

The Island Current

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One Dollar

HARVARD CLUB OF L.I. HONORS DAVID SEXTON



Photo by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Sewanhaka High School teacher David Sexton (center) accepts the Harvard Club of Long Island's Distinguished Teacher of 2013 Award on April 7, 2013, from Judy Esterquest and Richard Oehmler, current board member and past president of the Harvard Club of Long Island.

City Island resident David Sexton, a science teacher at Sewanhaka High School on Long Island, has been named a Distinguished Teacher of 2013 by the Harvard Club of Long Island. One of only 14 teachers from 120 school districts across Long Island to win this award, Mr. Sexton was honored at the Harvard Club of Long Island's annual University Relations Lunch on April 7.

"Our awards recognize people who transform the future," explained Dr. Judith Esterquest, a board member of the Harvard Club of Long Island. "Dedicated teachers like Mr. Sexton expend unfathomable amounts of time and energy on our Long Island teens, day after day and year after year. Their efforts inspire students to

dream dreams, to work to accomplish those dreams, and to think rigorously about what they want their future to be."

Mr. Sexton has taught at Sewanhaka High School for the last 11 years, primarily physics but also chemistry and science research. Before beginning his career as a teacher, he worked as an environmental engineer in the field of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment. He holds a BS degree in chemistry from the University of Buffalo and a master's degree in environmental engineering from Manhattan College.

Armaghan Behlum, a former Sewanhaka High School student and current Harvard College undergraduate, nominated

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Swigging City Island Pale Ale

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JOHN SCIARA

Islanders Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and Paul Sciara enjoyed the launch of City Island Pale Ale at City Swiggers in Manhattan. The launch party was paired with an art opening at which Marguerite's painting "The Secret Garden" (seen in the background) was featured.

The City Island Beer Company was featured at an art opening at a Manhattan beer shop and tasting room on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. City Swiggers, located at 320 East 86th Street, stocks about 600 beers at any given time. It is run by former Wall Street trader Alan Rice and his wife, Pamela, who were excited to debut City Island Pale Ale in one of their 14 taps. "We're always looking for new and local upstart craft brews, and this offering from City Island looks very promising," Mr. Rice said.

When City Island's beer master Paul Sciara heard about the City Swigger quarterly art openings, he told Alan about Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who designed his logo, label and packaging. Alan got in touch with her about putting work in the art show, feeling it would be great to have a "City Island double-header."

The evening was a great success, judging by the size of the crowd that packed the long, narrow space and the constant stream of patrons purchasing beer to carry out.

Paul and his brothers, John and Jeff, currently have 21 venues in three boroughs that sell their ale on tap. Their product is only available in kegs, but Paul hopes to have bottled beer available in six to eight months. In the meantime, at City Swiggers at least, one can bring in a growler or purchase one there and have it filled with City Island Pale Ale.

On City Island, one can taste the fruits of their labors at the City Island Yacht Club, the Alehouse, Artie's Restaurant, the Clubhouse and the American Legion. More locations on the Island will be gearing up to include the traditionally brewed ale shortly.

Paul is always coming up with new ideas for his beer company, and he recently approached the City Island Garden Club about growing hops for his beer locally. As of now, he has two local gardeners interested in growing hops for him. He also has plans to work with Nancy and Patrick Gannon to incorporate their honey into a beer. His idea is to brew a small batch of honey ale using locally produced ingredients to be sold with the proceeds donated to a City Island organization.

WISTFUL MEMORIES



Photos by MARY COLBY and RICHARD DE PIERRO

Islanders have marveled for years at the twists and turns made by the wisteria vine growing at the corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue (photo above). Planted in 1963 by Richard De Pierro, owner of the Black Whale building, the vine eventually reached the point where it posed a hazard to navigation along the sidewalk, and the decision was made to cut it down before it caused an accident (photo, left). Although this plant was not in the best of health anyway, wisterias can grow to amazing sizes. The largest known wisteria vine, planted in California in 1894, takes up more than an acre and weighs 250 tons.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Congressman Joseph Crowley and Councilman Jimmy Vacca are hosting a town hall meeting on City Island with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the NYC Department of Buildings to discuss what the new flood maps mean for this community. The meeting will take place at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m. Representatives from FEMA and the Department of Buildings will answer questions about new flood maps, insurance, building codes and flood prevention. For more information e-mail Crowley.Events@mail.house.gov or call 718-779-1400.

BRIEFLY...

ANNUAL GIRL SCOUT MOTHER'S DAY PLANT & BAKE SALE

will take place on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 210 City Island Avenue, in front of the Little League field. There will be lots of great plants, flowers and treats!

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE

will take place on Tuesday, May 14, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Please come and give the gift of life.

GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON: Sweet violets will be in bloom at the annual City Island Garden Club Luncheon, to be held on Thursday, May 23, 2013. Come one, come all and join in the fun of beautiful baskets and prizes being raffled off, a delightful waterfront luncheon and wonderful company. The cost is only \$40, so make your reservation by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 by May 17.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, will take place on Wednesday, May 29, June 5 and June 12, at 7 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. The fee is \$75, which includes materials. Students who pass the exam at the conclusion of the class will receive a certificate that entitles them to operate personal watercraft and will also entitle all boat owners to a reduction in their insurance premiums, by virtue of having taken a safety class. The topics covered include boat handling, knot tying, navigation, seamanship, safe operation and equipment requirements. For more information or to register, call Alan Lesser at 845-357-7361 or e-mail alanlesser@ymail.com.

CELEBRATE BRONX WEEK at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, May 19, by joining Michael Shanley for a presentation on "The Beautiful Bronx." It will begin at 7 p.m., and admission is free. The lecture and slide show will focus on Bronx history, architecture, parks, colleges and universities, visitor attractions, arts institutions, historic districts and notable Bronxites. Michael Shanley is a native Bronxite and longtime resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City, specializing in the Bronx. His column, "The Far Side of the Bridge," which focused on different aspects of Bronx history, events and people, appeared in *The Island Current* from 2006 to 2010. Michael Shanley is an active member of the Bronx County Historical Society and the East Bronx History Forum and an official docent for the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, which is located on the campus of Bronx Community College.

AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER is in the discussion stage at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, which is taking a survey to determine if there would be an interest in and a need for an all-day program offered to children three, four and five years old. There would be a number of different options, such as half-day, full-day, early morning, and after-care services that would be included in the center. If this is a service that would interest you, please fill in the survey form in the School News section on page thirteen.

CITY ISLAND MONORAIL: Back by popular demand, Tom Casey of the East Bronx History Forum will give a talk on the monorail, which ran from Bartow Station in Pelham Bay Park to the City Island bridge from 1910 to 1914, at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m. Save the date!

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES. Join Boy Scout Troop 211 Eagle Scout candidate Nicholas Bellocchio and safety professionals on June 1 at the City Island Community Center and learn tips on how to be prepared for emergencies like fires and storms. Discussion and activities will be geared to families with children ages 6 to 12 years old. Earn prizes. Look for fliers with more details about time. For more information, call 718-885-9122.

THE SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will line City Island Avenue on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2, from 11 to 7 p.m. (with set up beginning at 10 a.m.) Small local businesses as well as artists have been invited to participate in the event. For more information or to apply for a booth, call Paul Klein at Kaleidoscope Gallery, 718-885-3090.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present Marc Camoletti's delightful comedy "Boeing Boeing", translated by Beverly Cross and Francis Evans, on Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m., and the following week, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, May 9, 10 and 11, at 8 p.m. All productions will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. Reservations can be made on line by visiting CITG's website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com or by calling 718-885-3066 or by e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

THE ISLAND CURRENT
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A 50TH REUNION FOR THE ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1963 is being planned for Oct. 5, 2013. This is a great opportunity to renew old friendships, forge new ones and share fond memories. If you are a 1963 graduate of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, call or e-mail Georgia Bagon Mattison at georgia.bagon@aol.com or call 718 885-2381. Spouses are welcome.



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Working on the set of City Island Theater Group's next production, "Boeing Boeing," which runs the first two weekends in May, are Joe Burck, Susan Rauh and Thomas Losito.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2013. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - PETIT LARCENY
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 4 - ASSAULT
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
- 4 - BURGLARY
- 1 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from March 1 to April 21, 2013.

3/9 - Police are investigating a case of aggravated harassment on Tier Street. The complainant states that she has received numerous text messages from a female perpetrator after she was told to refrain. The texts are threatening, and the complainant fears for her safety.

3/16 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island female, 57, and charged her with assault. During a verbal dispute, the defendant allegedly struck another female in the face, causing a laceration below the eye.

3/30 - At 8:35 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island male, 31, was arrested and charged with assault. The defendant was asked to leave the premises of a commercial establishment because he was allegedly intoxicated and disturbing other customers. He left but returned and punched the complainant with a closed fist.

3/31 - On City Island Avenue at 5 p.m., the owner of a vehicle reported that the out-of-state license plates had been removed from the parked car without permission (petit larceny).

4/6 - At 5 p.m., the owners of a car parked on Horton Street reported that their car had been ransacked and the rear view camera screen damaged in an act of criminal mischief.

