

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Islanders on the Covid-19 Front Lines

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MATT PANZA and courtesy of the FIRST RESPONDERS

A number of City Islanders are on the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic responding to emergencies and helping others affected by this crisis, including Caitlin Doyle-Goldsmith (bottom photo, right); Merima Meggi (top left photo at front) and her ICU staff at Westchester Medical Center; Jillian Lotrionte (top right, back row with the multicolored head covering and blue scrubs); Brendan Delaney (bottom left with firefighters before social distancing, l. to r. George Diaz, Justin Scoggins, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Captain Delaney, Michael Corrigan and Brian Foley).

Sadly, City Island has not been exempt from the Covid-19 outbreak, but it has a relatively low percentage of cases based on our population. As *The Current* went to press, there were 113 confirmed cases of coronavirus on City Island, according to the New York City Department of Health. Tragically, there have been two reported Island deaths, including longtime Islander Helen McMahon (see obituary page 18) and Bowne Street resident Jesse Cintron. In addition, there have been reports that some who worked on City Island in the restaurants and marinas have died.

Meanwhile, City Island can be proud of its many residents and clam diggers who are working to heal, teach, rescue and support those afflicted by the Covid-19 virus in New York. *The Island Current* is proud to present some of their stories to our readers.

### Healthcare Providers

P.S. 175 graduate Caitlin Doyle-Goldsmith, RN, became a nurse five years ago

and currently works for the Westchester County Department of Health. She and her colleagues were on the front line at the start of the outbreak in New Rochelle in early March 2020.

Before there were statewide shelter-in-place orders, Caitlin and her team were on top of the need to minimize the spread of the virus. She was featured in a segment on CBS's "60 Minutes" on March 15 after the nearby Westchester town became a "containment zone." She and two other nurses drove around, wearing their personal protective equipment (PPE) in the streets, and visited patients in their homes to collect test swabs for analysis by labs.

"When the first patient from Westchester was reported, we were sent to his home to test his family members and then others who had come in contact with him. There was no drive-through testing site yet, so we had to go door to door," Caitlin told *The Current*. Governor Andrew Cuomo hailed their courage during the "60 Minutes"



scientist as everyone around the country was given the same orders once the outbreak became a pandemic.

Tier Street resident Merima Meggi is an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurse at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY, where she usually spends 12 hours or more on the job, either during the day or late at night. The current hospital building, constructed in 1977, has eight regular intensive care units with about 60 ICU beds, but as of press time, there were at least 120 ICU beds as normal units were converted. However, as Merima puts it: "Although you can convert beds, the problem is that you can't clone the nurses and doctors to handle critical care."

Merima, who was born in Bosnia, came to the United States in 1999 and worked at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. She relocated to the Westchester Medical Center in 2007 as an intensive care nurse and moved to City Island in 2013, largely because of her love of sailing. When asked why she chose intensive care as her specialty, Merima says that she finds it challenging. "You have to think one step ahead and have a plan A and a plan B, since everything happens so quickly. You have to act, not react, because if you simply react to a situation, you're already too late."

As she told *The Current*, "Time before the Covid era was fun and challenging at a hospital. You might say I was getting my dose of Adrenalin on a daily basis, feeling accomplished when we saved the patients." But the Covid-19 era has changed everything. "We have made our hospital into a Covid hospital, and all other patients have been transferred the ambulatory care pavilion, where we keep them safe. A couple of

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broadcast: "God bless them. God bless them. God bless them. I marvel at their courage and their dedication. You can't pay a person enough to do that."

Wasn't this stressful knowing how dangerous and contagious the coronavirus is? "At that time, we hadn't heard of other doctors and nurses getting sick, so we weren't very nervous," Caitlin explained calmly. Now it is more stressful, as she works six days a week, including visiting and testing hundreds of high-risk residents in Westchester nursing homes. She is currently focused on "contact investigations" and antibody testing to identify those who have survived the coronavirus and are potential plasma donors.

But on March 15, Caitlin told "60 Minutes" host Scott Pelley, "We're asking [residents] to stay home for 14 days pending the results of your labs. We're asking you not to go to work, not to go to school, not to go food shopping. Really, just stay home." A week later, this advice would prove pre-

**BRIEFLY...**

**ORGANIC COLLECTION STOPS MAY 4.** The NYC Department of Sanitation has announced that beginning on Monday, May 4, the curbside composting program is temporarily suspended and all food and yard waste must be thrown out with regular trash instead of in the brown organics bins. Note that although garbage and recycling collections may be delayed occasionally, residents should continue to follow their normal schedule and place material at the curb after 4 p.m. but before midnight the evening before the usual collection day. If items still haven't been picked up two days after the scheduled collection day, call 311.

**CITY ISLAND OYSTER REEF** is starting an educational series via Zoom as a way to bring the world of oyster restoration to Islanders interested in the subject. The first lecture will be given by Dr. Allison Fitzgerald of the NY/NJ Baykeeper Soundview Oyster Project on Wednesday, May 27, at 7:15 p.m. Learn about a thriving oyster reef just a few miles from City Island in the Soundview section of the Bronx. If you are interested in listening, e-mail the City Island Oyster Reef at [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

**POTS:** Although City Islanders are not able to do any cooking for POTS (Part of the Solution), the organization's pantry is open from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, and meals to go are available from noon to 3 p.m. Since their needs vary, the best solution for City Islanders is to make a monetary donation; checks should be made payable to PART OF THE SOLUTION and mail it to Part of the Solution, attn Angela Collard, 2759 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS,** or "recovery checks," started being sent to taxpayers in April and will be available through the rest of 2020. For most people, the payments will be distributed automatically, and no action is required. Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible. The payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed. Anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 should file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment and include direct deposit banking information on the return. (For more information, see "Tax Tips" on page 17.)

**FOOD PANTRY AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** The church has begun for any who are hungry a food pantry that is open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of food and money come from Trinity and the community. Those who need will receive; those who can are donating. Donations can be nonperishable food, such as pastas and cereals, in cans, plastic jars and cardboard containers—no glass containers, please. Those who wish to donate may leave items on the porch of the parsonage at 113 Bay Street. Checks to Trinity United Methodist Church with Food Pantry in the memo line may be mailed to Trinity UMC, 113 Bay Street, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464.

**NATIONAL POPPY DAY** this year is May 22, the Friday before Memorial Day. The American Legion Family adopted the poppy as its memorial flower in the early 1920s. Today, millions of people worldwide wear red poppies over their hearts as a way to honor living veterans and those who lost their lives. Wearing a poppy this National Poppy Day is one simple way to show gratitude for a community that has given its lives to protect ours. With your help and support of the American Legion National Poppy Day, we can continue to support our veterans when they need it most. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 has paper poppies, crocheted poppy pins, poppy flower seeds and patriotic poppy tile bracelets available. If you would like to donate to our poppy fund, please send an e-mail to [jcute53@aol.com](mailto:jcute53@aol.com).

**REUNION:** Graduates of P.S. 17 and St. Mary's Class of 1958 please contact [Janeggg@verizon.net](mailto:Janeggg@verizon.net).

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**45 BLOTTER**

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

- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY MOTORCYCLE
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from March 18 through April 17, 2020.

3/18 – An Island male reported that his parked motorcycle was stolen from Minneford Avenue at 2:30 p.m. It was recovered two days later by Connecticut State Police.


3/24 – At 1 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a female Islander told police she left her walker in front of her residence and it was

removed without her permission.



4/17 – On City Island Avenue at 3:40 p.m., police received a report of aggravated harassment from an Island male. The victim states that he received phone calls from an unknown person demanding money and threatening him and his family if the money was not paid. The victim also received texts from the unknown person with photos of guns.

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**LOUISE DEL GIUDICE**

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# BUSINESS NOT AS USUAL

By MARGARET LENZ and KAREN NANI

It has been anything but business as usual during the COVID-19 crisis throughout the country and on City Island in particular. As the citywide shelter-in-place order continued through April 2020, many Island businesses closed, while others adapted to the safety restrictions and remained open to serve the needs of residents.

Longtime Island business JGL Wines & Liquors, at 358 City Island Avenue, has remained open throughout the crisis. According to owner Jerry LaValle, “the three-tiered system of alcohol production, distribution and off-premise retail control has been deemed ‘essential’ by Governor Andrew Cuomo during this virus contagion event. As a result of that declaration, I have been able to remain open and operational.”

Mr. LaValle has instituted some common-sense measures to keep himself and his customers safe. He allows only two customers in the store at a time and has asked patrons to observe a “five-minute limit” on each visit by knowing what they want to purchase before arriving. Customers can also call in orders and pay for them over the phone (718-885-0200) with a credit card and either pick up the orders at the door, or Mr. LaValle will carry the order out to their cars.

“For the most part, everyone has been very conscious and respectful of the situation and things have been running relatively smoothly,” he told *The Current*. Known for his wry sense of humor, Mr. LaValle also posted a friendly message to his customers, “No Dilly Dallying,” to communicate that things are a bit different in the store at the moment.

He remains committed to staying open throughout the crisis. “My doors are being kept open pretty much in all weather conditions, the fans are on and I wipe down the counter and other surfaces several times a day.” His hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

While JGL takes care of Islanders’ virtual cocktail parties, To Go Express continues to deliver delicious homemade meals to residents six days a week (Monday through Saturday). Owners Patrice and Rafael Ortega have upped their usual cleanliness standards by further sanitizing the kitchen and counter daily and even washing the money they give to patrons who need change. They do not allow customers in the shop, located at 415 City Island Avenue, but will deliver orders to resident homes or curbside to their cars. All their delivery staff members wear masks and gloves and practice safe distancing, so place your orders by calling 718-885-9656.

The City Island Diner is also open for both takeout and delivery at 304 City Island Avenue at the corner of Fordham Street. Owner Donna McGowan told *The Current*, “thanks to our wonderful community for your well wishes and continued business. The Rock Rocks!” The Diner is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Islanders can order drinks to go at the same time from The Snug next door. The Fire House Corner Deli at 240 City Island Avenue (718-885-1101) also offers delivery of deli food and groceries.

City Island Physical Therapy at 464 City Island Avenue is making sure that Islanders’ physical therapy needs are met. Owner Janine Mantzaris, P.T., explained the additional safety measures they have put in place: “We’re spacing patients apart, to ensure plenty of social distancing. We have mask and gloves for all of our patients, so they can receive the ongoing care they need, in a safe environment.” Janine and her staff are routinely sanitizing the office with UVC light and an industrial grade anti-viral and anti-bacterial cleaner.

Other businesses that are operating as usual, although taking care to observe social distancing and other precautions include CAS Property Care, which will be able to continue mowing rapidly growing lawns, and Buddy’s Hardware, which is undoubtedly safer than dealing with the crowds at Home Depot.

The pandemic has been harder on busi-

nesses like real estate. Century 21 agent Louise Del Giudice has been hampered by the stay-at-home restrictions. “Real estate business professionals were designated as ‘non-essential workers’ in early March, and we have been patiently waiting since then for the economy to re-open safely,” she told *The Current*. In the meantime, Ms. Del Giudice has been staying active professionally by taking online classes and sharing ideas with other agents to improve service to clients going forward. She has also stayed in touch with her City Island clients to see how their families are doing, and her company has been supportive by giving to charitable organizations to help those in need.

Island resident and Today Realty agent Maria Swieciki faces the same issues. “Because real estate sales are done in person, we can no longer show houses and meet with potential buyers and sellers.” She explained that even deals that were almost complete prior to the virus outbreak have been delayed because appraisers can’t enter homes to do inspections. Ms. Swieciki also reaches out to clients, especially senior citizens, to see if they need help. “I delivered broccoli to one of my older clients because the market ran out and she was upset that she didn’t have any broccoli.”

Many of City Island’s famed seafood restaurants have remained open for takeout, including the Lobster House, which did a brisk business on Easter Sunday, and Sammy’s Fish Box, where customers were lined up (mostly) six feet apart to pick up orders over Easter weekend. JoJo Mandarino of the Lobster House told *The Current* that he was “hanging in there” supplying take-out dinners and was very grateful indeed for the support of the City Island community. “We can’t go dormant,” he says. “We have to hang in there and fight the pandemic in our own way.” Michelle Debotetto of the Crab Shanty closed the restaurant for a week to relieve her hard-working staff, but she was up and running again as of Easter weekend and business is good, thanks to Islanders, who are probably tired of cooking their own meals. The Black Whale has also provided take-out and even home delivery with a limited but still delicious menu that includes many of the house specialties, and Scavello’s on the Island is doing the same as well as offering groceries.

