to his usual alpha male persona, this role is unlike any Denzel has ever previously undertaken and earned him an Oscar nomination.

The most surprising performance is in the limited Israeli TV series **The Spy** (Israeli; 2019, 6 episodes), which is based on the real-life story of former undercover Mossad agent Eli Cohen. The usually wild and crazy Sacha Baron Cohen stars in this intense dramatic role. In the early 1960s, Cohen goes to Syria, where he gains the trust of military leaders and their rich friends to learn about Syria’s biggest anti-Israel secret initiatives. Noah Emmerich plays Dan Peleg, Eli’s Mossad handler; Hadar Ratzon Rotem portrays Eli’s neglected and suspicious wife, Nadia; and Waleed Zuaiter is featured as Amin Al-Hafz, a military officer who thinks he’s found the perfect ally in the undercover Cohen. For those who have found Sacha Baron Cohen’s comedy (Borat, Ali G) offensive, be aware that in 2019, Baron Cohen was in fact awarded an International Leadership Award by the Anti-Defamation League for leadership in fighting bigotry and prejudice.

And until next time, happy viewing...

The City Island Chamber of Commerce
Wishes All A
Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!

Join Us For The
Tree Lighting | Hawkins Park
Saturday, November 30, 7:30 PM
Caroling by the St. Mary Star of the Sea Choir

Reception following the tree lighting at
Kaleidoscope Gallery (271 City Island Avenue).

~ SHOP LOCAL ~
www.CityIslandChamber.org

Organizational Management at Home: A Guide for Parents

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Many of us have been exposed to management techniques in the workplace. Oftentimes some consultant was brought in, and a plan was embraced by the administration, usually to the chagrin of the workers. Oh my! Hopefully at least some of the suggestions have been helpful!

Running a household with kids can be more challenging than running a business: you are open 24/7, with no vacation time, and you have few opportunities for professional development! Getting through the week's schedule—or planning something bigger like a family vacation—can be fraught with miscommunication and frustration between parenting partners. If you are reading this you might be open to suggestions, so here I go:

- **Conception:** Jointly come up with an idea, such as a whiteboard schedule for the week or a decision to spend a weekend looking at fall foliage, and agree to jointly take responsibility for what happens next.
- **Planning:** Make a detailed plan, such as who drives Johnny to the dentist and who picks up Hannah at ballet, and write it down (perhaps on the whiteboard schedule!).
- **Execution:** Be circumspect about carrying out what you signed up for. If

there needs to be changes (which might be inevitable) approach the partner with grace and humility when asking for a new arrangement.

Research suggests that many working women are still doing a “second shift” when they get home from work, which often leads to resentment and exhaustion. Research (and my own experience) also suggest that men benefit from multiple ways by engaging with family in the home—cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc.—to get beyond traditional stereotypes of men as bumbling nincompoops when it comes to making school lunches or getting grass stains out of your child's pants.

Parenting is probably the hardest job many of us will ever do. Let's have a plan to co-parent well, sharing both the tasks and joys of a family that works well. What are you waiting for?

As you enjoy the fellowship of Thanksgiving dinner, please be sure to acknowledge the indigenous peoples whose land we live upon; here on City Island they were the Lenape, who often had summer camps on the island for fishing and harvesting shellfish.

If you are a man facing retirement and would like some guidance about that process, give me a call at 610-864-9505 for a free 30-minute consultation.

Organization News

Continued from page 9

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship for 175 years, is open for in-person and remote services. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

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

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: A City Island Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church on Monday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. Father Kevin will lead the service along with clergy from all Island houses of worship.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month during special services. We will begin planning for our 2024 Christmas Eve Pageant in November, and all are welcome to join. If you would like to be part of Grace's Church School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

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

The **GraceTones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you'd like to join, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Karen Nani

AARP Chapter 318

Our next meeting will be at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street on Nov. 14 at noon. It will be a regular meeting with Bingo afterward, if there are enough participants. On Dec. 12 we will attend our holiday lunch at the Lobster House; the cost will be \$55 and

must be paid at the November meeting.

New members are always welcome. For further information, call Cathy Kehoe at 718-824-0037.