4/7 - Two commercial establishments on City Island Avenue between Fordham and Hawkins Streets were burglarized during the overnight hours (see story this issue). As *The Current* went to press, the burglaries

were still under investigation by detectives from the 45th Precinct.

4/9 - An off-Island male, 17, was arrested at 9:05 p.m. on City Island Avenue and charged with criminal possession of marijuana.

4/10 - An off-Island male, 22, was arrested by police from the 45th Precinct at 12:30 a.m. on City Island Avenue and charged with criminal possession of a loaded firearm.

4/13 - At 11 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a commercial establishment was burglarized for the second time in a week. Unknown perpetrators entered the store from the back door and removed \$300 from the cash register. This case is under investigation, along with the first burglary.

4/15 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 25, and charged him with assaulting a police officer. Around 4:30 p.m., the defendant allegedly crashed his vehicle into a wall near Bridge Street and City Island Avenue. The driver then attempted to flee the scene of the accident on foot and was pursued by police. When the officers caught him, he resisted arrest and fought with the officers, causing injuries.

4/17 - At Beach Street and City Island Avenue, police arrested an off-Island male, 23, and charged him with assault at 10:50 p.m. The defendant had a verbal argument with his girlfriend and then physically attacked her, causing injuries.

4/20 - A commercial establishment on City Island Avenue between Schofield and Carroll Streets was burglarized around 12:30 a.m. Unknown perpetrator(s) entered the premises through a side window and removed the cash register. The burglary is under investigation.

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ISLAND BUSINESSES SUFFER BURGLARIES

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Islanders woke up Monday morning, April 8, to hear that two Island businesses had been broken into during the night: the City Island Pharmacy, at 290 City Island Avenue and Filomena's Pizza and Pasta, at 282 City Island Avenue. Filomena's was broken into again on April 13, and the Firehouse Deli, at 240 City Island Avenue on the corner of Schofield Street, was broken into a week later. As of press time, no one has been arrested in connection with these crimes, but detectives at the 45th precinct are following leads, including video footage of one of the thieves at the deli, and hope to be able to make an arrest soon.

In the meantime, Island residents have been questioning the lack of security cameras along City Island Avenue in light of the announcement a year ago that 14 cameras would be installed "soon," thanks to \$100,000 in funding allocated by State Senator Jeffrey Klein to the City Island Chamber of Commerce. Although a handful of cameras have been put in place, they will not be operative until all of the cameras are installed, which won't take place for at least four months, estimates Chamber president Skip Giacco.

According to pharmacist Joseph Miccarelli, the thieves dropped through the roof into the store at some point between 2 p.m. Sunday and 8 a.m. Monday morning, and stole his cash register. An alarm sounded, but when police drove by, the gate was intact and there were no lights on in the store, so they assumed a false alarm. Although rumors flew around the Island the following day, he assured *The Current* that no drugs were taken. Filomena's, which also lost cash, had no gate or alarm system, and the thieves broke through the back door; they returned a few days later and gained access because the door had not yet been repaired.

Nick Vrettos, owner of the Firehouse Deli, said that the thieves took about \$7,000 worth of goods, including cash, 10 cartons of cigarettes, stacks of Metro-Cards, and other objects of value. His inside security cameras were working, and one of them caught the thief pulling out the cash register. Although the face could not be identified, a distinctive tattoo has provided police with a lead to a possible suspect. Nick believes the individual was



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

In one of a series of burglaries on City Island in recent weeks, the Firehouse Deli was broken into through its gated window on Schofield Street.

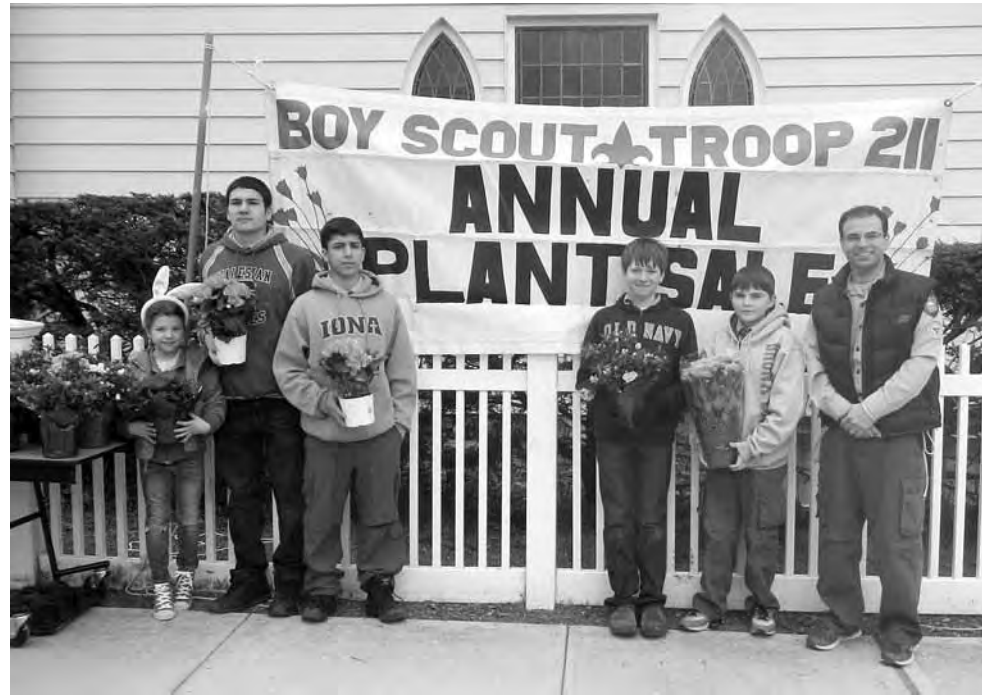
familiar with the location of several of his cameras, but not all of them, and hopes that the video will lead to an arrest.

Skip Giacco and Senator Klein were quick to respond to complaints about the lack of progress with the installation of the security cameras along City Island Avenue. In a press conference on Thursday, April 25, they explained that although funding was allocated in 2008, the Chamber had to undergo a lengthy process of interviewing contractors, talking with owners of potential camera sites and running the project through many layers of red tape. In the spring of 2012, the Chamber was finally given a green light, but as Senator Klein explained, delays were caused by the fact that it is necessary for such allocations of public funds to be funneled through the Attorney General's office, the Controller's office, and other state agencies before any funds can be paid out. To complicate the matter further, the Chamber must submit vouchers for funds spent before being reimbursed by the state. Until those funds are received, which can take up to three weeks, no further work can be done.

Both Skip and Senator Klein regretted the fact of these delays, especially in light of the burglaries, but recognized that the best way forward was to process the vouchers as efficiently as possible. Even if these cameras had been in place, there is no guarantee that they would have prevented the recent crimes or led to the apprehension of the thieves, but they would unquestionably restore some sense of security to a community that is considered by most residents to be relatively safe.

Senator Klein told *The Current*: "I share the concerns of every City Island resident over the recent robberies. Working with the City Island Chamber of Commerce every step of the way, I've done everything in my power to get these security cameras installed as quickly as possible. Just last week, the state of New York executed a final contract for the next phase of the project, which will result in the installation of several new cameras. I know that these cameras will help prevent crime on the Island and will give all of us a much greater sense of security. Most importantly, these cameras will help the great officers at the 45th precinct identify criminals, while making potential criminals think twice before committing a crime in our community. As always, if you have any question or concern, I ask you to please reach out to my office."

In the meantime, detectives at the 45th precinct appear to be close to making an arrest. Anyone who has information about possible suspects is urged to call the precinct at 718-822-5449.



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO and RICK DeWITT

The Boy Scouts Flower Sale was a big success this year. The top photo shows some of the scouts, with a special helper (l. to r.): Eva Marie Bellocchio, scouts Nicholas Bellocchio, Michael Bellocchio, Jack Green, Joseph Kramer and scoutmaster Waldo Persteins. The photo below shows Waldo Persteins with some customers.

Dr. Sander and Fordham Relay Team on Wall of Fame



In this 1963 photograph of the winning relay team, Dr. Norbert Sander is second from the left; the Fordham University team coach, Artie O'Connor, is in the center. Although Mr. O'Connor is deceased, all four runners were at the Penn Relays to be recognized for their achievement.

Dr. Norbert Sander, executive director of the Armory Foundation, and his 1963 Fordham University four-mile relay team were recently given one of track and field's highest honors when they were named to the famed Penn Relay's Wall of Fame in April 2013.

Many City Islanders know Dr. Sander from his medical practice here on the island, which he opened after graduating from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine more than 35 years ago. His introduction to City Island was through his father, who was an airplane pilot when there was a seaplane port here. Norbert grew up in Yonkers and began a life-long affinity for running as a student at Sacred Heart grammar school. He continued to compete in high school and college, where he raced both track events and cross-country for Fordham

Prep and Fordham University, often at the 168th Street Armory in Washington Heights. After college, he switched to long-distance races. In the early 70s he was one of the top marathon runners in the country, winning the New Orleans Marathon, the Yonkers Marathon and the prestigious New York City Marathon.