Unfortunately, not all restaurant customers are showing respect for the community. Some patrons have been ordering food, eating it in their cars and then throwing bags of leftovers along City Island Avenue. New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj has been sending a volunteer group he calls Wildcats around his district to clean up the garbage and residents are urged to call 311 to report this behavior.

Many Islanders are cooking their own meals these days and, fortunately, there are local options for home cooking. Dominick’s, at 385 City Island Avenue, has been a lifeline for Islanders needing fresh food, household supplies, dry goods and deli items during these troubled times. The market receives deliveries daily and has rarely run out of even the most sought-after items, including toilet paper and cleaning supplies. The deli and checkout staff wear masks and gloves, and customers are obeying social distancing recommendations. Although the market does not deliver, volunteers are offering to make purchases there for Island residents and deliver to their homes. Those who do not want to shop in person can e-mail [cityislandstrong@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandstrong@gmail.com), give the volunteer their shopping list and call Dominick’s with their credit card information.

Sea Breeze Deli at 325 City Island Avenue opens at 6 a.m. and carries a number of nonperishable goods, juice, milk and eggs, which they will deliver if you call 718-885-1263. The City Island Pharmacy, which delivers free of charge to City Island residents, is planning to expand its grocery items and install a freezer. Owner Anthony Dangelo asks residents to let him know what items they would like him to stock and he will order it. He even promises to have bread and bagels! Dunkin’ Donuts’ at the beginning of the Island is open every day for takeout items and Harlem Yacht Club



Photos by RON TERNER and KAREN NANI

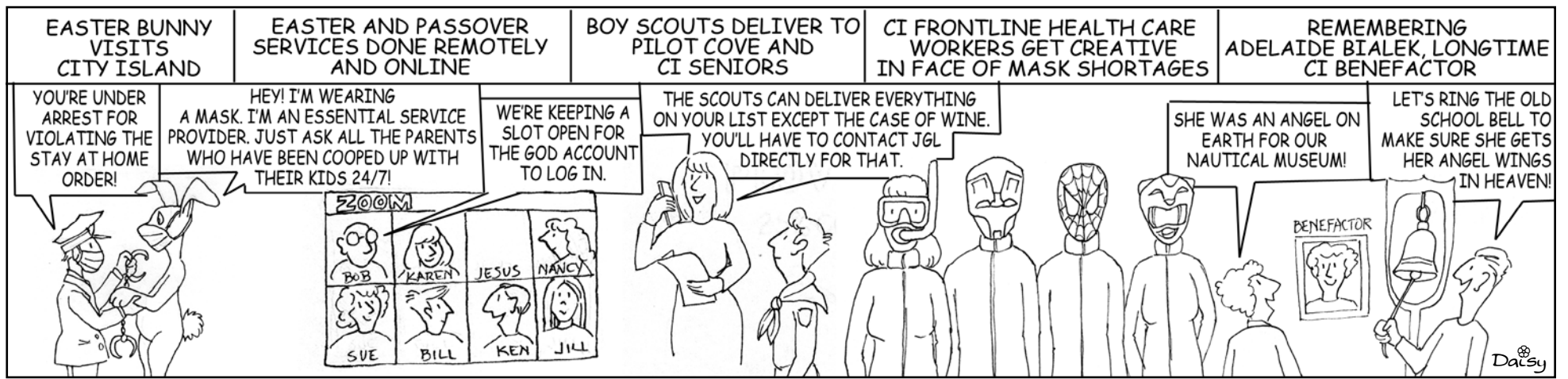
Many City Island businesses are struggling to stay open and continue to serve the needs of residents during the coronavirus outbreak by observing social distancing and other safety precautions, including (above photos) ToGo Express, Dunkin’ Donuts, Dominick’s Market, the City Island Pharmacy, Karl’s Hardware, Sammy’s, and the City Island Laundromat.

Caterer Anne Booth ([abcatering@gmail.com](mailto:abcatering@gmail.com)) offers weekly menus for delivery and will deliver essential grocery items (milk, eggs, etc.) to seniors.

Groceries are also available for delivery from online sources like Peapod, Fresh Direct, Instacart, Costco and Amazon. However, delivery times are difficult to pin

down, since the demand has been so great, and some items are simply not available. Yeast, for example, isn’t in the local stores, and Amazon only had one-pound boxes for \$20 or more. But, not surprisingly, City Islanders have become resourceful in this

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### Editorial

In the past, when City Island has been affected by bad news, the community has somehow managed to come together in order to share our concerns and to sympathize with or help out those who have been most seriously affected. Although the current coronavirus pandemic is definitely the worst crisis in many years to affect not only our community but other communities throughout the world, Islanders are helping each other, often in ways that we have never done in the past. Islanders are shopping and cooking for each other, clapping for healthcare workers every evening at 7, delivering necessities to those most at risk, ordering take-out from local restaurants to help them stay in business, meeting with each other on Zoom, worshipping remotely, learning and teaching online—all of which are experiences that none of us have ever dealt with.

We have no idea when this pandemic will retreat, and we all worry that, even if we are able to get out of doors to enjoy the warm weather of spring and summer, we will continue to be at risk. Because we live in a borough that has the highest infection rate from Covid-19 per 100,000 people, it is all the more important that we band together (while keeping our 6-foot social distance) and be grateful that we live on City Island during this troubled time.



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.

#### Thank You for Your Loving Response

To the City Island Community:

The McMahon family would like to express our love to our family and friends on City Island. Helen's sudden loss spurred such a response of love, food, baskets and flowers that has helped us through this most difficult time. Once all restrictions are lifted, the McMahon family will have a mass for Helen at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

**The McMahon Family**

#### The Chamber Deals with the Crisis

To the Editor:

During this Covid-19 crisis, the City Island Chamber of Commerce has been able to disseminate information to both members and non-members regarding programs that are available to assist in business continuity during this unprecedented health crisis. We receive a lot of information from government officials and government agencies to aid businesses during this crisis and we are able to forward this to our e-mail list of more than 150 businesses. Also, we can forward information from our members that can be of use to other businesses.

Whenever possible, one of the Chamber board members participates in the virtual meetings/town halls hosted by our politicians, governmental offices and business leaders.

We have opened up the Chamber's website (<https://cityislandchamber.org/>) to allow every business, not just members, to link to their websites and to note, in bold red letters, whether they are able to deliver products directly to their customers. For example, the City Island Diner and Snug continue to feed our Island through their pick-up and delivery service. Angela Parrino of GP's Honey Tomes successfully delivered Easter baskets around the Island. Kaleidoscope Gal-

lery has arranged delivery of City Island Gold Honey, as well as sage smudge bundles to clean and purify spaces.

We have supplied local hospitals and the Bronx Tourism Council with lists of restaurants to contact for food deliveries. We ask that businesses feed us their information so we can continue to publicize them and drive business to them.

Please consider joining our Chamber of Commerce as a member. It is through your dues and funding that we can continue to support local business.

Thank you and stay healthy.

**Paul Klein**

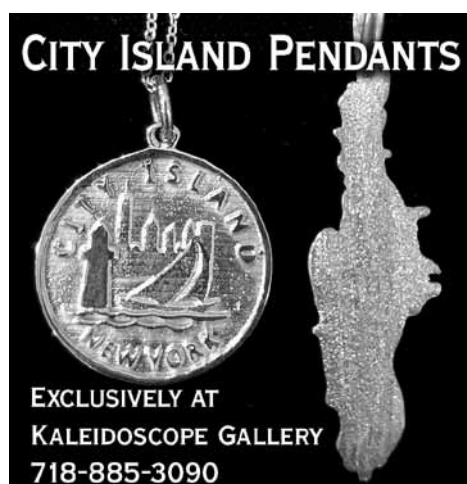
#### Remembering Grattan

To the Editor:

Our brother, Grattan, passed away in April, and we will miss his presence here on earth. His hearty laugh will continue to ring in our ears and the vision of his big smile will be burned in our memories forever. He never failed to be thankful for his daughter, Fiona, and his Kyle and Lordi family members.

Grattan always approached his work with great passion and creativity, regardless of the task or position. He valued the opportunities that came his way and used every job as the chance to connect with and learn from others. Grattan carried the wonder and enthusiasm of a child throughout his adult life, and he never missed the opportunity to joke and laugh with others. Through all the ups and downs in life, he never gave up on himself or his family. His success and legacy will not be measured in trinkets or treasures, but in the warm feelings he left in our hearts.

**Lauren, Leslie and Daniele Kyle**



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# PANDEMIC INCREASES HART ISLAND BURIALS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by GEORGE STEINMETZ

This aerial view of Hart Island was photographed on April 15, 2020, when the burials were no longer being performed by Rikers Island prisoners, who have been replaced by independent laborers to dig trenches and transport wooden coffins.

The sight of a van from the Medical Examiner's office driving to the dock at the east end of Fordham Street on City Island is a familiar one, but since the coronavirus has caused so many deaths in New York City over the past month, the vans are larger and more frequent as the number of burials has increased. About 1,000 bodies are buried on Hart Island every year, but the rate of burials in recent weeks has risen to nearly double the usual number.

Hart Island has been used as a burial place for over 150 years, beginning during the Civil War, when the island was a Union training ground and a prison for Confederate soldiers. When New York City bought the island in 1868, the Department of Public Charities and Correction used it for several purposes as well as a cemetery, including convalescent hospitals, a mental hospital, a reformatory for boys, a prison workhouse, a Nike missile base, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. However, its primary use has been as a burial ground for unidentified or unclaimed bodies sent by the Medical Examiner's office, and it is estimated that there are as many as one million graves or more on the island.

Hart Island will be officially transferred to the Department of Parks in July 2021, but the Department of Correction will be responsible for burials and maintenance of the island until then. Burials have

been performed by prisoners from Rikers Island for many years, but since the rate of Covid-19 infections has been so high at the prison, recent burials have been performed by workers hired for the purpose.

One reason for the great increase in burials is that hospitals and morgues have no more space for storing bodies, and funeral homes have been overwhelmed by the numbers. It is not clear whether the bodies being transported to Hart Island have been removed from hospital morgues to make room for the recently deceased or whether they were the victims of the coronavirus. Because of the pandemic, a number of the dead have not been claimed by family members, and it is expected that at least some of the bodies will eventually be reclaimed and removed from Hart Island for burial elsewhere. Many people do not realize that all burials on the island are considered temporary in the sense that once a body has been identified and claimed, it may be removed for burial elsewhere.

Although many of the deceased individuals now being buried on Hart Island succumbed to the coronavirus, the location of their coffins is not determined by the cause of their death. During the 1980s, those who had died from AIDS were buried in a separate area because of fears of disease transmission, but that is no longer considered a reason for separate burials.

# U. S. CRANE MOVES TO CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

After its purchase of the five-acre lot that includes Consolidated Yachts, U.S. Crane & Rigging LLC quickly went to work cleaning up the property to make room for its crane parts and equipment. Trucks parked along City Island Avenue alarmed Island residents, but the company immediately moved them into the lot when they heard complaints.

In spite of the pandemic, U. S. Crane & Rigging LLC proceeded to complete the purchase of the property at 155-157 Pilot Street, which includes Consolidated Yacht Yard, on March 23, 2020, from Joseph Briody of JEK Communications. Although much concern about the sale was expressed by Island residents before the sale, conversations about the future of the site with the chief operating officer and president, Richard Petrosa II, were reassuring.

Three years ago, Wes Rodstrom Jr., whose father bought the yacht yard in 1959, sold the five-acre lot to Mr. Briody, who gave Wes a three-year lease to continue operating the boatyard and leased part of the site to an auto body shop, which closed some time ago. The lease with Consolidated expires on June 30 this year, but as of press time, U. S. Crane and Wes Rodstrom were discussing a way forward for the yard, since the new owner wants the site to continue as a recreational boat facility. The owner and founder of U.S. Crane, Thomas Auringer, is especially interested in owning a waterfront property because of his long-time interest in boating, and Mr. Petrosa, his COO, shares this interest and looks forward to having his office overlooking Long Island Sound.

U.S. Crane & Rigging LLC was founded by Mr. Auringer 20 years ago and offers a wide range of services, from crane rental to warehousing, specialized hoisting and rigging operations, heavy lifts and transport. The firm's cranes can be seen from City Island atop what will become the tallest building in Manhattan, the Steinway Tower on West 57th Street. The firm has a number of locations, including Kingston, NY (where Mr. Auringer is from), Port Jervis and Ridgewood, Queens; until recently U. S. Crane rented a location on Hunts Point but decided to invest in a Bronx property, and City Island was their first choice.