Cathy Kehoe

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our annual Thrift Shop Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in the Thrift Shop and in the school gym. Come, browse and shop for bargains.

Arlene Byrne

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

The first two days of November mark two special days. Nov. 1 is the feast of All Saints and Nov. 2 is the Commemoration of All Souls. We remember all who have passed from this life to the next.

Our monthly holy hour will be held on Friday, Nov. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

The Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program is off to a great start; we thank you for your support. Look for details for our turkey raffle in mid-November.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried goods, which will be distributed to those less fortunate. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Dec. 1, marks the first Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the new church year, and the season is a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our troubled world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Our Annual Thrift Shop Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in the Thrift Shop and in the school gym. Come, browse and shop for bargains!

Rosette Dietz

CLERGY, CLAMS AND CANINES!



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, KAREN NANI and ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS

A surprising variety of City Island animals were blessed at celebrations of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi in October 2024. On Sunday, Oct. 6, in St. Mary's schoolyard, both the feathered and the furry waited patiently for their special blessing from Deacon Bill Mueller (bottom photo). The blessing at Grace Episcopal Church on the same day was led by Fr. Kevin Moroney (top photo). And at St. John the Divine Cathedral in Manhattan, members of the City Island Oyster Reef brought oysters up the aisle for special prayers (middle photos).

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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				
NOVEMBER 2024									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0611	0.8	1146	7.9	1846	0.1			Fri 01
02 Sat	0021	7.1	0623	0.9	1212	8.0	1910	0.1	Sat 02
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 3									
03 Sun	0046	7.0	0544	0.9	1146	8.0	1828	0.2	Sun 03
04 Mon	0018	6.9	0618	1.0	1224	7.9	1857	0.3	Mon 04
05 Tue	0056	6.8	0657	1.1	1307	7.8	1936	0.5	Tue 05
06 Wed	0139	6.7	0741	1.2	1353	7.6	2021	0.7	Wed 06
07 Thu	0227	6.7	0832	1.3	1444	7.4	2114	0.8	Thu 07
08 Fri	0323	6.7	0933	1.4	1543	7.2	2216	0.9	Fri 08
09 Sat	0424	6.9	1047	1.2	1647	7.1	2323	0.8	Sat 09
10 Sun	0529	7.2	1218	0.8	1758	7.1			Sun 10
11 Mon	0034	0.6	0638	7.7	1338	0.3	1918	7.3	Mon 11
12 Tue	0143	0.3	0745	8.3	1437	-0.4	2026	7.6	Tue 12
13 Wed	0239	0.0	0841	8.8	1529	-0.9	2120	7.9	Wed 13
14 Thu	0330	-0.3	0931	9.3	1619	-1.3	2211	8.1	Thu 14
15 Fri	0420	-0.5	1021	9.4	1710	-1.4	2302	8.1	Fri 15
16 Sat	0512	-0.5	1111	9.4	1801	-1.4	2354	8.0	Sat 16
17 Sun	0604	-0.4	1202	9.1	1852	-1.2			Sun 17
18 Mon	0046	7.8	0657	-0.1	1253	8.7	1943	-0.8	Mon 18
19 Tue	0139	7.5	0752	0.3	1345	8.2	2039	-0.3	Tue 19
20 Wed	0235	7.2	0856	0.7	1442	7.6	2139	0.1	Wed 20
21 Thu	0338	6.9	1005	1.0	1550	7.1	2239	0.5	Thu 21
22 Fri	0440	6.7	1108	1.1	1657	6.7	2335	0.7	Fri 22
23 Sat	0537	6.7	1206	1.1	1759	6.4			Sat 23
24 Sun	0029	0.9	0632	6.7	1302	0.9	1859	6.3	Sun 24
25 Mon	0120	1.0	0724	6.9	1354	0.7	1953	6.3	Mon 25
26 Tue	0208	1.0	0809	7.1	1441	0.5	2040	6.4	Tue 26
27 Wed	0252	1.0	0848	7.3	1525	0.3	2121	6.5	Wed 27
28 Thu	0332	0.9	0921	7.5	1606	0.1	2157	6.6	Thu 28
29 Fri	0407	0.9	0947	7.6	1646	0.0	2228	6.7	Fri 29
30 Sat	0433	0.9	1013	7.8	1722	-0.1	2255	6.7	Sat 30
DECEMBER 2024									
01 Sun	0450	0.9	1045	7.9	1753	-0.1	2325	6.8	Sun 01
02 Mon	0521	0.8	1124	7.9	1817	-0.1			Mon 02
03 Tue	0001	6.8	0600	0.8	1205	7.9	1846	0.0	Tue 03
04 Wed	0041	6.9	0643	0.8	1250	7.8	1922	0.0	Wed 04
05 Thu	0125	6.9	0729	0.8	1337	7.6	2005	0.1	Thu 05