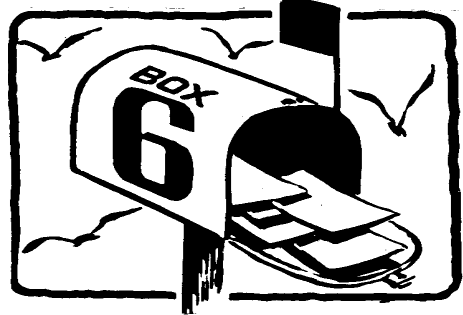
The Fordham team, including Dr. Sander, Matt Cucciara, Joe McGovern and Tom Kenney, was honored on the 50th anniversary of setting a Carnival record with a 16:42.7 time, the first time the 17-minute mark was broken at the Penn Relays and 29.0 seconds faster than the previous record.

Dr. Sander described his 1963 experience for *The Current*: "It was what Joe McGovern described as 'a day anyone who has ever competed seriously in sports should

Continued on page 12

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Garden Club Spruces Up City Island

To the Editor:

The cold and windy winter seems to be over, no thanks to Punxsutawney Pete's predictions. The beautiful "Welcome to City Island" sign is now without snow. So we're thinking about those harbingers of spring—bulbs and flowers, gardening and planters, and beautification projects for our lovely City Island, as well as our Beautification Fund solicitation drive and our annual spring luncheon.

This year's luncheon, themed "Sweet Violets," will be held on Thursday, May 23, at the City Island Yacht Club. The cost for the gala is a mere \$40. There will be the usual abundant gift baskets, certificates from many of City Island's businesses and eating establishments, raffles and 50/50 tickets, along with a fine dining experience overlooking Eastchester Bay. We hope you can attend and help us celebrate the numerous achievements and successes of last year that were made possible by the generosity of City Island's residents and businesses.

The planters along City Island Avenue will bloom again this year, and we hope to add to their number during the summer of 2013. We will be keeping the Island's Bridge Park Brotherhood Tree area and "Welcome to City Island" sign area planted and maintained. The Legion Memorial Park and Hawkins Park both will be cleaned, planted and maintained as well.

We receive so many compliments for these efforts that your funds have allowed us to accomplish. With your help, we want to maintain these areas as well as work on more and new projects to make City Island Avenue even more attractive. We hope you will be just as generous to us this year as you have been in the past. Please respond to the annual solicitation you received and send us what you can. Thank you, City Island, for helping us make our Island bloom.

**Barbara Harrison, Vice President
Garden Club of City Island**

CI Gold Honeybees Succumb to Sandy

To the Editor:

Every year around this time, we look for the debut of our honeybees. On crisp sunny March days, the bees emerge from the hive on early cleaning flights. Typically, the six hives in our garden on Minneford Avenue come alive, surrounded by a halo of honeybees dancing exuberantly in the warmth of sunlight; it is the signal of a new season.



Island beekeepers Nancy Kheck and Patrick Gannon were unpleasantly surprised to open their hives after the winter and find a die-off similar to the one shown here.

This year we didn't see much activity beyond a random forager, and that was unusual. The master beekeeper in our family, Patrick, never opens the hives in early March because flashes of cold weather can compromise honeybee survival. The snow around St. Patrick's Day justified our caution. Last week, during the transient tee-shirt weather, we decided to explore. That's when we experienced something that has never happened since we founded the apiary in 2003: one by one, each hive was filled with dead honeybees. This is unlike colony collapse disorder (CCD) where the bees simply vanish from the hive after pesticide poisoning.

The bees left behind abundant honey and pollen supplies, a sign that they survived long enough to eat this treasure over the cold winter as they normally would. In one last hive there were living bees but not enough of them and no evidence of the queen. This hive was our strongest and produced over 100 pounds of honey per season. At the bottom of each hive, the wax combs were black instead of the usual gold-brown.

As we ruled out many possibilities, it suddenly clicked. What was so unusual about this year? The unwelcome guest Sandy had marked our lives in November of 2012. We walked around City Island and witnessed the widespread water damage. While we lived liked campers with candles for a while, it hadn't occurred to us that the honeybees may have suffered from the pounding wind, sea salt and mold. The lone survivors, our first colony on City Island, may have gotten used to being around the tail end of hurricanes, the third big storm in 10 years.

This will have an impact on the demand for spring honey that many locals have come to depend on (for tea, breakfast oatmeal, spring fever, wedding favors, religious holidays and much more). In early May we'll receive new packages of bees (not to worry, Sonia and crew at CI Post Office, you won't receive any buzzing packages this year). Our new bees, the finest and gentlest breed of Italian honeybees, will be delivered to Union Square from several breeders in Georgia. The experimental colony that Nancy adopted last year (Yugoslavian cold-hardy stock) produced exquisite

honey but were extremely aggressive. Only master bee-whisperer Patrick was willing to access their inner sanctum—in full veil and other protection that we otherwise rarely use. They too perished in the storm.

The new colonies will be founded in warm weather and are thus less likely to swarm; a phenomenon that plagued us last year. One of our swarms was captured, re-introduced into a new hive by Marci and Max Dusenberry, only to be decimated by the summer storm surge and flooding at the Harlem Yacht Club. The other was adopted by Karl Hoedl of Buddy's Hardware on his upstate farm, and his first crop of honey was exotically delicious!

Most importantly, we decided not to extract the remaining honey in our hives because it will nourish the new colonies to ensure that they thrive and get a head start with spring production, capturing the local nectar and pollen in late spring and early summer. As always, please refrain from using any weed killers, pesticides, insecticides and larvicides (except for the solid kind that the Parks Department uses). All of those toxins have been isolated in dead honeybees. So we'll have no honey from the early spring this year, but we remain hopeful for a new start.

**Nancy Kheck, PhD
City Island Apiary, Executive Director
and Associate Beekeeper**

Remember Them with Pride

To the City Island Community:
While Memorial Day marks the unof-

ficial beginning of summer, it also marks something else: the opportunity to thank our soldiers and honor those whom we have lost. So this year, in addition to firing up the grill and relaxing with family, consider the following as part of your Memorial Day tradition.

For over 75 years the Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post 156 on City Island has held its annual Memorial Day Parade. Every year hundreds of City Islanders turn out and stand on street corners waving the American flags as the parade marches by, in tribute to those veterans still with us and those who have died in service to their country.

This year the Leonard H. Hawkins Sons of the American Legion Squadron 156 are asking City Islanders to remember all American Legion members past and present, as well as all of City Island's veterans who are still serving our country and those who are no longer with us. To do this, we are asking families and loved ones of those Veterans and Legion members to display and hold proudly the pictures of these brave veterans who served to protect our community, state and nation as the parade passes your corner.

This year's parade will be held on Monday, May 27, and will start at 2:30 p.m. We hope to see you all that day. Thank you and God bless America.

**Dave Carman, Commander
American Legion Post 156**

Pay It Forward

To the Editor:

As an Islander, a painter and a local artist, I was heartened to see a small community collectively come together and help a fellow Islander, Wayne Cochrane, realize his final wish, to be buried with his family.

Although I was not in New York at the time, it made me feel part of such kind efforts to be able to sublet my apartment to him for the time he needed it while I was on a painting sabbatical in New Orleans.

My apartment was kept clean and neat, and my cat was looked after with much care and concern. I was happy to be the "port in the storm" that we all need at one time or another. Sadly, Wayne passed on before my return, but it gave me great comfort to know that he was warm and comfortable when he most needed it.

We must all remember to pay it forward.

Lee Erickson



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BATTER UP! CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE 2013 SEASON



JACKIE KALL TO BE HONORED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

No stranger to awards, Jackie Kyle Kall (shown above receiving a lifetime award from the City Island Garden Club) will be honored on June 27, 2013, by the Bronx Times as one of 25 influential women of the Bronx.

Jackie Kyle Kall, a City Island legend, will be honored on June 27 by the Bronx Times as one of 25 influential women of the Bronx.

In a booklet describing the accomplishments of the honorees, Jackie is described as having been a realtor on City Island for 63 years, following in the footsteps of her mother and her paternal grandfather. She continues to go to her office every day, dressed to the nines, continuing a family tradition that began in 1880 when her grandfather went into the real estate business.

She was the first woman president of the Bronx Board of Realtors and was instrumental in the development of several important City Island residential sites, including Pilot Cove Manor and the Boatyard Condominium. She was one of the

founding members of the Garden Club of City Island and has been an active member of many other community organizations, including the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Her office at 626 City Island Avenue, highly visible as one comes over the bridge, is a meeting place for many visitors, including residents as well as house hunters. The office is decorated with photographs and clippings about herself and her community and is a treasure trove of information about City Island real estate history.

This is not Jackie Kall's first honor, since her work has been recognized by the National Association of Realtors and the Boy Scouts, among others, but she is especially pleased to be given this award and to be recognized for her accomplishments over the years.



Photos by JOSIANE BAUKE and BETSY OLAN

The City Island Little League season opened on Saturday, April 6, at Ambrosini Field with introductory remarks by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (middle photo, above), State Senator Jeff Klein and representative for Congressman Crowley and Councilmember James Vacca. Members of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion were on hand to present the colors during the Star Spangled Banner (top photo, left), while players from Sammy's Fish Box team waited anxiously for the first game to begin. The girls' softball teams from St. Mary, Star of the Sea are also ready to play (bottom photo, left). CILL board members are grateful for the generous support of the City Island businesses which sponsor teams. Stop by the field, have a hot dog and catch a foul ball on most weeknights and Saturdays during May and June.