Mr. Petrosa explained that the crane operation on City Island, for which they have a permit for a contractor's yard from the Department of Buildings, is to be limited to the storage and servicing of crane parts, which would be moved on and off

the Island during the day by flat-bed truck. The trucks would gain access to the yard through the entrance to the former auto-body shop, which had rented its space from Mr. Briody. U.S. Crane plans to enlarge the entrance to become a kind of courtyard that would grant access to the trucks so that they would not have to be parked on City Island Avenue. Pilot Street will continue to be used for the boatyard but no cranes will enter or leave the property from there.

He assured *The Current* that the company would not be requesting a zoning change because the lot is zoned Manufacturing and the use as a crane yard would be within City Island's Special District Zoning. In fact, the property has been a boatyard since the 1850s, and during World War II War, when it was the Robert Jacob Yard, many minesweepers, tugs, PT boats and torpedo boats were built there for the U.S. Navy. During the Korean War, as Consolidated, the yard was responsible for building several more minesweepers.

Mr. Petrosa made it clear that he understands the concerns of the community about the close proximity of the senior housing at Pilot Cove Manor, the PSS Senior Center at Grace Episcopal Church and the neighboring residential homes. He also stated that he had consulted with the Department of Transportation about the capacity of the City Island Bridge and that the truckloads would be well within the weight restrictions. He did not believe that noise would be a concern.

When asked about the complaints filed in the past against the company by union organizations, Mr. Petrosa explained that in the 1990s, when Mr. Auringer wanted to rent cranes for a construction project, the costs were very high, so he bought his own and has remained an open shop ever since. He is hoping to hire Islanders to work in the yard and will welcome inquiries as soon as the office is up and running. Mr. Petrosa also said that he would be happy to attend meetings of the City Island Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Board 10 as soon as meetings were being held again.



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# Don't Forget to Fill Out the Census Form

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count of everyone in the United States. The Census governs the allocation of funding for roads, schools and other public institutions across our community and determines the number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes. If people are not counted, their communities will receive less representation in government and fewer resources for the next decade, until the Census is completed again. Every person counts.

The Census can be filled out online, over the telephone or by mail. The form has only 10 questions and takes only 10 minutes to complete. All household members should be included on the Census form, even if they are not relatives and even if they are not on the household lease. This includes all children, including newborns and infants born on or by April 1, 2020. The form should also be filled out regardless of citizenship or documentation status. The goal is to count everyone, and the Census is completely confidential. Anyone who has temporarily relocated due to Covid-19 should report their previous address. For example, college students whose term ended early should report their college dormitory address.

The Census Bureau has temporarily paused field operations to protect the health and safety of Census workers and the American public during the coronavirus pandemic, so for now, no one should be knocking on your door. When field operations resume, if someone knocks on your

door and claims to be from the Census, you have the right to request to see their Census ID, and you can call the Census at 800-923-8282 to confirm that the enumerator is in fact a Census employee or volunteer.

Ensuring a complete count depends on having a fully staffed organization. Census Bureau jobs are good opportunities and offer competitive wages. You can apply for jobs at [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs).

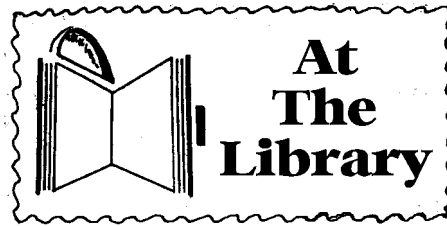
If you have not already responded, go to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to complete the Census online or to learn how to complete the Census by phone or mail. You can also call 844-330-2020. Individuals should respond to the Census questionnaire before Aug. 15, 2020. For more information, visit <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html?#>.



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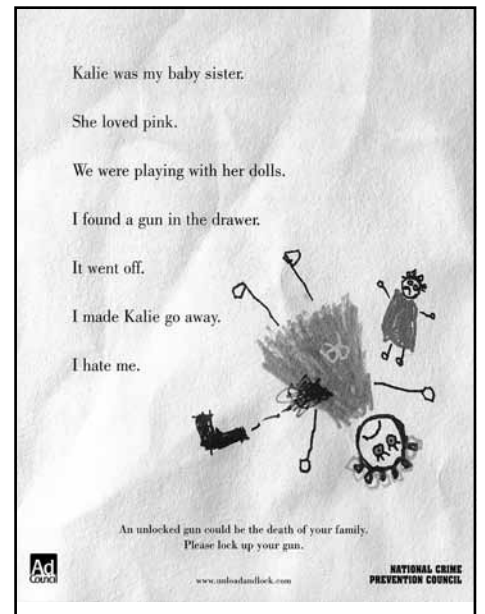
To reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City, all New York Public Library locations are temporarily closed until further notice. During this time, patrons are encouraged to explore the online resources available on [NYPL.org](http://NYPL.org). Both SimplyE and Overdrive can be accessed from any smartphone, tablet or e-reader. Once either app is downloaded, use your NYPL library card number (found on the back of your card) and 4-digit PIN to log in. Once you are logged in, you will have access to an extensive collection of electronic materials that can be downloaded onto your device free of charge! If certain items are unavailable, you can place a hold on them so that they appear on your device once they become available.

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



**Clam Diggers Laundromat at 323** City Island Avenue (347-449-7400) is helping first responders by giving them half off of drop off and delivery of laundry. Helen and Tricia are also doing a lot of deliveries to customers on City Island.

Free American Flags 4" x 6" Memorial Day 2020 at **Burck's Boat Store** 526 City Island Avenue While supplies last.



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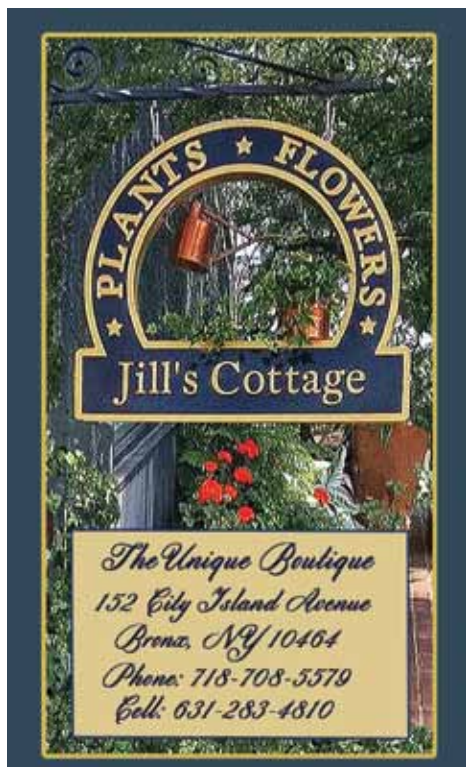
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## CI Frontliners

*Continued from page 1*

days ago one of the ICU patients coded and within seconds he passed away. No family, no goodbyes, just me holding his hand and wishing him safe travels to a better place. It's a nightmare, and dying on one's own is the hardest thing I have had to go through since this all started. But the fight continues, and we will do so until there is no more Covid."

Meanwhile, Merima goes to work at crazy hours, both day and night shifts. As the patients in the ICUs increased due to the nature of the disease, emergency department nurses from their hospital came up to help them. "That's the best news we had in a while because they had only four patients in the Emergency Room. Take that, Covid!" Merima emphasizes that New Yorkers are doing the right thing by social distancing, even if it means she, like many others, hasn't seen any of her loved ones for two months now. She started self isolating as soon as her hospital got their first patients. Her message to all Islanders: "I go to work for you. Please stay at home for me."

Islander Jillian Lotrionte works at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center as a registered nurse on a Neuroscience ICU. Her floor was among one of the first units to become a full on "COVID ICU." She told *The Current* that keeping up with the outbreak has been an ever-changing battle. "From the very start until now, protocols are changing everyday. We are training more staff every week to take on these patients, and we are collaborating with other doctors, departments and hospitals to provide the best care and reach the most successful outcomes."

Being on the front line could have been overwhelming for the young nurse, but Jillian has the support of her colleagues. "Amidst the endless chaos and overwhelming tense atmosphere, my team continues to support each other, and remains positive and looking for the light at the end of the tunnel. Even in this tough time, I've glad to have learned so much from the people around me and I am more proud than ever to be a registered nurse."

### Teachers

Brother and sister clam diggers Maria and Stephen Swieciki are both history teachers in large New York City high schools. Maria, 29, began to feel ill the week of March 9, and she suspected that she had been exposed to the virus from within her school, the Walton High School campus in the Bronx. After repeated attempts, she was finally tested at the Glen Island drive-through site in New Rochelle on March 14, only because she used her aunt's address in Westchester, since New York City had no testing sites at that time. But her test was initially misplaced, and it took a week to receive the results directly from the lab. Maria tested positive as her symptoms worsened. She had recently moved off City Island into an apartment in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx. "I had all the symptoms you read about: high fever, chills, aches, migraine headache, severe coughing till my ribs hurt, and a viral rash. It was horrible."

"Little Maria" would not let her parents, Islanders Maria and Bob Swieciki, visit her because she worried about making them sick. "If you come visit me, you will die," she told them. She was cared for by her boyfriend who, miraculously, remains symptom-free. It took more than two weeks, but her symptoms finally subsided. Meanwhile, she continued to teach her students online even when her fever spiked to 102 degrees.

Because Maria recovered, she is being considered for participation in a study of "convalescent plasma to treat patients with the most severe symptoms." She is donating plasma (blood) to the American Red Cross for this purpose. Her brother Stephen, who lives on the Island, only had mild symptoms, and he has been accepted for the plasma study.

Meanwhile, Hawkins Street resident Rose Kolb is a NYC elementary school teacher at P.S. 83. She teaches an integrated class of 31 students, and 40 percent of her students are special education students. She had to return to school the week after schools were closed for a three-day crash course on distance learning through Google Classroom.

Rose's days were full of instruction, brainstorming and strategizing in order to get this accomplished. As a result, she and her colleagues have been able to get an average of 90 to 100 percent attendance during the shutdown. "This was not only possible because of the teachers and all the administra-

tion of the school but in large part because of the parents," she told *The Current*. "We tried to adhere to a similar schedule of math, English Language Arts, science and social studies through literacy, art, gym and library."

Although class is scheduled 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., most days students log on anywhere from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. for various reasons. "Nothing can compare to one-on-one learning in a classroom setting, especially for lower-grade students, but Google Classroom has given me the benefit of being able to give students some continuity amid this crisis. Some of my families are dealing with so many other issues, and sadly some of those issues are Covid-19 deaths and sickness."

Rose's sister-in-law, Islander Nancy Lotrionte, is a special education teacher. She told *The Current*: "Remote learning has been quite challenging for teachers as well as families. Families are trying their best to teach the children material they are not familiar with while trying to balance their own work schedule. Not all students have computers accessible during the day to get work done in the early part of the day. It is not a level playing field for all."

### First Responders

Islander Brendan Delaney is a captain in the FDNY in charge of Engine 58 in Manhattan on Fifth Avenue and 114th Street in Harlem. He joined the FDNY in 2003 and recently told *The Current*: "When you become a member of the FDNY, you understand the risks to yourself when fighting fires, responding to medical emergencies, and rescuing people. But never before have we had to worry about putting our families at risk as well until this outbreak. This has been the hardest thing to deal with."

Brendan was born on City Island and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. He is now married with three children and continues to live on the Island. His late father was a captain in the FDNY and his mother, Mary, lives on King Avenue.

He described how overburdened the firefighters are and how management of the firehouse has changed since the virus outbreak. "We decontaminate regularly, especially after responding to medical emergencies like cardiac arrest where Covid infection is suspected. The department has instituted social distancing, but this is very difficult in a firehouse or when riding on the engine or ladder. The goal is to prevent cross contamination among firefighters." They take all the precautions available, including wearing N95 masks when doing CPR, but testing is not available to all first responders, and they remain fearful of cross-contamination and infecting their families. So far, Brendan has not shown any symptoms, but he has not been tested for the coronavirus.

Unfortunately, about 20 percent of the firefighters in Brendan's company have flu-like symptoms, and most of those have tested positive for the coronavirus. "The department has adopted a 'war-like posture' similar to post-9/11. Because so many firefighters are out on medical leave, all FDNY members have been called into the field to fill vacancies. Namely, no training or other projects are going on—everyone is on duty and most are working overtime."