Photo by JUDY JUDSON
This month, the Garden Club is pleased to highlight Jack's Bait and Tackle for their fall decorations.



Subway Series

If the Yankees and Mets had met in Major League Baseball's World Championship this year, it would have been yet another subway series for New Yorkers to brag about. But not the second subway series, as some would have you believe. No, it would have been the 16th! Before the Giants and the Dodgers moved to California to play baseball in 1957, they were the New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers. Those Giants and Dodgers played the Yankees seven times each to decide a championship.

Baseball in New York has a history that stretches all the way back to Civil War times. According to Gregory J. Christiano, "one of the themes of early baseball's development was the central role of New York City and vicinity in nurturing and spreading the infant game." In many instances, the so called "New York rules" came to be major league baseball's rules out of a preponderance of players and teams: there were simply more of them in New York than places like Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia, and the majority usually rules. One example of a New York rule is how an out came to be recorded after a fielder caught a flyball. Before that, it could have been an out if the same fielder caught the ball even after one bounce.

City Islanders were right in the middle of some of the earliest known baseball

games ever played. Teams such as the Beldenites, the Rivals and the Shamrocks battled teams from Westchester regularly. The after party seemed to have a lot to do with it. In 1888, the Shamrocks even voted to change their name to the Minnefords so they could celebrate at Devaugh's. Or so it seemed.

The earliest known game of baseball to be played in our area was between a City Island team called the Nonpareils and the Westchester Uniteds. Historian Blake Bell unearthed the following description of the game that was played in October of 1865: "The day was one of those raw ones when the sun hangs heavy in the heavens, and the chill air seems to make crawl the marrow in one's bones, yet it did not in the least disturb the equanimity of the players, but apparently added a greater and a keener zest to the play. The game was a well contested one, the Nonpareils making only 26 runs to the Uniteds [sic] 19..."

Not surprisingly, the game was followed up with a "substantial repast" where the "lager flowed" and the "jest and song went round" and round.

Take me out to THAT ball game!

Readers interested in City Island baseball history might like to review "City Island Baseball Back When," an article by Bernard Witlieb that appeared in the April 2024 issue of The Island Current. To read earlier Current articles, go to <https://theislandcurrent.com/archive-downloads>.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Miscanthus Yakujima

Looking Ahead

Tarnished grasses by the City Island Bridge complement the sky of my childhood, billowing white and cobbled blue. It is rusty autumn, and as the tender plants die down, seeds ripen in the sun and are ready for gathering.

It is almost too late for planting, but now is the time to do it before the frost sets in. In my garden I have decided to replant most perennials with small and intermediate grasses. These grasses suppress the weeds, besides being beautiful with evergreens and shrubs. Garden chores are minimal, perfect for old folks like me. In the shade ferns, hellebores and primrose fill the shade areas with small pockets of rarities like trillium, may apple and woodland poppies, which take care of themselves.

It is so satisfying to collect, store and

eventually plant seeds from our own gardens. I save mine in small brown paper packets and label them with their names and dates. I pick them when they are ripe and if they are not totally dry, I leave them on a sunny window, or I cut the whole stalk with flower and stalk and hang them upside down in a paper bag to ripen.

Putting brown paper bags around the seed heads while the plants are still in position is another way of gathering, but don't do this in damp weather. Collect on a sunny day. Avoid plastic and don't overstuff your envelopes. Clean your seed before storing by separating any loose material from the actual seed. You can use a sieve if the seeds are large, and also white paper so that you can see the seed better, as some are very tiny. You can begin planting immediately, and this way you can have spring begin in the depths of winter.