If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

City Island Physical Therapy (340 City Island Avenue) has purchased a lot of new equipment. They are now using Biodex to evaluate fall risk and to treat balance disorders in order to help reduce the risk of falls. They are working closely with a local neurologist in this joint venture. They are also using laser therapy to treat soft tissue injury, tendonitis, swelling and pain. Low-level laser therapy was approved by the FDA several years ago and has become increasingly popular in the world of physical therapy, sports injuries and pain management. A short-wave diathermy machine was recently purchased and has been yielding great results for arthritis (especially in the hips, shoulders and knees.) City Island PT is now offering one-on-one personal training sessions with a nationally certified personal fitness trainer. If you are interested in any of these services, please call at 917-

577-1752 to set up an appointment.

Dragons Path Academy (229 City Island Avenue) is now accepting registrations for its Martial Arts Summer Camp, which starts on July 8. Body Blast Boot Camp fitness classes for men and women are now being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.; we must have five students for the class to be in effect. For more information, call 347-945-3172 or 917-742-2007 or visit the website at www.dragonspathacademy.com.

Dragon's Path will be holding an open house from 9 a.m. to 12 noon every Saturday in May and June starting on May 4.

TF Andrew Carpet One Floor and Home (607 Main Street in New Rochelle) has partnered with City Islander Dan D'Allara to service the City Island and Westchester communities in providing decorative flooring, window treatments and furniture. After 51 years at the firm, Fred Tucker has retired, but his customers on City Island will be happy to know that Dan, who has 30 years of experience in the field in Manhattan, will be taking his place.

The **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) will have an art show from May 3 to June 2, with an opening reception on Friday, May 3, from 7 to 10 p.m.

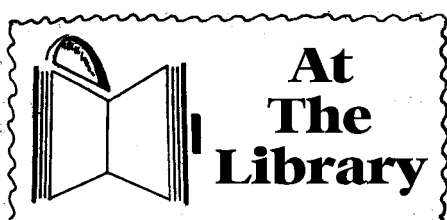


Photo by RICK DEWITT

The opening reception at the Focal Point Gallery on April 6, 2013, for the "Young Artists" exhibition attracted more than 80 young Bronx artists. In front: Rhianna Phillips. Second row (l. to r.): Matthew Cioffi, Naomi Ayala, Ulysses Perez, Joe Moscato (show sponsor), Gabriel Ellis (age 2) with father, David Ellis, and Joaquin and Alfredo Blanco. Third row: Marcos A. Felix, Maruan Labian and Ron Turner, art teacher. In back: Tiffany Macknight, Jayden Clark and Susan Turner. Focal Point has been exhibiting the work of young artists for at least 25 years.



Dan D'Allara and Fred Tucker at TF Andrew Carpet One in New Rochelle.



City Island Branch Library Events for May 2013

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mays Children's Programs

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Special Program: Cool Rain Forest Connections Friday May 17 at 3:30 p.m.

May Teen Programs

Unwind with Wii: After school lets out, we will open up the community room for students to play some games on the Wii console before settling down to read and work on homework. Weekdays, Wii play from 3 to 4 p.m. and homework from 4 to 5 p.m.

May Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed for anyone who has never been on the Internet before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL website. Every Tuesday morning from 10

a.m. to noon. Tuesday May 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resume into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended that you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Wednesday May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Movie of the Week: Please check our fliers or visit our Facebook page for the latest movie of the week. Every Saturday at 1 p.m., we will have either a discussion program or a movie with an assortment of library items related to the film or lecture.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue and Bay Street. Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancelations. You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

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The Harlem Yacht Club: A History

By EVELYN SCHNEIDER

This is the second in a series of articles on each of the six yacht and boating clubs that are celebrated in a new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum.



Photos by ELIAS COUTAVES and courtesy CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Harlem Yacht Club's first building on City Island was a temporary station that was floated here by barge from College Point and now forms part of Artie's Restaurant. This handsome building was constructed in 1898 as the first official clubhouse on City Island; it burned down in 1915 and was replaced by the clubhouse that still stands today overlooking Eastchester Bay.

As most City Islanders know, the Harlem Yacht Club (HYC) is not in Harlem, but it did start out there. The Harlem Yacht Club, now on Hunter Avenue on City Island, was initially founded at 124th Street and the East River in June of 1883. It spent most of its first two decades three blocks further south, at the old Randall mansion (former home of the same Randalls who owned Randalls Island), and it also operated a "station" at College Point, from which most of its regattas were conducted. In 1894 the club gave up its station at College Point in favor of one on property it had purchased at City Island. It then occupied both locations—its "city house" at the Randall mansion and its City Island station—for about ten years, even conducting occasional bicycle runs from one house to the other in those early days

before the advent of automobiles. The College Point clubhouse was towed to the new site at City Island, but it was replaced by a lovely Victorian building in 1898, when it was decided that a larger structure was needed. The opening of the new clubhouse in June of 1899 was heralded by a "salute of seventeen guns . . . an illumination [of the fleet], and fireworks ashore and afloat" (*New York Times*, June 20, 1899, p. 5).

Finally, in 1903, the club gave up its headquarters at the Randall mansion in Harlem and took up permanent residence at its property in City Island, which became its only clubhouse. Unfortunately, the old Victorian building burned in 1915, but it was promptly replaced by the club's current three-story building, which houses a bar, a restaurant, and a members' lounge on its main floor, as well as a second-story ball-



room and third-floor offices and steward's quarters.

The HYC was a founding member of three yacht racing associations: the New York Yacht Racing Association (no longer in existence), the Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound (YRALIS), and the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association (EBRYA). The latter two are still very active today.

From its inception, the Harlem Yacht Club conducted numerous regattas and became known in local waters for its Memorial Day Regatta, which it ran on its own initially, then later as part of the YRALIS championship circuit. For 60 years, this race was said to kick off the yacht racing season in western Long Island Sound. In that golden era of yacht racing, the public could enjoy following a regatta by purchasing a ticket for a steamer that followed the boats around the race course. The steamers could carry up to 2,000 passengers, and this club enjoyed a popular following of such spectators in its early years on the Sound, until the practice ended with the rise of other spectator sports. The club also conducted several long-distance races, such as the HYC Stratford Shoal Race, which ran from 1905 to 1920, and even evolved into a combination sail and powerboat race. Meantime, the club's racers also competed, and won honors, in the regattas of other clubs in the YRALIS circuit.

In its 1911 YRALIS Memorial Day regatta, the HYC hosted a historic race—the first regatta of the Star class—a small fixed-keel sloop that became immensely popular in all parts of the world. In 1932 the Star was established as an Olympic Games class and is still raced there today. In the late 1930s, the HYC became instrumental in the founding of the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association in order to foster the growth of small boat bay sailing. HYC Race Chairman Sidney J. Treat presided over its first race, and not long afterward, for his efforts in promoting Star racing, he was also appointed Honorary and Life Commodore of the East River

Star Fleet. The club then boasted a fleet of twelve Stars, and several of the club's racers were active Star competitors. Most notable among them were Mike Treat, a champion Sound racer, and Charlie "Buster" Ulmer, who represented the East River Star Fleet in the International Championships in both Lisbon and Havana. Buster Ulmer later went on to found Ulmer Sails, now known as UK Sailmakers.

With the outbreak of World War II, and because of the loss of its members to the armed services, the club was forced to abandon the YRALIS Memorial Day Race, and its Star racing program dwindled. In the 1950s, with the rise of power boating, the club's members began to lean more heavily toward owning motor yachts. In the '70s and '80s, as sailing reclaimed a measure of its former popularity within the club, the proportion of sailing members again rose to prominence.

The club is currently one of the four City Island yacht clubs that co-sponsor the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association. In addition, the HYC enjoys a number of club races of various types. These include an around-the-buoy race (Treat Race), an overnight (Higgins Race), a J24 one-design (Hoxsie Race), a short-handed series, and a just-for-fun race called the Vice Commodore's Regatta, in which non-sailor members are recruited to actively crew on their host member's sailboat.

Today the club enjoys a complement of about 150 members, in five categories. Its fleet of 123 boats comprises 80 percent sail and 20 percent power. Non-boat-owning "social" members constitute about 20 percent of its membership. The club membership draws heavily from the immediate City Island and Lower Westchester area and also enjoys a sizeable contingent of New Jerseyans, Manhattanites, and others from points further out who find its location ideal for accessing the Sound. All are comfortably accommodated in the beautiful clubhouse on City Island, and the club continues to pride itself as being one of the friendliest on Long Island Sound.

David Sexton

Continued from page 1

Mr. Sexton for the award. "He helped me to understand the importance of working hard to master something and not relying on innate intelligence, which will only get you so far," said Mr. Behlum.

When Sewanhaka High School principal Debra Lidowsky learned of the award, she said, "This is an honor that David truly deserves. He is one of those extraordinary teachers who gives a tremendous amount of his own time, after school and on Saturdays, to ensure that his students

succeed. Mr. Sexton is able to take a hard subject like physics and make it relevant to students — so they not only learn the facts but understand them and how they relate to their everyday life."