It's especially stressful that Brendan, his three lieutenants and his 25 firefighters must respond to serious medical emergencies, like cardiac arrest and major injuries, and begin CPR if required before EMS arrives. "EMS is overburdened and, although my house has not been among the hardest hit in terms of suspected Covid-19 cases in the community, we still have had to administer CPR three to four times a day and this is difficult for firefighters both physically and emotionally."

Clam digger and lifelong City Island resident Joseph Schaller, who is commissioner of the New Rochelle Police Department, has been with that department since 1974, and in 2018 earned the distinction of having served longer than any other member in its history. He admits, however, that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this past month in service in New Rochelle has seemed to him like a lifetime.

New Rochelle was the first place in New York State to experience community spread of the virus after a resident tested positive on March 2. Because the resident had attended at least two gatherings at Temple Israel, the virus managed to spread quickly, resulting in nearly 100 cases. On March 10, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced what many felt was a very strict measure by imposing a one-mile containment zone around the temple that began March 12 and ran until March 26, a measure



Photos by RON TERNER AND MATT PANZA

**Pastor David Jolly (top photo) hands out food at the TUMC food pantry. First responders have been thanked in various ways including the 7 p.m. "clap" (see p. 20) and with acts of kindness like breakfast for those at the City Island Firehouse from Councilman Mark Gjonaj (bottom photo, left).**

that he eventually imposed on the entire state.

Commissioner Schaller is quick to point out that the containment zone did not restrict anyone from going in and out of the area, but it did close the reception hall at the temple and the schools in the area. The National Guard came in but only to distribute food, most of it free meals for students, and to help with the testing center at Glen Island, the first of its kind operated by state and county officials. The police department was responsible for monitoring traffic but problems were minimal. He reports that most residents of the city have complied with the requirements for social distancing and that only a couple of bars stayed open at first but then shut down when ordered.

The police department has not been as seriously affected by the coronavirus as the New Rochelle Fire Department, with only 17 positive cases out of 200 employees. He has seen more than the usual number of absences but this has not reached a crisis point. Police officers, like everyone else, wear masks when they are dealing with the public and are experiencing some stress, but the situation has not been overwhelming. Members of the department recently joined with the fire department in flashing lights and setting off sirens to honor the commitment of the hardworking staffs at local nursing homes and the Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital.

On a personal level, Joe Schaller misses not being able to get together with his large family except over the telephone, but he is happy that everyone is obeying the rules.

### Municipal Service

Although by comparison with firefighters and police officers, City Sanitation workers are rarely celebrated for their efforts, they have continued to work hard through the Covid-19 pandemic, in spite of the risk of contamination. Clam digger Fred Ramftl began working recently for the department, which provides workers with sanitary masks and gloves and has been following regular cleaning procedures for their equipment. Fred urges residents to securely fasten their garbage bags before putting them out on the curb, especially if they contain used gloves and masks. A loose glove hit him in the face recently, which was not a nice experience. He is also concerned about the way in which people are throwing their used gloves and masks into the street, which poses hazards for others as well as for those who must pick them up.

Although he is new to the department, Fred is no newcomer to cleaning up after Islanders. Many years ago, he was paid by the Garden Club of City Island to clean up trash from the gutters along City Island Avenue, which makes his new job a case of history repeating himself (which, by the way, would not come as a surprise to Fred, who has a master's

degree in history).

In addition to his regular job, Fred puts in a great deal of time on behalf of the City Island community. He is first vice president of the City Island Civic Association and treasurer of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum. He is also administrator of the Pelham Cemetery and head of membership for the Sons of the American Legion.

So the next time you put out your trash on the sidewalk, remember that the health of one of City Island's busiest volunteers is at risk and be sure to tie the bags securely!

### Clergy

City Island clergy have been doing their best to tend to the spiritual needs of Islanders without holding in-person worship services. Father John Covington of Grace Episcopal Church, with help from parishioner Kevin Boyle, led interactive Palm Sunday and Holy Week online services with the congregation using GoToMeeting. "Kevin made it possible for us to connect, pray and sing together on a regular basis. We even had a 'virtual' coffee hour!" Father John told *The Current*.

Father Augustus Onwubiko e-mailed copies of his "Reflections" for each day of Holy Week to St. Mary, Star of the Sea parishioners and Father Knapp sent out an Easter message of hope and faith. On the OLA/SMSS website there are parish updates, and Mass videos including daily Masses from the Catholic Faith Network. St. Mary's is open from 9 to 11 a.m. for private prayer (social distancing recommended, of course).

Pastor David Jolly of Trinity United Methodist Church on City Island is a one-man food pantry. The church is accepting donations of nonperishable food items, not packed in glass, for distribution. Donations can be delivered to the front porch of the parsonage at 113 Bay Street. The goods are held in quarantine for one week before they are distributed. He asks that, when possible, only one person per family come by to pick up food at the front of the church, which is located at 331 City Island Avenue at the corner of Bay Street, on Sundays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Rabbi David Markus of Temple Beth-El has set up Zoom sessions for congregant consultations. He is also teaching online and offering Friday night services, Saturday a.m. Torah study and Saturday night Havdallah (end of Sabbath) services.

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

We look forward to sharing more stories of Islanders on the front lines in the upcoming June and July/August 2020 issues.

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# Scenes From A Remote Island




Photos by JULIET ANTELM, JENNIFER MARONEY, KEVIN BOYLE, MATT PANZA, SUSAN CHADWICK and JANE PROTZMAN

The Covid-19 shelter-in-place order has resulted in scenes unlike any before on City Island, including elementary and high school students like Ronan Maroney, Joseph Goonan and Lea Acocella (above l. to r.) learning from home and teachers like Craig Antelmi (top right) and Nancy Lotrionte (photo at right) teaching their students remotely. Grace Episcopal Church parishioners worshipped via GoToMeeting on Easter Sunday (middle montage) and closure signs abound at businesses as well as the playground (far right photo). Finally, images of self-isolating are common among residents, including Susan Chadwick and Jane Protzman (bottom photos).



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# Organization News

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

## Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

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

Sunday School: Our Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Nani, looks forward to meeting with her students again in person when the crisis abates. Each member received a special palm cross for Palm Sunday and an Easter gift from Grace Church by mail. Mrs. Nani will also discuss with the parents how to involve the Sunday School in Grace's virtual services, including a possible "Virtual Youth Service" in either May or June.

GraceTones Music Ministry: We held our first "virtual rehearsal" on Saturday, April 18, and it was wonderful singing with one another online! We are eager to get back to singing at area nursing homes such as Providence Rest, Dumont Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing and United Hebrew of New Rochelle, as well as at local businesses such as The Artist. Meanwhile, we are busy learning new songs, including "My Favorite Things" and "Together Wherever We Go."

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

Sandy Dunn

## Temple Beth-El

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

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

We are also offering for members Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics studies,

social gatherings and Rabbinic office hours. For membership details and in order to receive an invitation e-mail to any of these membership offerings, please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

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

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

Paul Klein

## Garden Club of City Island

As many of you may have noticed, the Garden Club has not distributed Beautification Fund Drive letters yet this year. In these difficult times, we felt that it would be better to wait, although we are, however, happily accepting donations. By continuing with our beautification activities, we help to keep the economy going and keep our Island looking good.

We will be adding plants to the containers and doing what we can to maintain the post office and the tree pits. We can always use help watering the containers when the weather gets hot and removing garbage that finds its way into them. If you would like to help support our beautification efforts, donations can be sent to the Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Please note "Beautification Fund" on your check.

In these extraordinary times, it is difficult for us to make definite plans. The Garden Club annual luncheon will, we hope, take place in the fall. Monthly club meetings will resume whenever the necessity of social distancing is ended. For now, be safe and stay at home.

Sharynne Wilder

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

No meetings in May, but our community service continues. Although our ALA Unit 156 has not met in person since February, members continue to connect with each other for comfort and support. Members have created a small network of volunteers delivering care packages, baking and shopping for those in need and for shut-ins. Special thanks to Auxiliary member Sandra Panzarella, who delivers baked goods to our veterans and to Island residents Caitlin Steine and Gina Barbero Pietrangolare, who shop and donate for our Auxiliary members. In addition, Auxiliary members have joined civic-minded outreach groups to make a dif-



ference to those in the community. It is a difficult time for all but more so if one is alone and isolated. One act of kindness can relieve that burden.

Regina Murphy, ALA member and former Unit Chaplain, independently created a Facebook page entitled "Safe At Home Cooking." Members of this page display photos and share recipes during our period of quarantine. It is a wonderful way to keep all connected and in better spirits.

Joanne Valletta, Community Service Chair, organized the Unit 156 Check-in Muffin Project for Pilot Cove Manor on March 30. Auxiliary members, Safe At Home Facebook members and friends of the City Island community donated 300 homemade muffins to the residents at Pilot Cove. Special shout-out to all our volunteer bakers and to Pilot Cove's Jimmy Livingston, who organized the distribution. It was well received by the residents of Pilot Cove.

Our Community Face Mask Project for City Island began on March 20 and closed on April 1. The project was facilitated by Doreen Gallagher, President, along with Joanne Valletta and Harlan Sexton. Approximately 600 masks were made by our senior seamstress Judy McCormick and Sandra Panzarella, Cathy Comerico and Harlan Sexton. Of that number, 150 masks went to the nursing staff at Montefiore Medical Center. We benefited from countless volunteers for material donation, cutting and delivery. It was a huge undertaking and one that grew daily. Many thanks to all the volunteers for their support and effort during this pandemic. Everyone will be acknowledged once we reach some normalcy.

Our youth and students are currently making Appreciation & Gratitude cards for Phelps Hospital. If you'd like to be a part of that project or know of youth who would like to participate, please forward cards to Doreen Gallagher at Phelps Hospital, 701 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY



Members of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary made 600 masks for healthcare workers and others. They also distributed 300 homemade muffins to residents at Pilot Cove Manor in April.

10591.

Our unit offers special thanks to our chaplain, Evangeline Parenti. She has embraced her role wholeheartedly to be a source of comfort and uplift. She has guided us during a very difficult time.

Unit 156 hopes to have our annual end-of-year dinner at the Harlem Yacht Club in June.

In grief, our unit says farewell to Auxiliary member and good friend Helen McMahon. When we are able to gather together again, we will remember Helen in our annual memorial service.

Harlan Sexton

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

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

While all in person programs are canceled, some programs listed below are available on computers and smart phones via [Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us).

We hope everyone enjoys the comforts of home and family and having the time to notice all the tulips, daffodils and flowering trees with perching birds—one of the silver linings while staying safe.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who will meet the first safe Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. And we always want to hear your ideas and thoughts about how to serve the community better.

If you need a renewal form please call 718-885-1145, and we will mail one. For up-to-date information visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for news and information.

Zumba: On [Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) with Julia. Text Julia at 917-601-5514 for details.

Irish Dance for All Ages: On [Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) with Caitlin Nora Kelly. Call 914-262-4517 for details.

Orchard Beach AA Group: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. Go to [Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) and put in #781-386-7680.

Rajasthani Indian Folk Dance with Lalitha on [Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us); contact [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

**Patty Grondahl**



**PSS Senior Center**

PSS City Island sends heartfelt thanks to City Island Strong and Councilman Mark Gjonaj for their support during this time.

Although the center itself is closed, Patty Attis, the center director, is calling people as a group with updated information as we go through this troublesome time. Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also shows instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote arthritis class and our support group.

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

**Patty Attis**

**City Island Civic Association**

Greetings to all CICA members, Island residents, businesses and associations. The leadership of the Civic Association is up and ready to offer assistance to City Island residents during the current coronavirus crisis. It has created a means by which residents can make requests for help for those people unable to get out on their own for basic needs.

If you need someone to do an errand for you, pick up groceries or take-out food, get something from the pharmacy, pick up the NYC-sponsored "grab and go" meals at P.S. 175 or offer assistance with yardwork, e-mail [CityIslandStrong@gmail.com](mailto:CityIslandStrong@gmail.com). Someone will respond to your request and pass it along to volunteers who can provide whatever service you need. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion Post 156, the religious organizations and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to provide help where it is needed. Requests will be kept confidential. Spread the word to anyone you know who might not have access to email.

It's humbling to see fellow Islanders step up to offer their services and donations of time, resources and money. City Island's own beloved celebrity chef Michael Proietti reached out and said: "Whatever City Island needs, I'm here to help," and help he will, preparing meals for some of those most in need during this crisis.

Councilman Mark Gjonaj worked with Tony's, Scavello's and Seafood City who

provided meals for those in need before the city's meal program took effect. Seafood City has donated the use of one of their freezers to store ready-made meals. CICA President Bill Stanton has made arrangements with Dominick's Market to respond to Islander shopping requests registered through [CityIslandStrong@gmail.com](mailto:CityIslandStrong@gmail.com).