Now I am busy cutting down all the perennials to reveal what I had planted specifically for winter. I will leave the grasses and add more bulbs to the species I already have making larger clumps and drifts. The larger the drift, the bigger the visual impact on your backyard landscape. The evergreen spruces, boxwood, holly and yew begin to take center stage. Fiery red twig dogwoods blaze amidst the backlit grasses.

I am thinking about adding small cyclamen coum (also known as Persian violet) to my woodland walk under the trees. Their starry flowers will be ready to appear come winter. Cyclamen coum looks lovely with snowdrops. Other bulbs to try would be the species daffodils, narcissus pseudonarcissus, and the late narcissus poeticus var. recurvus, which is known for its sweet scent and superior beauty. These bulbs will naturalize and the squirrels won't eat them.

So harvest your seeds, put your gardens to bed and make ready for your Thanksgiving feast. City Island is a cornucopia of interesting, good people, with the beauty of Pelham Bay Park as a stunning backdrop. To be surrounded by a sanctuary of plants and animals is rare in an age of fast-paced technology. As my car veers off the Hutchinson River Parkway onto the road to

City Island, I always sigh with relief. There is much to be thankful for in this small Island community. Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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.

Robert Matthew McConaghy Sr.

Robert Matthew McConaghy Sr., longtime resident of City Island, died on Oct. 9, 2024, at the age of 77.

Rob was born in the Bronx to Robert Francis and Martha (Tully) McConaghy on Dec. 15, 1946. and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School before becoming a member of Cardinal Spellman High School's inaugural graduating class. He subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from St. John's University in 1969, where he began a lifelong passion for St. John's basketball.

Following in his father's footsteps, Rob pursued a career as a Bill Poster for Sale Point Posters, where he worked from 1969 until his retirement in 1992. He later began a second career as a doorman for the River House apartment complex in Bronxville, where he worked until the spring of 2024.

Rob was also heavily involved in his community as a soccer coach and board member for New Rochelle Youth Soccer and as a Boy Scout Leader for Troop 6, also in New Rochelle. He was a lifelong parishioner of St. Mary, Star of the Sea RC Church on City Island.

Rob will be remembered for his love of family, sports, animals, lighthouses and his beloved Cape May, NJ. He is survived by Elizabeth (Fennel), his wife of 53 years; his children, Robert (Stephanie), Brian (Jennifer), Kristin and Erin; and his grandchildren Meghan, Andrew, Kevin, Nicholas, Ella and Jack.

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: *marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com*. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas. Show your bridge love!

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City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the City Island Culinary Club. We had such a great time celebrating Oktoberfest at our Oct. 8 meeting. Our member Sue graciously hosted at her house. We had homemade red cabbage from Linda, some delicious bratwurst, kielbasa and spätzli, and we enjoyed a selection of Oktoberfest beers, thanks to Patty and Steve. We also feasted on German potato salad, rye bread with liverwurst and tasty homemade apple sauce. For dessert we had the most wonderful homemade ginger snaps, my all-time favorite cookie. Our November meeting will be exploring skillet meals. If you want to join us and all the fun, please call 917-533-7873 for details. Here is a tasty skillet dish.

Stuffed Pepper Skillet

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound 90% lean ground beef
- 1 cup diced sweet yellow onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- ½ cup diced green bell pepper
- 14.5-ounce can of fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 cup long-grain white rice, such as jasmine
- 2 ½ cups low-sodium beef broth
- 2 teaspoons Worcester sauce
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, divided
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded pepperjack cheese
- ½ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Directions

Heat the oil in a deep 12-inch skillet over medium heat. Add the ground beef, onion and garlic, and cook, breaking up the beef with a spoon, until it is cooked through and crumbled. Drain the excess grease from the skillet and return it to the heat. Stir the tomato paste into the beef until it is well combined. Add the bell peppers, diced tomatoes, rice, beef broth, Worcestershire, 2 tablespoons of fresh parsley, Italian seasoning, smoked paprika, salt and pepper. Stir to combine and bring the mixture to a boil.

Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover and let cook until the rice is tender, 15 to 18 minutes.

Stir the mixture to fluff the rice. Top with the cheese, cover and continue to cook over low until the cheese melts. Garnish with the remaining parsley and serve.

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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.



Maria Swieciki and Niall Madine exchanged vows in Niall's native home, Ireland.

Belated happy eighth anniversary greetings on Oct. 7 to Cait and Richie O'Dwyer, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Nick Ruggiero, who turns the big 30 on Nov. 21. We wish you all the best!

Kudos to clam digger Jack Jokinen, whose book "A Stray Dog for Christmas" was published in September. Jack and Suzy came to City Island on Sept. 28 to sign copies of the book at Kaleidoscope and reunited with a number of Island friends, including Jason Breines and his parents.

Congratulations to City Island's Maria Swieciki and Niall Madine, who were married on July 11, 2024. The wedding took place at the Clondeboyne Lodge Hotel in Niall's home of County Down in Northern Ireland. Proud parents of the bride are Maria and Bob Swieciki of Bay Street; and



Making his debut on Sept. 23, 2024, Santino James Martinez.



It's a first for Emma Josephine Kolb!

the groom's thrilled parents are Mary and Marty Madine of Saval, County Down. The wedding was attended by many of the couple's City Island friends and family. The happy couple honeymooned in Croatia.

Cathi Swett has joined Corcoran as an associate broker. She first took the New York Salesperson course with Frank Sena at P.S. 175 (after overhearing his lectures during her crochet class). Cathi practiced law for decades in New York and New Jersey and did closings for Islanders on and off the Island. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Garden Club and Screen Actors Guild, and she has appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and "Asphalt City."

Welcome to Santino James Martinez, born on Sept. 23, 2024. Parents are Islanders Bridget McGowan and Osmar Martinez, and proud grandparents are Donna and Jim McGowan and Jose and Reina Martinez.

Happy fifth birthday to Luke Nani, who celebrated with his parents and grandparents, Islanders Karen and Paul Nani on Oct. 17. Proud grandpa Paul will celebrate his birthday on Nov. 15 with a few more candles on the cake.

Wedding bells rang when clam digger Dr. Christopher Silard married Kimberly Connors in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at The Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn on Oct. 11, 2024. Proud parents are Kathleen and Edward Silard and Denise and Richard Connors. Also in attendance were Islanders Judy and Frank DiMaio, proud aunt and uncle of the groom.

Fun was had by 17 P.S. 175 retirees on Oct. 7 at a reunion at Villaggio's Restaurant in Pelham. The reminiscing was led by former principal Ena Ellwanger.

Birthday wishes across the miles to Bobby Swieciki, who celebrates his big day on Nov. 12.



Former P.S. 175 teachers and staff gathered on Oct. 7, 2024, for a reunion luncheon in Pelham. Shown above are the happy retirees (seated, l. to r.) Ray Weis, Marge White, Ena Ellwanger, Ruth Eisen, Moira Carter Spencer, Felicia Stevelman and Mary Nardis. Standing: Ellen Funck, Julia DiMaio, Jackie Moscone, Angela Adler, Debbie McManus, Doreen Miskimmon, Pat Cambria, Margaret Vrettos, Emily Leni and Betty Carman.



Dr. Christopher Silard and Kimberly Connors were married on Oct. 11, 2024.

Lots of candles and celebrations in October and November for the Kolb family. Happy birthday to Emma Josephine Paula Kolb, who turned one year old on Oct. 9. Wishing you lots of blessings, love and happiness always from Grandma and Grandpa! Happy October birthday to proud daddy Christopher Kolb, and Happy November birthday to Lily Kolb. May all your birthday wishes and dreams come true. Happy third anniversary to Christopher and Thailine Kolb; wishing you both many more years of happiness. Love you, Mom and Dad.

Happy 14th birthday to our youngest, Emma Riordan, on Nov. 22. Love you to the moon and back Mom, Dad, Thomas, Grace and Lulu.

Wishing all our readers, neighbors and friends a happy, healthy and blessed Thanksgiving!

Maria Swieciki

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