On City Island, David Sexton enjoys spending time with his wife, Harlan, and his two children, Gregory and Emily. An active member of Grace Episcopal Church, he worked hard for many years helping to restore and maintain the buildings and grounds. And in his spare time, he works at fixing up his 1915 house on Fordham Street as well as sailing, kayaking and swimming.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Adolfo Carrión, the Independent candidate for Mayor of New York City, spoke at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Portofino on Tuesday, April 16, and outlined some of his ideas for the city. Marlene Cintron, president of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, also addressed the group of City Island businesses and organizations, and offered both assistance and ideas.

Bartow-Pell Events

On Friday, May 3, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will celebrate the first Friday by offering the contemporary folk sound of Hawthorne, back by popular demand. Explore the mansion, stroll the garden, and savor light refreshments. Then hop on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley for a ride to City Island. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors & students; members free.

The annual Kentucky Derby fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Support the museum and watch the Derby in style with the backdrop of the Greek Revival mansion and its beautiful soon to be restored garden. Call 718-885-1670 for details.

National Public Gardens Day is Friday, May 10, from 12-4 p.m. Enjoy free mansion and garden tours and view the Age of Botanical Wonders exhibition, which features illustrations from seven volumes of the "Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London" (1805-29). Free.


Bronx Week is Friday, May 10, through Sunday, May 19. Celebrate beauty in the Bronx with free guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday after-

noons, 12 to 4 p.m. Tours start at quarter past the hour. Free.

Owls and Falcons and Skunks, Oh My! On Saturday, May 18, at 3 p.m., Bobby and Kathy Horvath of WINORR (Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation) bring a wonderful assortment of rescued owls, other birds of prey and animals for visitors to meet close up. Registration requested. Cost \$10; members \$8.

Urban Park Ranger History Hike on Sunday, May 26, at 11 a.m. Learn about Revolutionary New York and in particular the Battle of Pell's Point on this fascinating hike of the area with an Urban Park Ranger. Wear comfortable shoes or boots and bring water and a light snack. Meet in the parking lot.

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THE ISLAND BOAT CLUB: A HISTORY

by BILL STEINIGER

This is the third in a series of articles on each of the six yacht and boating clubs that are celebrated in a new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum.



Photo courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

The Island Canoe and Yacht Club, 1924.

The original marina was built in 1924 by my grandfather and his wife, Elizabeth and Reginald Ratcliff. It was known in those days as the Island Canoe and Yacht Club. Reggie was an avid outdoorsman and worked as the operating director at Abercrombie and Fitch in Manhattan. In the early days, deck boats and canoes were the mainstay of the marina. As the years went by, Bill Steiniger, my father, assumed the operation and expanded the yard to accommodate power boats of all sizes and lengths. Today I have continued this proud tradition and operate the marina to accommodate boaters in the small to mid-range and up categories. The following overview summarizes our activities.

We have been 89 years in the same location, 515 City Island Avenue. We accommodate outboards, dinkies, sailboats (all lengths), and we also cater to live-aboards. We have 75 members and we provide slips and moorings. There is winter storage, both on dry land and in-water. Our facilities include lockers, a club house, an outdoor pavilion, parking, and a secure and comfortable environment. Pets are welcome. We have an on-site mechanic, and we cater to minor repair work and boat painting if required. The club is a member of the National Yachting Association. We have an established clientele, a nice and

safe atmosphere, with a recently dredged marina and well-maintained docks.

In 2005 Fay Jordaens wrote an essay entitled "A Canoe," which captures the essence of the place in the 1950s. Here is an excerpt:

"Ratcliff's was a huge boat house built on pilings. When you opened the door to the boat house, from sunny City Island Avenue, you were plunged into the dark, first level of the building. It contained about 40 racked canoes, kayaks and other small craft. Wooden masts, booms and lee boards were stored on top of the boat. Sails were stored in the lockers. The second story of the boat house had a large clubroom where sails were measured and where members often partied (someone always played the piano). . . .When you walked through the shedlike lower level of the boat house and came out on the other side, you stood on the wood planks of a beautiful handball court that Reggie erected and maintained for all members. Gangplanks from the wooden court led down to floats. It was necessary to put your boat on a dolly,"walk it down the gangplank, and launch it from one of the floats. The steep angle of the gangplank on a low tide caused a lot of justified groans. If you rigged a canoe, you could step the mast before you launched the boat. The floats were low lying in the water."

EASTER FUN & EARLY SUN



Photos by RICK DeWITT and PAUL NANI

Grace Episcopal Church's first community Easter Egg Hunt drew more than 100 happy hunters of all ages on Saturday, March 30, 2013 (top photo). Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia led the festivities (second from top), which included face painting courtesy of Lori Swink (third from top). The organizers look forward to making this an annual event at Grace Church. The following morning, members of Trinity United Methodist Church were up at dawn for the annual sunrise service at Pelham Cemetery, a moving and solemn tradition (bottom photo).

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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.

Current Calendar

MAY

Thurs., May 2, **Town meeting with FEMA and Buildings Dept.**, sponsored by Congressman Crowley with Councilman James Vacca, City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, 7 p.m.

Sat., May 4, **79th Anniversary of Temple Beth El Dinner**, Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, 7 p.m.

Sat., May 11, **Girl Scout Plant Sale**, Trinity Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thurs., May 16, **Community Board 10 meets**, Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 18, **Spring Café and Tag Sale**, Grace Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat., May 18, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Pasta with meatballs or meat sauce.

Mon., May 27, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion. Marchers meet at Grace Episcopal Church at 1:45 p.m.

Tues., May 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 1 and 2, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, Your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue, offers a stimulating place for observance in the Jewish tradition. The spirited congregation gathers together with our innovative Rabbi, Shohama Wiener and our joyful, engaging associate spiritual leader, Reb David Evan Markus. For 78 years, Temple Beth-El has welcomed all who come to celebrate and pray here at 480 City Island Avenue.

Friday night Sabbath services commence at 7:30 p.m. We use the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew. The Hebrew is transliterated, allowing words to be sung and read easily. Even if congregants are unfamiliar with Hebrew, everyone who attends is able to participate comfortably.

Your Shul by the Sea Band offers an added delightful quality to our services and some of us even get up and dance as we welcome the Sabbath.

Our special events and services for May are as follows:

Saturday evening, May 4, our Annual Dinner Dance, celebrating the Temple's 79th anniversary at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course will honor Olga Berdé Mahl, Michael Tietze and Elan Wolf. We welcome all those who want to join us on this festive occasion and appreciate all those who placed an ad in our journal commemorating this special event. For information, call Paul Klein at 718-885-3090.

Friday, May 10, Shavuot Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama and Reb Eva.

Friday May 31, Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva.

All other Friday night services, starting at 7:30 p.m., are community led, usually with our trustee Bob Berent and his accordion. Recently, our treasurer, Michael Eiron, has been assisting Bob. Mike has been inspired and encouraged to engage with leading the service after attending liturgy classes led by

Reb David. Please come and join us when we celebrate Friday night Sabbath services here on City Island and for these other events and activities! We look forward to seeing you.

We are excited about our ongoing series of community learning opportunities about Judaism, prayer, liturgy and spirituality in which 15 participants meet once a month to discuss and reflect upon "Spirit and Song." The series is open to the public whatever their religious background, and nominal fees are charged for non-members. Course participants report that their spiritual practice and Temple experience has deepened because of this year's learning. We welcome others to join us in this endeavor. For the rest of our current course, we will focus on Shabbat traditions that are central to Jewish prayer and spiritual life.

Past courses have included "Age-ing to Sage-ing," a series about the Jewish tradition of welcoming the wisdom of spiritual elders and encouraging, through practical examples, ways to harness our innate wisdom to live gracefully into our fullest potential, both spiritually and emotionally, as we age. During the class, we reflected on what we have learned during our lifetime and the ways we could impart this wisdom to others so that by being a blessing to others we could celebrate our lives and continued community connection.

Next year, Temple Beth-El is considering offering programs on Saturday mornings, a continuation of our spirituality classes, a book club focused on ethics and spiritual issues and as well as a special opportunity for adults to learn toward conversion or *bnai mitzvah*. For more information, contact Reb David Markus at davidevanmarkus@gmail.com or consult the Temple Beth-El website.

Save these dates: Kabbalat Shabbat, June 14, with Rabbi Shohama and Reb David; and June 28, with Reb Eva (Dates are subject to change and those interested should check our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org, for the latest updates.)

Spring is finally here, and our thoughts are turning toward summer. Our annual Shabbat by the Sea is scheduled for July 19 at the home of our congregants Ken Binder and Steve Roth, with a lovely waterside view of a brilliant sunset, good food and company, and, of course, Your Shul by the Sea Band.

Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Republicans

Our next meeting will be held in June at the Legion Post; details to follow. We will be distributing petitions at that meeting to place names onto the ballot.

The mayoral race is heating up, and there may be a Republican primary in September. Currently, the Bronx Republican Party has endorsed former deputy mayor Joe Lhota.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish, which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite I, Sundays at 10 a.m. Lambs Babysitting available first Sundays (May 3 at 9:50 a.m.) in Grace Church Hall.