Organizing this has been no small task. We respectfully ask for your understanding, support and patience as we coordinate, allocate and effectively apply our resources to optimize our efforts and minimize redundancies that could hinder our objectives.

What's important to note is that this is a self-starting endeavor by and for City Islanders, regardless of who you are or how long you've lived here. We're all Islanders helping each other help ourselves: parents, grandparents, neighbors, loved ones, folks who are immunocompromised and those unable to help themselves. Apologies in advance for not giving full credit to everyone who has helped us, as well as all those folks who have committed acts of kindness that we will never know about. We would like to give special thanks, however, to Captain Fraser, commanding officer of the 45th Precinct, and the City Island Diner.

We are also grateful for the generous donations from Teddy Pryor and Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, whose contribution made masks available. Donations can be made to City Island Strong through PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com); please note that the funding is for City Island Strong. Or you can send a check to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx, NY 10464, indicating in the memo section that it is for City Island Strong. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so that a service charge is not deducted.

Please take care of yourselves and let's all look out for each other as we're better together.

We don't know when we will be able hold our next meeting. Stay tuned. You can still send your annual dues (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership to P.O. Box 117, City Island, or pay online at [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com), "friends and family" option.

**Jane Protzman**

**American Legion Post 156**

All meetings and Post events are cancelled until further notice. Dues are past due; \$55 for the 2020 year. Please drop off your dues at the Post via the mail slot and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall and Post are currently closed and will remain so until we are authorized to operate as directed by NYS/ NYC authority and the American Legion National/Department of New York.

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

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

Please note the following dates: May 5: Cinco de Mayo; May 10: Happy Mother's Day.

All future meetings/events will be posted as soon as possible. Please visit our website at [Leonardhawkinspost156.com](http://Leonardhawkinspost156.com) for the latest information. If you have questions, e-mail [Leonardhawkinspost156@gmail.com](mailto:Leonardhawkinspost156@gmail.com).

The Leonard H. Hawkins family is proud to support the City Island Strong Group of community-based organizations that are providing assistance to the residents of City Island during this Covid-19 pandemic. Please free to contact them at [cityislandstrong@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandstrong@gmail.com) if you need assistance during this difficult time.

The Post urges all members and their families to keep updated on the Covid-19 information through the news channel of your choice. Please resist the urge to go to the emergency room or a medical center. If you have the following symptoms—sore throat, cough, runny nose, and fever—call your healthcare pro-

vider first.

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

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**

**City Island Oyster Reef**

The pandemic may keep us all from coming together, but the work of CIOR is still moving forward. We remain fully committed to working together (virtually for now) in a community effort to clean our local waters by the strategic deployment of re-established oyster beds and oyster reefs around City Island.

Our Mardi Gras fundraiser at the Harlem Yacht Club on Feb. 22 was a great success. More than 100 people attended, enjoying live jazz, mingling with fellow City Islanders and showing great generosity for our important cause. The financial goal of the evening was to raise enough money to purchase scientific equipment that will be used by our local scientists and student interns to monitor water flow and water quality, and we managed to do just that. Through ticket sales, donations, silent auction items, a 50/50 raffle and sale of CIOR t-shirts and hoodies, we raised nearly \$6,000.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our First Annual Oyster Festival scheduled for June 7 at the Morris Yacht Club; details will follow about a new date. The Annual Beach Clean Up at Orchard Beach on May 17 has also been postponed. However, we are tentatively planning our Second Annual CIOR Social for the Fall, and will be guided by world events when determining the actual date.

Over the winter months CIOR volunteers have been counting and measuring live oysters and oyster shells at our beaches and rocky shores. This information is being documented and compiled, and is now almost complete. Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving Services and Denis Mellet and Rocky Diamondopal of Coastal Steward conducted a dive survey of local oyster populations off the Buckley Street beach. The first lecture in an education series available via Zoom will be given by Dr. Allison Fitzgerald of the NY/NJ Baykeeper Soundview Oyster Project on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 p.m. See page 2 for details.

Because many City Island restaurants are temporarily closed, new shells are not being collected now, but we continue to turn the shells already collected in preparation for depositing them in Eastchester Bay and City Island Harbor.

If you still don't have your Oyster Reef t-shirt (short sleeve or long sleeve) or hoodie, e-mail [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com). Deliveries will be made on City Island.

**Barbara Dolensek**

**AARP 318**

We usually meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church. However, because of the coronavirus pandemic, all AARP activities have been cancelled until further notice. If you have any questions, call a board member. The names are listed at the bottom of the spring schedule. In the meantime, take care and stay home!

**Carroll A. Reid**

**St. Mary's Thrift Shop**

Although we have closed for now, the shop will eventually be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be featuring our spring collection with all new and used items. Watch for our flyers and the big sign outside the church announcing that we are open. Hope to see you soon.

**Arlene Byrne**

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea**

In taking precautions to minimize the spread of the coronavirus, all Masses have been cancelled. Please visit us for new updates. Be careful and stay safe!

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### Ordinary Heroes

Considering the huge number of super heroes in Hollywood films, it can be refreshing to find heroism in everyday life.

**Working** (1982) is an American Playhouse musical film based on an oral history compiled by Studs Terkel called "Working: People Talk about What They Do All Day and How They Feel about It." Major themes include the need to find dignity in even the most mundane employment and to take pride in one's work, and parents striving to enable better lives for their children. "The extraordinary dreams of ordinary people," was how Terkel described it in his 1974 book. Featured are Rita Moreno as a waitress, James Taylor as a truck driver, Patti LaBelle as a cleaning woman, Barbara Hershey as a call girl, Barbara Barrie as a school teacher, Beth Howland as a housewife and Scatman Crothers as a parking attendant. My favorite vignette is Barry Bostwick as a steelworker who thinks there ought to be a plaque on the side of all buildings with the names of everyone who helped construct it, because "everyone should have something to point to."

When their husbands went to war, many women went to work in factories as depicted in **Swing Shift** (1984). It stars Goldie Hawn as Kay Walsh, who gets a Rosie-the-Riveter job while her husband, Jack (Ed Harris), is out at sea. She becomes a friend of her neighbor Hazel (Christine Lahti, nominated for a well-deserved best supporting actress Oscar). However, her moral self-righteousness is sorely tested when she becomes attracted to the lead man on her shift, Lucky Lockhart (Kurt Russell). This is a poignant drama that demonstrates the heroism exhibited by some women willing to step up to do what needs to be done.

Edward James Olmos delivers an outstanding performance as math teacher Jaime Escalante in **Stand and Deliver** (1988). Trying to teach calculus to Latino students at an East Los Angeles high school requires considerable ingenuity, and he certainly has that. He dares his students to do well, with the warning that if they're not willing to try, they should "go to wood shop, make yourself a shoe-shine box, cause you're gonna need it." Lou Diamond Phillips is excellent as the most difficult student who is won over when the teacher sneaks him an extra set of textbooks to keep at home so he won't be taunted by being seen carrying them in school. In my opinion, people who choose teaching as a career are all heroes.

Geena Davis is TV newscaster Gale Galey in **Hero** (1992), an examination of the influence and ethics of journalism and the concept of heroism. After Gale receives a Silver Mike Journalism Award, she is involved in an airplane crash. Finding himself on the road next to the crash site, loser and convicted felon Bernie LaPlante (Dustin Hoffman) rather grudgingly helps save the lives of 54 people, while stealing from those he saves. Leaving the scene without recognition, he is given a ride by homeless veteran John Bubber (Andy Garcia). When Gale's TV station offers a reward for the mystery hero, John comes forward to collect. John is a hero and a fraud. Yet he is a continuous inspiration: "We're all heroes if you catch us at the right moment. We all have something noble and decent in us trying to get

out. And we're all less than heroic at other times. . . . A hero is just a symbol of what's good in all of us."

**And the Band Played On** (1993) is a superb docudrama starring Matthew Modine as Dr. Don Francis, a Center for Disease Control physician, fighting the spread of AIDS. The cast includes Alan Alda as arrogant self-serving Dr. Bob Gallo, Lily Tomlin as a San Francisco public health inspector, Phil Collins as a bath house owner, Richard Gere as a choreographer and Ian McKellen as a gay politician. The viewer is riveted by the frustration experienced by those heroic individuals who are trying to fight the spread of the disease.

A wonderful family film is **Fly Away Home** (1996). After her mother is killed in a car crash (during the first two minutes of the film), Amy (Anna Paquin) must leave her New Zealand home to live in Canada with her eccentric father, Thomas (Jeff Daniels). His art includes huge metal sculptures, and he has a hobby of trying to fly with his friend David (Terry Kinney). Miserable in her new home, Amy's spirit is lifted when she finds a bunch of goose eggs that have been abandoned because their mother was killed by land developers. She takes them in and becomes their "mother" when they hatch. How these birds are taught to fly and migrate is fascinating. This is a very uplifting tale of perseverance and dedication that is beautiful cinematically as well.

Julia Roberts won an Academy Award in the title role of **Erin Brockovich** (2000), a divorced mother of three with few options to support her family. She talks her way into a job with a law firm and winds up doing an investigation against Pacific Gas & Electric, whose industrial chemicals may have polluted a town's water supply. Law firm owner Ed Masry (Albert Finney) is continuously upstaged by Erin and her outrageous mouth and clothing. Yet she is very bright and caring, and she eventually wins the respect of the clients involved in the class action suit and the grudging respect of her co-workers.

Set in modern-day New Zealand, **Whale Rider** (2002) is the story of Pai (Keisha Castle-Hughes) a young Maori girl whose twin brother dies at birth along with her mother. Pai's grandfather Koro (Rawiri Paratene) is devastated when his son, Porourangi (Cliff Curtis), refuses to take over as tribal chief and deserts the family. Pai, left in the care of Koro and Nancy Flowers (Vicky Kaughton), is heartbroken that her grandfather thinks of her as just a worthless girl. When a pod of whales is washed ashore, Pai is presented with an insurmountable challenge and opportunity to prove herself and become a hero to her people.

**Akeelah and the Bee** (2006) is the story of Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer), an 11-year-old black girl who, along with her siblings, is being raised by their much-stressed widowed mother, Tanya (Angela Bassett), a hardworking nurse. When it is discovered that Akeelah has an aptitude for spelling, she is asked by her school principal, Mr. Welch (Curtis Armstrong), to participate in the school spelling bee. When she succeeds, her disparaging brother is surprised by the admiration she receives from his tough neighborhood friends. Akeelah's mother thinks this nonsense will interfere with her school work, so Akeelah has to go behind her mother's back to study. Along the way she is challenged by the driven Asian-American Dylan (Sean Michael Aftable) and befriended by Mexican-American Javier (J.R. Villarreal), both of whom live in upscale neighborhoods. Akeelah really begins to shine when she secures the tutelage of Dr. Joshua Larabee (Laurence Fishburne). The film is about breaking out of stereotypical molds, creating self-esteem, rising above peer pressure, working hard for what you want and being

willing to be successful. It is a film that demonstrates the wisdom and understanding of a young person whose perception and intelligence can have a profound effect on everyone around her. It is a film that demonstrates how ambition does not have to cancel out generosity of spirit.

**The First Grader** (2010) is the remarkable true story of Kimani Ng'ang'a Maruge (Oliver Musila Litondo), an illiterate member of the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya who decides at age 84 to enroll in a rural primary school. The film moves back and forth in time between his 2003 interactions with the primary school teacher, Jane Obinchi (Naomi Harris), and his brutal memories of his participation in the Mau Mau uprising against the British in the 1950s. This film provides a rich glimpse of Kenya and shows the inspiration a person of any age can be to a nation.

**Monuments Men** (2014) is based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history. The action drama focuses on an unlikely World War II platoon tasked by FDR with going to Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their rightful owners. The "Monuments Men," as they were called, found themselves in a race against time to prevent the destruction of 1,000 years of culture at great personal risk. The film stars George Clooney (who also directed), Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville and Cate Blanchett.