May Events:

Friday Night Fellowship: May 31, 7 p.m., Grace Church Hall. Professional organizer Jackie Mastropolo from Space Organizing Solutions gives us advice to kick start spring cleaning your home. Refreshments will be served.

Eileen Marcus



Photo by BOB BERENT

Once a month, members and friends of Temple Beth-El meet as participants in an ongoing series that offers opportunities to learn about Judaism, prayer, liturgy and spirituality. Here 15 participants enjoy "Spirit and Song," which examines the Sabbath liturgy as it embodies spiritual yearning and traditional worship.

Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is proud to be a co-sponsor with Eastchester Rotary of A Gift of Life heart surgery for a 2-year-old girl from Kosovo.

Agesa Burniku and her mother, Shefije, were met by a crowd of Rotarians at the airport when they arrived in New York on Thursday, April 18. Agnesa and her mother will be attending the Bronx Rotary meeting at Sammy's Shrimp Box at noon on Tuesday, April 30. Anyone who would like to meet them and wish them well is welcome to join the group.

As of press time, Agnesa had her surgery on Thursday, April 25, at Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx and came through without complication. Her surgery was performed by Dr. Samuel Weinstein with his caring surgical team.

We are grateful to the Albanian community in the Bronx, which has thoroughly embraced this family. They are being hosted by an Albanian family in Riverdale, and the owner of Giovanni's on Arthur Avenue has once again offered to feed the family and accompanying Rotarians and hosts for free every time they come in.

Continuing with Gift of Life news, the Bronx Club is absolutely thrilled to announce that friends of Bea Castiglia-Catullo, a Rotarian and founder of R.A.I.N., have pledged to sponsor one or two children a year for Gift of Life surgery. As past lottery winners, they are in a position to cover the \$6,500 in hospital fees for each child. The surgeons and their staff at each of our hospitals donate their services, so it is only hospital costs that need to be covered.

In recognition of their wonderful gift, they will be honored at the Bronx Rotary's President's/ Paul Harris Dinner as Paul Harris Fellows on June 27 at Marina Del Rey. Their generosity has set the theme for the event—"An Evening of Promise," which honors their promise of continued support for Gift of Life and the future promise represented by these young children whose lives

have been saved.

The Bronx Club would also like to express appreciation to those who have stepped up and donated to help the Chati family of Staten Island who lost everything in Hurricane Sandy (see the January-February issue of *The Island Current*). Since the Chatis have estimated that they will not have a house to return to before 2014, the Bronx Rotary Foundation is holding donations for them until they can be presented with a significant check. At the time of presentation, contact information for all donors will be given to the Chatis so that they can thank each one individually.

The club continues to raise funds for the Chatis, and anyone who would like to help is encouraged to send a gift card made out to the Chati family or a check made out to the Bronx Rotary Foundation (and earmarked for the Chati family) to Rotary Club of the Bronx, P.O. Box 49, Bronx NY 10464. Any amount would be gratefully accepted.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner



American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held at the Legion on May 7 at 7:30 p.m.. A sincere thank-you to everyone who made the Cancer Bingo a great success.

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 27 and will start at 2:30 p.m. Please line up at Pell Street and City Island Avenue beginning at 1 p.m. Remember our armed forces here and around the world.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Boston, the runners, families and friends who were affected by the Patriot's Day disaster.

God Bless America.

Maryann Occhicone

Continued on page 12



Photo courtesy of JIM ROMEO

Tiny Agnesa is doing very well after her heart surgery at Montefiore Children's Hospital with her exhausted mother, Shefji, in attendance. The surgery was co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of the Bronx.



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weight Watchers Meetings: There is now a regular meeting on Thursday evenings at 5:30. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Teen Dance: Teen dance being held May for grades 6, 7 and 8. Free.

On Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. join **Michael Shanley** at the Community Center for a presentation on "The Beautiful Bronx." The lecture and slide show will focus on Bronx history, architecture, parks, colleges and universities, visitor's attractions, arts institutions, historic districts and notable Bronxites.

Family Bingo Night: Bring the family on Friday, May 24, at 7 p.m. for a night of family fun. Last month's bingo game was so wonderful that we decided to do it again. The cards are \$5 each and members of the CICC will receive one free card. Refreshments will be for sale that evening.

Feng Shui Workshops are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday nights starting April 30 until June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. If you are interested, please call Barbara at 914-315-6556 or 914-844-2216.

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown has brought traditional and contemporary folk music to the Bronx for 26 years. As we enter our second season on City Island, we present live performances from some of the very finest artists in the folk genre. We host a show on either the first or second Saturday of each month. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, unless otherwise noted. We are a 501(c)(3) organization run entirely by volunteers. Please visit www.uptowncoffeehouse.org or call 718-885-2955 for our latest schedule and details.

City Island Parenting Group: An ongoing topic-oriented discussion group for parents with John Scardina. All are welcome, come once or every month. We try to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month in the dance studio at 7 p.m.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreamara.com.

Jill's Playgroup: for pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Art and Craft Classes: Pre-school class and kindergarten through third-grade classes. For registration and more information, call Eileen Stodut 914-633-1695.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former Laguardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. \$90 for five-week session, \$25 materials fee (after session ends students bring materials home). For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat before summer? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout with me for an hour.

Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

Zumba with Letti: Letti is a fantastic Zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Classes are \$10 or 5 class card for \$40.

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These Yoga Stretch poses helps remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10.00 a class. Call 718-885-0535.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for age 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Sarah Persteins

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Wednesday, May 1, will be the last day of class for our eighth-grade students in our religious education program. Congratulations to all on the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on April 30!

Our Holy Hour this month with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, May 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, May 9, is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord and a holy day of obligation. Come join us at one of our Masses, which will be held at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 12, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

Because the second Sunday of this month is Mothers' Day, we will not have our monthly coffee hour. The last one of the year will take place in June.

Saturday, May 18, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families. On that day, our children will receive their First Holy Communion at an 11 a.m. Mass. A special practice for this celebration will take place on Thursday, May 16, from 12:45 to 3 p.m.

The following day, May 19, these children will participate in a special procession at our Sunday 10 o'clock Mass, when our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother during the month of May. We will crown the statue of Our Lady and honor her as the patroness of our parish. Following the Mass, our First Communicants and their families will partake of a Communion breakfast in our school gym.

Our religious education program for this year will come to an end on Wednesday, May 22. Report cards and awards will be distributed that day. We wish all our young people a happy and healthy summer.

Happy Memorial Day and happy summer to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

City Island Theater Group

Taking to the stage for City Island Theater Group's production of "Boeing Boeing" will be Brad Cassini, Christina Drake, Jay Langkamp, Susan Rauh, Liza Reid and Lindy Tabano. The French farce was written by Marc Camoletti and translated by Beverly Cross and

Francis Evans. Nick Sala, the director, says, "I couldn't be happier than to work with this great team of funny performers to bring this fantastic farce to the CITG stage. Our goal is to make uproarious laughter take flight. Buckle your seat belts!"

Ads for the 2013 program have been completed, and the group would like to thank the 40 individuals and businesses for their support.

CITG is pleased to announce that tickets for their productions can now be purchased with a credit card on line from their website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Look for our window at 282 City Island Avenue.

Mary McIntyre

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendars now for a special Trinity Church Memorial Concert featuring the Milal Missionary Choir on May 18, 2013, at 7 p.m. This choir has performed around the world, and Trinity is blessed that they will perform for its congregation and friends. The event is free and a special meet-and-greet coffee hour is being planned.

It is spring and that means cleaning! Now is the time to make those donations and unclutter your home at the same time. The Budget Corner will close for the summer on Saturday, June 15. The spring schedule is May 3, 7, 11, 19, 21 and 25. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

PSS Healthy Seniors

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. We hope more people will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Dee, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street; **Cardio Fitness with Mary:** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue; **Arthritis Exercise with Patty:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Orchard Beach Walk:** Wednesdays; van leaves Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. (must have three walkers); **Yoga Stretch with Michael:** Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Fit for Life with Sarah:** Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall. Note: To make ends meet a little better, all classes will be \$3, except Arthritis Exercise, which will continue to be free.

Senior Writing Group

What is your favorite family story? Did anybody ever say to you "You should write that down" after you told a story about the good old days. Your friends laughed, they cried, they smiled. Come write your memories with us every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. No charge. Everyone is welcome.

Volunteering

Please think about volunteering for one of our senior programs. We need help in many areas, including clerical and computer, reception, telephoning, visiting and help with parties and events to name a few.

Telephone Reassurance

If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Caregivers Support

If you are caring for someone or you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and shopping assistance. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday: Bay Plaza or Stop & Shop; Thursday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. Suggested contribution for round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van.

Program Services

Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts and shows such as "Guys and Dolls," which has been postponed to May 29 at the Westchester Dinner Theater. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Debbie Erosa

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be on Monday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The VA accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge.

Vice Commander Mike Treat reports that membership dues (\$45) are past due. Anyone who has not yet paid dues should mail or drop them off at the Post.

Stop by for a drink. We have a new refrigerator with plenty of new wine selections. Now that party season has arrived, we have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 100 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

We are in need of a few flag stewards to help put up the flags on the poles this year. Stop by the Post or call 718-885-0639 if you are interested in helping out. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

We had a great find cleaning our office recently. Our Post archivists discovered a 1935 photograph (26 x 8 inches) of a gathering with both our Post and the Sam Young Post #620 at a place called the Stonehouse. The photo is framed and hanging in the entrance. Please visit the Post and help us identify anyone in the pictures, be they clam diggers or mussel suckers.

Sunday, May 19, is the annual Post memorial service. This year it will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church at 10 a.m.

City Island's annual Memorial Day parade will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Pilot Street in front of Grace Church. Those who are marching should be there at 1:45 p.m. in order to leave enough time for everyone to assemble. After the parade, everyone is welcome to stop back at the Post for our award-winning gourmet hot dogs and fresh cold beer. Volunteers are needed to help out.

On a sad note, we recently lost one of our World War II veterans, Tom Costello. He was a member of our Post for many years. Currently, there are several members on sick call. Eric Eckland is recovering from a recent fall, and Bob Branizza is in a nursing facility in Westchester County. Jack "POP" Sullivan is doing well with around-the-clock care at his house on King Avenue.

Ed Shipp

AARP Chapter 3318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our first meeting in May will be on May 1. On Wednesday, May 15, our members will have a Pizza/Bingo meeting beginning at 12:30 p.m. Our chapter will be going to Atlantic City on Thursday, May 9. The bus will leave City Island at 8 a.m. All are invited. If you are interested, please call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707. We look forward to seeing you at our May 1 meeting. Bring a friend; new members are always welcome.

Rosetta Woods



Mechanical Men

Mechanical men (aka robots or androids or cyborgs) have graced the silver screen since the 1950s. There are three classic films that were made at a time when the future in which we now live was only in the mind of the filmmakers.

The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) stars Michael Rennie as Klaatu, an emissary from a federation of planets, who wants to save the Earth by forbidding nuclear testing. He arrives in Washington on a flying saucer, which is guarded by a huge robot he calls Gort. Klaatu escapes from government custody and lives among people for a while in order to see how they think and live. He is befriended by young Bobby Benson (Billy Gray, of *Father Knows Best* fame) and his mother, Helen (Patricia Neal). It is with the help of famous American scientist Dr. Barnhart (Sam Jaffe) that Klaatu is finally allowed to get his message to the people of Earth.

Tobor the Great (1954) is a children's sci-fi adventure that chronicles the friendship between 11-year-old Gadge Roberts (Billy Chapin) and his scientist grandfather, Dr. Ralph Harrison (Charles Drake). Gramps, as he is affectionately called, has created Tobor the robot, which is endowed with human emotions and designed to explore deep space. When Communists kidnap Tobor in order to make him do their evil bidding, fortunately, Tobor is mind-linked to his creator and cannot be reprogrammed. The robot was created for the film for \$125,000. As Gadge in this dated but fun film would say, "gee willikers," because that was a lot of money back then.

Forbidden Planet (1956) takes place in 2200 AD on the planet Altair-4, where a group of colonizers from Earth settled 20 years earlier. When Commander Adams (Leslie Nielsen) and his crew arrive, they find the planet is now inhabited only by Dr. Moribius (Walter Pidgeon), his daughter Altaira (Anne Francis), and the doctor's creation, Robby the Robot. They are the only survivors of some evil force that inhabits the planet, which is out to get them too. The color and set designs are spectacular for the time.

Although filmed in 2004, **Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow** has the look and feel of a movie from the 1950s that depicts the future. This is the story of a comic book-like dashing aviator Joe Sullivan (Jude Law) and his gum-chewing wizardly tech engineer sidekick Dex Dearborn (Giovanni Ribisi). They are trying to save the world from robots as big as skyscrapers. Fearless girl reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) follows Joe and Dex on their adventure, which also features Angelina Jolie in a small role as Franky Cook, a daring British air commander. However, the production design and cinematography are the stars.

Other films in this category explore the theme of robots being integrated into society. 1973 brought us Woody Allen's classic **Sleeper**. When health-food store owner Miles Monroe (Woody Allen) enters the hospital for routine gall bladder surgery, he dies on the operating table and is cryogenically frozen. Defrosted 200 years later, Miles awakens to an oppressive world where androids serve as household help. Miles is forced to flee for his life and hilariously pretends to be an android to escape detection. He is sent to work at the

home of Luna (Diane Keaton), a composer of greeting cards who thinks that the world of the future is perfect just as it is.

Blade Runner (1982) is a cult classic that blends sci fi and film noir detective fiction. Set in 2019 Los Angeles, Harrison Ford stars as Rick Deckard, a retired blade runner, a type of cop who hunts down and kills replicants, human-like androids that were originally built for use in dangerous off-world colonization. Deckard is forced back into active duty to hunt a band of replicants, led by Roy Batty (Rutger Hauer), that have escaped and are headed to Earth, killing several humans in the process. When Deckard is about to be killed, he is saved by Rachael (Sean Young), a replicant who is unaware of her true nature. In 1992 director Ridley Scott released a popular director's cut that removed Deckard's narration, added a dream sequence, and excised a happy ending imposed by studio officials as a result of test screenings.

Robot and Frank (2012) is the tale of Frank (Frank Langella), an aging ex-jewel thief in his declining years who receives a robot butler programmed as a care-giver as a gift from his son (James Marsden). The robot cleans, cooks, plants a garden, takes Frank on walks in the woods and advises him to cut back on his sodium intake. Frank also enlists the robot to help pull off one last heist. Liv Tyler is on hand as his daughter, who visits him via Skype, and Susan Sarandon is Frank's favorite librarian.

Then there are all the series of films and their sequels that prominently feature mechanical men. **Star Wars: A New Hope** (1977), **The Empire Strikes Back** (1980), and **Return of the Jedi** (1983) are exquisitely real fantasies with the magnitude of adventure beyond compare. The first **Star Wars** movie (1977) was truly a technological turning point in motion picture history. The story of Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), Chewbacca the Wookie (Peter Mayhew), R2D2 (Kenny Baker), C3PO (Anthony Daniels), Yoda, Obi-Wan Kenobe (Alec Guinness), and Darth Vader (David Prowse/body; James Earl Jones/voice), and the war between the forces of good and evil in the universe, is action/adventure in its highest form. I actually remember my fascination with the "droids" R2D2 and C3PO when the film debuted in 1977.

The beginning of **Terminator** (1984) is set in a post-apocalyptic 2029, when Los Angeles has been largely reduced to rubble and is under the thumb of all-powerful militaristic robots. Kyle Reese (Michael Biehn), a member of the human resistance movement, is teleported back to 1984. His purpose is to find Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton), mother of the man who will lead the 21st-century rebels against the tyrannical machines, and prevent her assassination before she can give birth. Likewise thrust back to 1984 is the **Terminator** (Arnold Schwarzenegger), a well-armed, virtually indestructible cyborg who has been programmed to eliminate Sarah Connor. This film was followed by **Terminator 2: Judgment Day** (1991), **Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines** (1993), and **Terminator Salvation** (2009), the first two being the most successful.

Alien (1979), **Aliens** (1986), **Alien 3** (1992) and **Alien Resurrection** (1998) are all a combination of sci fi space travel with true horror. Sigourney Weaver stars as Ripley, a Rambo-like soldier who fights to the death (literally) these creatures that spawn from within human beings. The first in the series was quite gruesome, the second the most interesting, the third dull, and the fourth mildly satirical. Lance Henriksen appears in the second and third films as Bishop, an android who prefers the term "artificial person." Ripley ultimately uses him to save the day.

Robocop (1987) is an exceedingly vio-

lent blend of black comedy, science fiction and crime thriller. When policeman Alex Murphy (Peter Weller) is critically injured in the line of duty, the police department decides to resurrect him as a half-human, half-robot indestructible supercop to eliminate crime from the streets of Detroit. However, his human side is tortured by his past, and he wants revenge on the thugs who killed him. The film was later followed by two feature-length sequels (1993, 1997) and a live-action television series (2000), none of which were as successful as the original film.

Of the many entries in the Star Trek space exploration film series the eighth and ninth, **First Contact** (1996) and **Insurrection** (1998), feature the cast of "The Next Generation" (Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis); with the seventh, **Generations** (1994), being the crossover film that has members of both casts together. What TNG has that does not appear in the films with the actors from the original series is regular cast member Lt. Data (Brent Spiner), who is a "fully functional" mechanical man.

No discussion of films featuring mechanical men would be complete without including the very first of all, the "tin man" (Jack Haley) in **The Wizard of Oz** (1939), who accompanies Dorothy (Judy Garland), the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr) down the Yellow Brick Road so he can ask the great Wizard to help him get a heart.