**Spotlight**, Oscar winner as Best Picture of 2015, recounts the true story of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team of investigative journalists at the Boston Globe who in 2002 exposed the Catholic Church's systematic cover-up of widespread child abuse perpetrated by priests. The Spotlight team portrayed in the film includes projects editor Ben Bradlee Jr. (John Slattery), team editor Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael Keaton), reporters Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo) and researcher Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James). Fully aware that taking on the Catholic Church in Boston will have major ramifications, newly appointed Globe editor Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber) assigns Spotlight the task of following up on story about a local priest accused of having sexually abused dozens of young parishioners over 30 years. Their initial belief that they are covering one priest is shattered when they contact attorneys Mitchell Garabedian (Stanley Tucci) and Eric MacLeish (Billy Crudup) and

discover there are multiple priests and victims involved. Their investigatory efforts encounter staunch resistance from church officials, especially the Boston church attorney Jim Sullivan (Jamey Sheridan) and Boston's Cardinal Law (Len Cariou). Relentless in its pursuit of the truth, the Globe eventually published its blockbuster exposé in January 2002, leading the way for similar revelations in more than 200 other cities around the world.

Set in the 1960s, **Hidden Figures** (2016) is the incredible recounting of the brilliant efforts of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), intellectually gifted African-American women who worked at NASA. Facing discrimination with separate bathrooms and even coffeepots, they each served as integral workers in the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Their stunning achievements included the mathematical genius of Johnson, the engineering brilliance of Jackson and the ambition of Vaughn in the IBM mainframe computer world. Without their contributions, the U.S. might have lost their dominance to Russia. These visionary women crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to come. They were extraordinary but would have remained unrecognized if it weren't for this film.

**A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood** (2019) is the story of a depressed investigative journalist Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys), who is assigned to write a profile of Fred Rogers (Tom Hanks), aka Mr. Rogers. Vogel approaches the interview with skepticism, as he cannot comprehend someone with a genuine good nature. In the course of their interactions, Vogel's jaded outlook on life is unwillingly and irrevocably changed by Roger's compassion, thoughtfulness and decency. This is a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. I wanted to end with this review because of this extraordinary Rogers quote: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

Thank you for your service to all the ordinary workers who have placed themselves in danger performing their jobs as well as volunteering, becoming extraordinary in the process. And until next time stay healthy and happy viewing...

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Photos by MATT PANZA and RON TERNER

Signs on Island businesses reflect the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. Many workers from both on and off the Island have maintained their posts, including (bottom photos) UPS's Mike Moore, School Crossing Guard Cyndee Candelaria, USPS Mailman Anthony Francione, and Chase Bank's Deidra Taylor.

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### Business

Continued from page 3

time of crisis. Those who are cooking for only one or two people are freezing half of what they cook or sharing (carefully) with neighbors. So if you find yourself with a huge head of cabbage, for example, cut it in half and pass it along to a friend, together with a warning to handle it with care (and

gloves)!

The City Island Chamber of Commerce has been able to disseminate information to both members and non-members regarding available programs, including those from governmental officials and agencies. (See the Chamber letter on page 6.)

Islanders look forward to the re-opening of the closed businesses once the ban is lifted. *The Current* will be following the situation in the June issue.

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# NOT SO E-ZPASS

By KAREN NANI



Eric Diaz

The following profile is part of our advertiser series.

The advent of cashless toll collection in the 1990s seemed like a great idea to help speed up traffic, prevent New York City drivers from having to fumble for exact change or buy tokens, and eventually facilitate the removal of toll booths along many highways and bridges in the tristate area. While many commuters can barely remember a time before E-ZPass, there have been some problems with the system over the years, especially when it comes to fines and penalties levied on drivers.

Enter City Island resident Eric Diaz and his company, Tor Toll, LLC. Eric founded the company to help consumers contest and resolve what they consider unfair E-ZPass violations that were not delivered in a timely manner. He describes his efforts as “a David vs. Goliath” story.

Originally from Long Island, Eric had an early interest in law enforcement and the legal profession. “My father was retired from the NYPD and my mother worked for Geico.” So Eric attended John Jay College in New York City and aspired to be a lawyer, but he decided that law school was

too expensive. He was able to funnel his entrepreneurial spirit into a business helping customers fight what they believed were excessive fines from E-ZPass, the cashless system used by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the New York State Thruway Authority, the Metropolitan Transit Authority Bridges and Tunnel system and other transportation authorities in many U.S. states.

“Our first customer had racked up \$3,000 in fines from E-ZPass and was getting nowhere fighting with them. We were able to dispute the fines and have them dismissed,” he proudly told *The Current*.

So what makes an unfair E-ZPass violation? “There have been systemic problems with E-ZPass billing from the beginning.” He explains that sometimes when your E-ZPass battery is low, it doesn’t register when you go through a toll. Other times, E-ZPass doesn’t debit the money correctly from the credit card you have provided for billing. “Customers may change credit cards and there is a delay in switching over to the new card.” According to Eric, if you go through a toll during one of these situations, you may get a violation from E-ZPass.

The problem is then compounded by the lack of notification in a timely manner, so that by the time a driver receives the fine, penalties may have already started accruing. According to Eric, “The Office of the Inspector General found that there were mailing issues with these notifications and told E-ZPass to address this problem.” This reporter recalled a situation where the E-ZPass reader on one of her early minivans had to be placed on the outside of the car near the license plate. During ice and snowstorms, it would malfunction and not register at the toll booths, sometimes resulting in a fine.

Although many customers have never received any E-ZPass violations, some drivers have been hit with thousands of dollars in fines. Eric described his company’s track

record. “We can’t guarantee dismissal of the violations, but we will advocate for our clients and have won 97 percent of the time. Tor Toll collects a fee on each case, which is proportional to the amount of the penalty reduced.”

Eric is now a proud City Islander and advertiser in *The Island Current*. “I knew of City Island from visits and from my cousin-in-law, Rosette Dietz, who lives on the Is-

land. I moved here because it’s reminiscent of where I grew up in Long Island.” He lives on Marine Street with his two dogs, Sasha and Buster.

Eric and his company, which was incorporated in 2019, are here to help both commercial and residential drivers with any E-Z Pass problems. Tor Toll can be reached at 833-383-8300 or [info@tortoll.com](mailto:info@tortoll.com).

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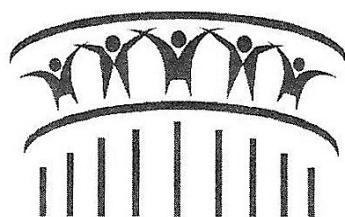
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Photos courtesy of ED HEBEN

From January 1918 through December 1920, the world suffered a massive pandemic caused by an influenza virus that infected 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide, about 675,000 occurring in the United States, most of them during the second and third waves of the virus. The U.S. led the world in making the wearing of masks mandatory beginning in October 1918, a month before the Armistice that ended World War I. As the Washington Post put it: "Gas Masks in the Trenches; Influenza Masks at Home."



THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Since we are still being told to avoid going outside as much as possible, we thought we could bring the great outdoors in this month in the form of a challenge. Below are weblinks to 15 of the most common bird calls (with accompanying video) in our area. You may already be familiar with many of them, but in a vague, peripheral way only. Like white noise.

So here's your chance to take back control of a little bit of your world. And these days, every little bit counts. See how many of the sounds below you not only recognize but can also commit to memory. Think of this exercise as more than just passing time, but as enlightenment, in preparation for sunnier days ahead.

1. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKMctAF6YMc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKMctAF6YMc) (the ubiquitous American robin)
2. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hisjOh6\\_cs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hisjOh6_cs) (the house finch, one of our favorites)
3. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO6kKGAYvXc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO6kKGAYvXc) (the laughing gull, synonymous with summer)
- The rest of these audio/visual files come to us from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a wonderful resource for beginner, intermediate as well as advanced birders.
4. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning\\_Dove/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/sounds)
5. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Crow/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Crow/sounds)
6. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/European\\_Starling/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/European_Starling/sounds)
7. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina\\_Wren/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Wren/sounds)
8. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern\\_Cardinal/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Cardinal/sounds)
9. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern\\_Mockingbird/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Mockingbird/sounds)
10. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue\\_Jay/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue_Jay/sounds)
11. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged\\_Blackbird/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged_Blackbird/sounds)
12. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song\\_Sparrow/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song_Sparrow/sounds)
13. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/sounds)
14. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common\\_Tern/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Tern/sounds)
15. [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common\\_Loon/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds)

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Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

**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

MAY 2020											
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY		
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET			
01	Fri	0546	7.44	1228	0.75	1835	7.20		Fri	01	
02	Sat	0056	1.05	0656	7.4	1346	0.57	1946	7.52	Sat	02
03	Sun	0226	0.63	0812	7.50	1500	0.22	2054	7.97	Sun	03
04	Mon	0341	0.01	0924	7.71	1601	-0.16	2153	8.36	Mon	04
05	Tue	0441	-0.59	1026	7.91	1654	-0.48	2245	8.70	Tue	05
06	Wed	0535	-1.06	1121	8.03	1744	-0.67	2335	8.88	Wed	06
07	Thu	0628	-1.32	1213	8.02	1833	-0.68			Thu	07
08	Fri	0024	8.89	0719	-1.34	1304	7.90	1921	-0.51	Fri	08
09	Sat	0113	8.73	0811	-1.14	1357	7.68	2011	-0.19	Sat	09
10	Sun	0203	8.42	0904	-0.76	1453	7.41	2105	0.24	Sun	10
11	Mon	0259	8.01	1000	-0.28	1554	7.16	2205	0.69	Mon	11
12	Tue	0404	7.59	1058	0.21	1659	6.99	2312	1.07	Tue	12
13	Wed	0517	7.25	1159	0.61	1803	6.95			Wed	13
14	Thu	0019	1.29	0626	7.06	1257	0.88	1903	7.03	Thu	14
15	Fri	0122	1.33	0729	7.01	1353	1.01	1959	7.20	Fri	15
16	Sat	0220	1.22	0825	7.05	1445	1.04	2050	7.40	Sat	16
17	Sun	0312	1.01	0916	7.12	1532	1.01	2137	7.57	Sun	17
18	Mon	0400	0.78	1003	7.17	1614	0.96	2220	7.68	Mon	18
19	Tue	0443	0.56	1047	7.19	1651	0.92	2258	7.73	Tue	19
20	Wed	0522	0.38	1125	7.16	1721	0.89	2328	7.74	Wed	20
21	Thu	0557	0.26	1159	7.10	1739	0.86	2343	7.76	Thu	21
22	Fri	0625	0.18	1221	7.05	1758	0.79	2359	7.88	Fri	22
23	Sat	0646	0.12	1236	7.06	1829	0.74			Sat	23
24	Sun	0029	8.02	0712	0.08	1306	7.14	1907	0.72	Sun	24
25	Mon	0107	8.12	0747	0.08	1344	7.21	1949	0.76	Mon	25
26	Tue	0149	8.14	0829	0.14	1428	7.27	2036	0.83	Tue	26
27	Wed	0236	8.07	0916	0.25	1516	7.30	2128	0.93	Wed	27
28	Thu	0329	7.89	1007	0.38	1611	7.33	2226	1.00	Thu	28
29	Fri	0426	7.66	1105	0.48	1710	7.40	2332	0.98	Fri	29
30	Sat	0529	7.43	1209	0.52	1816	7.53			Sat	30
31	Sun	0054	0.80	0641	7.28	1323	0.44	1927	7.77	Sun	31
JUNE 2020											
01	Mon	0222	0.40	0800	7.27	1437	0.25	2035	8.07	Mon	01
02	Tue	0331	-0.12	0914	7.38	1540	0.01	2136	8.36	Tue	02
03	Wed	0430	-0.60	1016	7.51	1636	-0.19	2231	8.58	Wed	03
04	Thu	0525	-0.95	1112	7.60	1729	-0.30	2323	8.69	Thu	04
05	Fri	0617	-1.11	1204	7.63	1820	-0.28			Fri	05
06	Sat	0013	8.66	0708	-1.08	1256	7.59	1910	-0.14	Sat	06



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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Antique seed packet

## Gardening in the Time of Corona

Well, here we are, in a daunting, historic moment in time. Climate change, politics, the economy and the pandemic—whose cure is not yet found—have created a perfect storm. Are you quarantined, anxious and/or bored? There is a remedy. What is your thing? Can you find a new hobby? Personally, I am thankful I am not on the front lines, and I am so grateful to those who are, and I wish them strength and health to get through this terrible ordeal. Those of us at home are getting back to basics. We are finding solace in simpler things, like reading, listening to music, cooking and exploring an interest in more depth or a new study altogether.

It is May and, luckily, not the dead of winter, when this situation would be harder to bear. It has been so long since I have had nothing better to do than tend a garden. Is this what paradise is? To get back to the garden? For those who do not have one, I would encourage you to use containers. Whether on a windowsill, balcony or rooftop, creating something beautiful to look at and tend would be a lovely dalliance and therapy.

Herbs can be bought on line and delivered, as would be tomatoes, annuals and seeds.

I am a fan of seeds, such as morning glories, zinnias, pot marigolds, clarkia and all the umbels, which are easy. I have trays percolating and ready to be repotted. Once these have been potted-on I am ready for a new batch to sow, thereby creating a succession in the garden. Cosmos are also lovely. The white sonatas are delicate and airy and seem to tie a garden scheme together seamlessly. I can't have enough of them.

Ornamental grasses also are very easy from seed. Try the Thompson and Morgan seed company, Burpee or Seed Savers Exchange. Poppies, larkspur and ammi (a large Queen Anne's lace) will make a beautiful combination and can be sowed in situ. Remember to spread the seed very thinly so as to not overcrowd them, and keep the soil moist until germination and a bit beyond. Sage is a lovely plant for a pot, looking beautiful with a teepee of moonflower above it and a patch of thyme at the base. We are all missing Jill's Cottage Garden Nursery on the Island. Hopefully she will be back in business with her lovely plants soon.

Many of my friends and family are creating victory gardens for the very first time. During WWII the home vegetable garden made up 30 percent of all produce in the country. I will try my hand at tomatoes and basil this summer. Luckily, I have a friend who is growing plants from seed, and I will be the happy recipient of some nice Brandywines.

I have a few tips on growing tomatoes. Plant them 24 inches apart, prune off the lower branches and stake them. You only want two main vines per plant. At the end of the summer, pinch out the main shoot, so the plant can concentrate on ripening the fruits. Water only the soil, not from overhead, and for better flavor let them dry out a bit. Stress makes them sweeter. If the skin cracks, it's been overwatered. It is best to water deeply every few days rather than every day. Also a few teaspoons of molasses in a gallon of water will enhance the taste.

Stay safe, stay home, walk, bicycle and be in the green. Doing these things are helping the cause. With vigilance and patience, better times are on the way.

# Caring for Ourselves and Others in the Time of Corona

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Family members are learning a lot about one another these days. Each of our personality strengths and quirks have been witnessed over and over again, and a newfound appreciation for teachers and workplace collegiality has helped us realize all we have lost during this pandemic. The loss may be the opportunity for a haircut, a chance for a quick cup of coffee with a friend in a favorite local shop, or the ability to earn a living in a gig economy that is unforgiving when we don't (or can't) show up. It is as real a loss as the death of someone we love, and grief has moved into our homes as we struggle with this new reality.

We have three realms to attend to as we look to take care of ourselves, those we love, our communities, and the world at large: the physical realm, the emotional realm, and the spiritual realm.

Many of you have already established family walks, bike rides, on-line Zumba classes, yoga sessions and daily exercise goals. We are eating together more as a family and sharing the responsibilities for shopping and cooking and cleaning up. We are getting more sleep. Keep it up: it matters.

Emotions are pulsing through our households. All feelings can be welcomed: a feeling is just that—not the truth or a permanent state of affairs. Feelings we deny can erupt later as anger or depression that seems to come out of nowhere. Feelings we accept and talk about and deal with (breathe, count to five, take a moment, get outside) move through us so that other,

more positive feelings can take their place. Grief is inevitable and needs expression by moving through stages that at times take us by surprise: denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, acceptance and meaning. You are fine one day and a mess the next day: our feelings come in waves. Let's be compassionate with each other as we allow our emotional intelligence to deal with each feeling as it comes, surrounded by the love and care of others.

We are also spiritual beings. The practice of worshiping alongside our faith brethren cannot happen right now, and being in touch with a power greater than ourselves doesn't need a holy place to visit anyway. In times of crisis like this pandemic, a spiritual practice is important: daily prayer, reading sacred texts, meditation or simply sharing gratitude with our loved ones for what we have. Here is where we can look for meaning in all of this: what will we learn and how will we grow from this experience? Let's not look back with longing or look forward with fear. Let's figure out what we can do right now to make sense of our lives.

Every day we face a choice: will we live each moment as an expression of love or as an expression of fear? Our loved ones will look to us for compassion, patience and guidance, and we must realize that we are often much stronger than we think. This too shall pass, and we can be change agents to ensure that the "new normal" that comes next is more compassionate, equitable and loving than what we have left behind.



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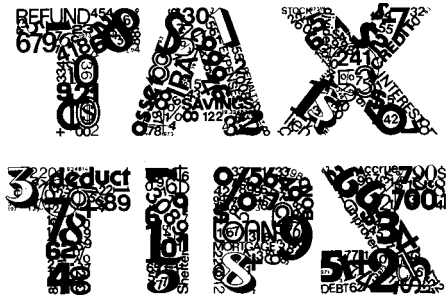
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the federal income tax filing due date has been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020. Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15 to July 15 without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. In addition, the payment and return-filing requirements for gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes due April 15 are now due July 15, matching postponements granted to federal income taxes and returns. New York State has also extended the tax deadlines and payments in response to Covid-19.

This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations, and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax. Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief.

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

Even though the filing deadline has been extended, there is no need to wait to file your tax return, especially if you are due a refund. Filing electronically using direct deposit is the fastest way to get a refund and most tax refunds are still being issued within 21 days.

These extended deadlines are the result of the President's emergency declaration last week and are made possible by the Stafford Act, which was enacted in 1988. This is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal natural disaster and emergency assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens.

### The CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the stimulus bill that was signed into law on March 27, 2020, contains legislation to stabilize the economy during the coronavirus pandemic. These measures include economic recovery checks for taxpayers, as well as several other tax provisions affecting individuals. Here are a few of the highlights.

Economic impact payments or "recovery checks" started being sent to taxpayers in April and will be available throughout the rest of 2020. For most people, the payments will be distributed automatically, and no action is required. Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child. Most people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

Anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 should file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment and include direct deposit banking information on the return.

If you typically are not required to file a tax return, the IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 or Form RRB-1099 to generate Economic Impact Payments to recipients of benefits who are not required to file a tax return and did not file a return for 2018 or 2019. Each person would receive \$1,200 per person, without the additional amount for any dependents at this time and includes senior citizens, Social Security recipients (including Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients) and railroad retirees who are not otherwise required to file a tax return.

Social Security, railroad retirees and SSDI recipients who have qualifying children will need to take an additional step to receive \$500 per qualifying child. Other individuals, such as low-income workers and certain veterans and individuals with disabilities who are not required to file a tax return, are also eligible for an Economic Impact Payment, but in some cases, may need to file a tax return.

### Early Withdrawals from Retirement Plans

Taxpayers affected by the coronavirus will be allowed to withdraw up to \$100,000 and not be subject to the 10 percent penalty for early withdrawals from their retirement plans. Distributions can be taken through Dec. 31, 2020. The amount withdrawn is considered income, however, and taxpayers will have three years to pay the tax on the additional income and replace the funds in-kind. If you need to withdraw funds from a retirement plan, please call a tax professional to discuss how it could impact your financial situation.

Eligible taxpayers include anyone who has been diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 virus or Covid-19 disease or whose spouse or dependent has been diagnosed with the same. In addition, any taxpayer experiencing financial hardship from any of the following situations: quarantine, furlough, being laid off, having work hours reduced, or unable to work because of lack of child-care.

Required minimum distributions are suspended for tax year 2020.

### Charitable Deductions

For tax year 2020, there is now an above-the-line charitable deduction of up to \$300. In addition, the limitation on adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable contributions (2020 tax year only) increases to 100 percent of AGI for individuals. Food contribution limits also increase to a maximum of 25 percent.

### Relief for Other Coronavirus-Related Tax Issues

Relief for taxpayers facing the challenges of Covid-19-related tax issues is now available through the IRS People First initiative. The projected start date was April 1 and the effort will initially run through July 15, 2020. During this period, to the maximum extent possible, in-person contact will be avoided; however, the IRS will continue to take steps where necessary to protect all applicable statutes of limitations.

Some of the highlights affecting taxpayers include existing installment agreements. For taxpayers under an existing installment agreement, payments due

between April 1 and July 15, 2020, are suspended. Taxpayers who are currently unable to comply with the terms of an installment payment agreement, including a direct deposit installment agreement, may suspend payments during this period if they prefer. Furthermore, during this period, installment agreements will not be defaulted on. By law, interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid balances.

Taxpayers unable to fully pay their federal taxes can resolve outstanding liabilities by entering into a monthly payment agreement with the IRS. Several steps are available to assist taxpayers in various stages of this process. Taxpayers have until July 15 to provide requested additional information to support a pending "Offer in Compromise" (OIC). In addition, any

pending OIC request before July 15 will not be closed without the taxpayer's consent. Taxpayers have the option of suspending all payments on accepted OICs until July 15, 2020, although by law interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid balances.

The IRS will not default an OIC for those taxpayers who are delinquent in filing their tax return for tax year 2018. However, taxpayers should file any delinquent 2018 return (and their 2019 return) on or before July 15, 2020.

### Non-Filers

If you have not filed a return for tax years before 2019, it is in your best interest to file any delinquent returns as you

Continued on page 18



Photos by JAMES GOONAN

The Boy Scouts and adult leaders of troop 211 have been delivering food to senior citizens of City Island since March 23, 2020, when Bill Stanton and the Civic Association officers who organized City Island Strong reached out to James Goonan and Angelo Bellocchio to ask if the scouts wanted to be involved. Teri Kurtz has been collecting names and addresses and passing them on to the scouts, who started delivering food from the Senior Center at Grace Church; when that supply ended, they began to get the food from P.S. 175. Two women at the school—Shneeza Haniff and Samarie Dejesus (middle photo)—prepare and package breakfast and lunch for those in need every day Monday through Friday. The scouts, including Jack, Brian and Peter Hickey (top photo), and their parents are currently delivering meals to Pilot Cove, and other meals are being delivered to homes elsewhere on the Island by Joseph Goonan (bottom photo).



# 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.



## Adelaide Rosenfeld Bialek

Adelaide Bialek, who was born and raised on City Island, passed away after a long illness on April 3, 2020, surrounded by her brother David and his wife, Margaret.

She was born 85 years ago, the daughter of Adelaide Rodstrom Rosenfeld and David Rosenfeld, both natives of City Island. She graduated from P.S. 17 in January 1948 and from the Bronx High School of Science. She earned degrees from Hunter College and the University of Chicago. It was in Chicago that she met and married Stephen T. Bialek, who had served as an Army sergeant in World War II.

Adelaide's mother, Adelaide Rodstrom Rosenfeld, was a teacher at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and a founder of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum in the 1970s, and Adelaide Bialek was the organization's most generous donor over the past 20 years. It was her gift in 2014 that enabled the Museum to replace the front steps leading up to the entrance, which she dedicated to her aunt Josephine Rodstrom. She continued to make generous annual donations to the Nautical Museum, and was also a supporter of the City Island Oyster Reef.

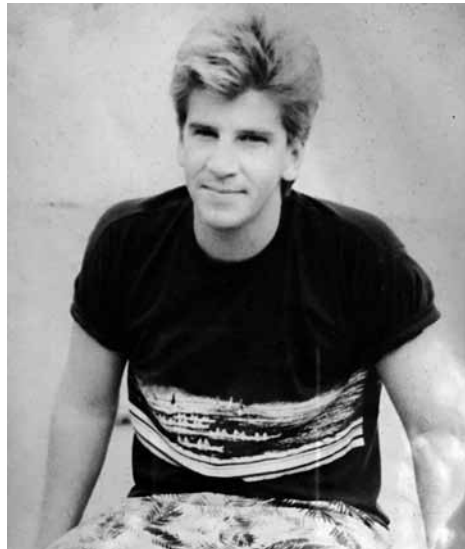
Adelaide's grandfather was the renowned marine photographer Morris Rosenfeld, and her father, David, was also a photographer. He was head of the photography department at the High School of Art and Design, where Islander Stephanie Ribaud was a student. She recalls how he once came to her classroom for the purpose of introducing himself to her as a fellow Islander. Adelaide's grandmother on her mother's side was Cora Adelaide Waterhouse Rodstrom, who was also a grandmother of Wes Rodstrom Jr. of Consolidated Yachts.

After earning her degree from the University of Chicago, young Adelaide began working as a computer programmer in 1956, first for the Nuclear Development Corporation of America and then at the Institute for Air Weapons Research at the University of Chicago. Her last job before retiring was technical director of the Academy for Interscience Methodology, where she worked on strategies for nuclear disarmament.

Adelaide Bialek was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Stephen Bialek, who passed away in 2000. She is survived by her brother David (Margaret) Rosenfeld; her sisters-in-law Lorraine (Peter) Kowalski and Stella Dudkowski; and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held in Illinois and also on City Island; dates to be announced. She will be interred at Pelham Cemetery on City Island alongside her husband.

Donations in her memory may be

made to the Rosenfeld Collection at Mystic Seaport Museum, 75 Greenmanville Ave, Mystic, CT 06355, or to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, P. O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464.



## Grattan Kyle III

Grattan Byron Kyle III, a resident of Connecticut, passed away on April 4, 2020. He was 56.

Grattan was born on City Island in 1963 to Grattan and Rita Kyle. He attended P.S. 17, Christopher Columbus High School, and later the Culinary Institute of America, where he trained as a chef.

He worked for 30 years in the restaurant industry, where he thrived in and out of the kitchen. Grattan was also a union man, and he represented the Service Employees International Union Chapter 32BJ in New York City. He successfully bridged the gap between the employee-employer relationship and approached his work with great passion. He also worked for Rose Associates for 15 years in New York City.

He married Cynthia Lordi of Hopewell Junction, NY, in 1991 and they had one daughter, Fiona. Grattan was an avid sailor and great lover of the sea.

Grattan is survived by his wife, his daughter and his sisters, Leslie Kyle, Lauren Chernin and Daniele Kyle. He was a loving uncle to Kyle and Merissa Ferrar, Hilary and Ryan Chernin, and Makayla and Hayden Hein.

Grattan will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.



## Helen Marie McMahon

Lifelong Islander Helen Marie McMahon passed away on April 1, 2020, at the age of 62.

Helen Marie was born to Mort and Marie Livingston in June 1957. She was raised on City Island with her brothers Jimmy, John and Robert. Helen was a true clam digger, spending her summers down on Beach Street, attending grammar school at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and creating lifelong friendships here.

In September of 1980, Helen married her high school sweetheart, Thomas McMahon, and they established a life together on

City Island. It was on Minneford Avenue, in the house she grew up in, where they raised their four children, Thomas John, Mikey, Katie and Bernadette.

Helen worked as a teacher for more than 25 years at St. Mary's school, where she was known as "Miss Helen." That name would stick with her as she impacted the lives of her students, reaching far beyond the classroom. She served the school and ran the basketball program alongside her husband. She was a dedicated parishioner and eucharistic minister at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where she attended Mass every Sunday. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 and a volunteer for the City Island Girl Scouts and Brownies, COLONY (Council of Leaders of Neighborhood Youth) and the Parent-Teacher Association of P.S. 175, to name just a few.

As a very active member of the community, Helen was committed to the betterment of City Island and all of its youth programs, and she received multiple awards for her hard work and dedication. She never hesitated to help a neighbor or to spark a friendly conversation on the street. Everyone who crossed paths with Helen was greeted with a smile and always left with one.

Helen enjoyed being a secret poet, writing poems to help people celebrate any type of special occasion. She loved staying connected and bringing family and friends together. She was a selfless woman, spending most of her time taking care of her loved ones. Her greatest joy in life was being a mother.

Helen is survived by her husband, her four children and two grandchildren, Jackson and Gianna. She will be dearly missed and always remembered as a staple of the City Island community.

## Tax Tips

*Continued from page 17*

may be owed a refund. More than one million households that haven't filed tax returns during the last three years are actually owed refunds, and there is still time to claim these refunds. Once delinquent returns have been filed, anyone with a tax liability should consider taking the opportunity to resolve any outstanding liabilities by entering into an installment agreement or an offer in compromise (OIC) with the IRS to obtain a "Fresh Start."

### Coronavirus-related Scams

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for calls and e-mail phishing attempts regarding the coronavirus that could lead to tax-related fraud and identity theft. Because criminals take every opportunity to perpetrate a fraud on unsuspecting victims during times of need, taxpayers should also be skeptical about text messages received and websites and social media attempts to request money or personal information.

Seniors should be especially careful at this time. In most cases, the IRS will deposit economic impact payments (sometimes called recovery rebates or stimulus payments) into the direct deposit account taxpayers previously provided on tax returns, and taxpayers should not provide their direct deposit or other banking information for anyone to input on their behalf

into the secure portal.

For retirees, the \$1,200 payments are sent automatically. There is no additional action or information is needed on their part to receive this. Retirees, including recipients of Forms SSA-1099 and RRB-1099, should also know that they will not be contacted by the IRS via phone, e-mail, mail or in person asking for any kind of information to complete their economic impact payment.

Scammers use a number of techniques, which include the following: emphasizing the words "Stimulus Check" or "Stimulus Payment" (the official term is economic impact payment); asking the taxpayer to sign over their economic impact payment check to them; asking by phone, e-mail, text, or social media for verification of personal and/or banking information by saying that the information is needed to receive or speed up their economic impact payment; suggesting that they can get a tax refund or economic impact payment faster by working on the taxpayer's behalf. This scam could be conducted by social media or even in person; mailing the taxpayer a bogus check, perhaps in an odd amount, and then telling the taxpayer to call a number or verify information online in order to cash it.

Unsolicited e-mails, text messages or social media attempts to gather information that appear to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), should be forwarded to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

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**Know the  
Chain of Survival  
Strengthen the  
Chain of Survival**



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During February, American Heart Month, strengthen the chain of survival! Learn the warning signs of cardiac arrest, heart attack and stroke. Learn CPR. Support defibrillators in public places. For more information, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1.

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# CLASSIFIED

All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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

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

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

**OWENS TREE EXPERTS:** Tree trimming & removal. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call 718-885-0914.

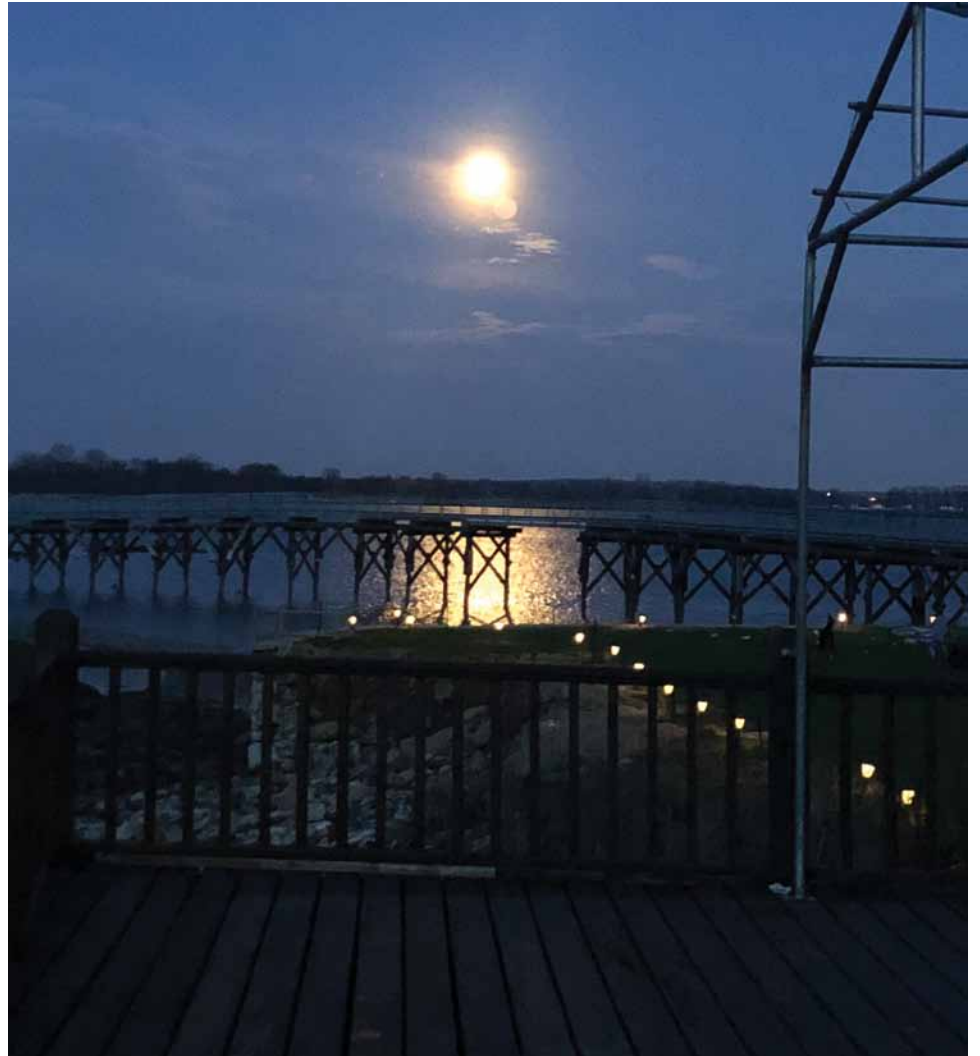
**JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED:** Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

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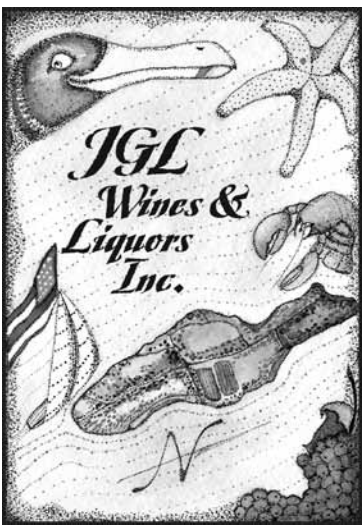
**BOAT SUPPLIES:** Burck's Boat Store, customer parking, Master-Visa accepted. 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559.

# APRIL FLOWERS AND SHOWERS



Photos by MATT PANZA and KAREN NANI

The widespread coronavirus caused cancellations of graduations, sporting events and Easter celebrations, but it could not hold back Spring. On City Island, trees were in full bloom, the brightest super moon of the year occurred on April 7, and mourning doves and other birds prepared their nests. High winds and heavy rain on April 13 caused a few temporary power outages, but overall Islanders are grateful for the arrival of Spring.



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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.



Photo by RON TERNER

The Easter Bunny rode up and down City Island Avenue on April 12, 2020, to the delight of Islanders of all ages.

Happy 64th birthday to Jim Doyle on May 20 with love and best wishes from the whole family. In his own words "You're not old until you turn 60!"

Anniversary wishes for continued happiness to the Sailmaker's John and Judy Iovieno, who will celebrate their 30th on May 12. With love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Kudos to the Easter Bunny who hopped on by City Island to wave hello to everyone last month.

Birthday greetings from family, friends and patrons to Patrice Ortega of To Go Express. She'll celebrate her big day on May 28.

Happy anniversary on May 12 to King Avenue's Brian and Kim Moore.

Congratulations to the Salesian High School Eagles varsity basketball team for winning NYC CHSAA B-Division City Championship on March 8 at Fordham University. The team was anchored by two Islanders: senior Steven Rice and his strong defensive play and freshman shooting guard Ryan Whelan off the bench. The team ended up ranked 11th in the



Photos by KEVIN BOYLE

The nightly "clap" thanking first responders and healthcare workers at 7 p.m. is becoming a regular event around the country. Shown above are the residents of the Boatyard Condominium on Carroll Street applauding those on the front lines of this pandemic.

State B-Division with a 21-6 record. The State Championship in Buffalo was canceled because of the coronavirus. Best of luck to Steven in college and to Ryan. Shoot for that repeat next season. Go, Eagles!

Barbara (Haas) Lynch wishes belated birthday greetings to her sister, Cathy (Haas) Holoboff of Westpark, FL, and a very special birthday greeting to her cousin, Gene Jones of Oceanside, CA. Gene will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 9, a very happy, happy milestone! Both ladies, like me, are former clam diggers.

Happy birthday wishes on May 19 to Peter Lenz and also to Chase Bank's Deidra Taylor.

Keep up the good work to residents of the Boatyard Condominium who step out on their balconies at 7 p.m. every night to clap and show their appreciation to all our hard-working first responders.

Wishing Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld a very happy birthday on June 1. Enjoy!



Photo courtesy of BILL WHELAN

The Salesian High School Eagles varsity basketball team won the New York City CHSAA B-Division City Championship on March 8, 2020, at Fordham University. The team was anchored by Islanders Ryan Whelan (kneeling, left) and Steven Rice (standing, third player from left).

A very happy Mother's Day on May 10 to all our hardworking mothers and grandmothers. Allow yourselves to be pampered!

During these very challenging times, the staff of *The Island Current* wishes our friends, neighbors and readers safety and peace.

Maria Swieciki

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