In 2012 director Martin Scorsese (**Raging Bull**, **Goodfellas**) finally made a film that was suitable for his grandchildren. **Hugo**, in 3-D, is the story of a lonely orphan (Asa Butterfield), who in the early 1930s lives in and tends to all the clocks in a Paris train station. Before he died, his clockmaker father (Jude Law) had been trying to repair a mechanical man he had found once upon a time. Since it is the only link to Hugo's happy past, he has been repairing the automaton with mechanical parts salvaged from the toys he has stolen from a store in the station run by Georges Méliès (Ben Kingsley). Hugo is befriended by Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz) the shopkeeper's goddaughter, and this leads to discoveries and connections that none of the characters expect. In supporting roles are the menacing station inspector (Sacha Baron Cohen), a friendly flower vendor (Emily Mortimer), a woman with a dachshund (Frances de la Tour) and her suitor (Richard Griffiths). There really existed a Georges Méliès, a turn-of-the-century filmmaker who wound up as a shopkeeper in a Paris train station. This is a film that's suitable for parents as well as children and was created using the techniques of 3-D perfectly.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Dr. Sander

Continued from page 1

experience once in a lifetime.' Beforehand there were clearly 10 teams on paper better than us, including Villanova, with an Olympian and an All American. Georgetown, Michigan, Notre Dame, Seton Hall and a host of others were there. Matteo Cucchiara and I had never broken 4:20 for the mile, and Tom Kenney's best was 4:13. The day was perfect: sunny, still and 60s. Cucchiara and I ran the race of our life, then at 4:14 and 4:12 for me, bringing us even at the second exchange. I somehow mustered a 58 last quarter to pass virtually everyone on the back stretch. Joe McGovern jumped to the lead on his third lap and gave Kenney a 5-yard lead after his 4:09 leg. Kenney, never a miler, went out in 3 flat for the ¾ and never looked back, winning with a 4:04.9 leg. It still doesn't seem plausible that we could win, but all of us were somehow ready and clearly on the upswing. Kenney was only a 2:03 ½ mile for Power Memorial in high

Organization News

Continued from page 10

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that dues (\$30) are now past due. The money can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL box.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 9, at 8 p.m. We will be reopening nominations for officers. New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All old flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole. They will be retired with dignity.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's thrift shop will be open every Thursday and Saturday in May from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and see our Spring/Summer fashions: gently used men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, bags, linens and household appliances, plus CD's, tapes, records, books, toys, games and bric-a-brac. We have graduation and prom dresses, swimwear, shorts, and sandals for sale. Watch for our special sales posted on the bulletin board throughout the month of May. Enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee in the company of fellow shoppers. Remember that donations are greatly appreciated.

Arlene Byrne

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

Saturdays at 11 a.m., Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

school, and my best mile at Fordham Prep was only 4:40, yet on a given day we felt we could run with everyone . . . and on that afternoon at Franklin Field we did."

This award marks the first Fordham relay team to be inducted in the famed Penn Relays' Wall of Fame. The 119th Penn Relays Carnival took place from April 25 to 27 at historic Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Dr. Sander and the other inductees were honored April 26 at the Palestra and April 27 at Franklin Field. The Wall of Fame tradition started in 1994 and now includes 95 athletes and 85 relay teams.

"It's a great honor not only for myself but for the team," said Dr. Sander. "It's a team honor that extends to the Fordham track and field teams of that era. Some of them have not been honored but frankly were just as good. We are receiving this for all our Fordham teams and coach Artie O'Connor. This is in his honor and for all those teams from that era."



Photo by WILLIAM MUELLER

They did it again! The St. Mary, Star of the Sea School Class of 1958 had its 50th class reunion in 2008 and since then classmates have been meeting for Mass and then a luncheon twice a year. On Sunday, April 14, 2013, they celebrated the 55th anniversary of their graduation with a noon Mass at St. Mary's and then lunch at the Lobster House. Seated (l. to r.) are Delia Theriault Cacace '58, Frank Giacobelli, Joe Gelsi, Jane Genovese Gelsi '58, Carol "Bunny" Sullivan Giacobelli '58 and John Neuner '58. Standing are Angela Mueller, William Mueller '58, Charles Carman, Patricia Wennberg DelGuidice '58, Darrell Smith, Prima M. Tamborlani '58, Rosetta Shandley Woods '58, Carmella Henning, Barbara Harrison and Mary Fogarty Carman '58.

Preparing Our Children for Life-Long Learning

By JOHN SCARDINA

There are many ways to measure success in life, but one parameter that is high on my list is to be a life-long learner. As an old saying from the Talmud remarks, "A fool learns only from wise men; a wise man learns from everyone." How do we cultivate the desire to learn wherever we are?

- **Encourage curiosity:** Teachers will often say that the only "dumb question" is the one you don't ask. Yes, our children can barrage us with endless queries, but we can also ask them some questions of our own. Why do the worms come out on the sidewalk after it rains? How many different kinds of birds can you spot? Why are there cracks built into new sidewalks? What makes the tides happen?

- **Research your vacation trip:** Ask your child to find out 10 new facts about where you are going. Let them be the "expert" on the vacation, teaching other family members the history of the place you are visiting and the main attractions you are sure not to miss. Put them in charge of collecting maps and trip details and planning some of the days. Spend some time "debriefing" after the trip to see how it all went.

- **Spend 10 minutes outside just sitting and watching:** As one spiritual teacher once said, "Don't just do something - sit there!" This is the cheapest way I know to relieve stress and feel connected to the earth. Check out the

book "The Other Way to Listen" by Byrd Baylor and Peter Parnall and read it aloud with your child. Find a comfortable place outside and just watch and listen for 10 minutes. Make a list of your observations. You will be amazed by the richness of the natural environment and the observations your child will make.

- **Use everyday tasks as learning opportunities:** Cooking is a math lesson: if we double the recipe, how much flour do we need? Mow the lawn and create a small compost pile: why does it get warm and how does it turn into soil if we add other plant matter? Make a fresh salad from foraged greens (like dandelions) when you weed the lawn. Pay attention to packaging when shopping and minimize your environmental footprint by bringing your own bags, and then calculate how much energy you save by not using one plastic bag or recycling one aluminum can. (By the way, you will be amazed by the impact of recycling aluminum.)

Summer will soon be upon us. The world is our laboratory. And be sure to enjoy the learning: one key to contentment in old age is to never stop learning and growing.

City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist and parent educator. Check out his website www.ThinkLaughLearn.com as well as his monthly parenting groups at the Community Center.



Public School 175

Spring has arrived and our students are in full bloom! Our eighth-graders are putting the finishing touches on their social studies and science exit projects. In addition to a visual presentation, the students are required to do an oral presentation for their teachers. Ms. Heil and Mr. Scopp have been working alongside their students to make this a most meaningful project.

P.S. 175's school-wide Community Service Program is getting into full swing! Kindergarten students have been collecting soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House and will conduct an "art auction" of student work, the proceeds of which will be donated to the pediatric unit at Montefiore Medical Center. First-graders are collecting gently used books to donate to the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit. Second-graders are going to bake desserts to be donated to the POTS food drive at St. Mary's. Third-graders will be conducting a children's used book sale and donate what they raise to the City Island Nautical Museum. Fourth-graders will be having a "healthy" bake sale to raise money to donate to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Fifth-graders will conduct a bake sale to raise money for Autism Awareness. Sixth-graders are collecting towels, sheets, blankets and dog and cat food to donate to the SPCA of Westchester. Seventh-graders are participating in neighborhood clean-up activities, and eighth-graders have done individual and group projects. We thank Brenda Prohaska for coordinating many of these activities!

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year during the last week of this month. Our sixth-graders will spend three days learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Fitzmaurice, Ms. Lawless, and Mr. Lafreniere (who will be coming out of retirement for the event) will once again accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for all.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Kindergarten registration is ongoing. City Island families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2013, should come in to fill out registration paperwork.
- Seventh-graders will be going to

Boston in May.

- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 21, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening, from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 19, at 6 p.m.

- The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and clown.

The Citizens-of-the-Month for April are Santino Esposito and Michael Sgobbo (kindergarten); Jordan Knapp and Finlay Patterson (first grade); Marco Mazzella and Justice Pedroza (second grade); Jackson Weppler and Hazir Novovic (third grade); Carmine Testa and Tristen Boga-Torres (fourth grade); Brandon McGaughan and Jessica Lachman (fifth grade); Robert Henriquez and Victoria Rabinowitz (sixth grade); Carlo Fine and Everett Sanderson (seventh grade); Danielle Giocondo and Samahjae Thomas (eighth grade).

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School

As we all know, our school will be closing its doors at the end of this school year. As we also know, we have served City Island and other communities over the past 78 years with academic excellence, love and care. In the hope of continuing to service our communities, and understanding that as God closes one door, He opens another, there is a strong possibility that our building may become home to an early childhood center in September.

Discussions are ongoing, and we have been asked to take a small survey to determine if there would be an interest in and a need for an all-day program offered to children three, four and five years old. There would be a number of different options, such as half-day, full-day, early morning, and after-care services that would be included in our center.

If this is a service that would interest you, please fill in the bottom portion of this column and return it either to the church/rectory (595 Minneford Avenue) or the school (580 Minneford Avenue). You may also have an opportunity to discuss and, hopefully, promote an early childhood center opening here at St. Mary's with your friends, families and neighbors. If possible, please send us some input on what services you would need for your family. If you know of anyone looking for early childhood care this coming September, please pass along our number (718-885-1527) and we would be happy to answer any questions.

As always, thank you for your cooperation.

Sr. Joan McKinney, O.P.
Early Childhood Coordinator

Please tear out and return this portion either to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church/Rectorry (595 Minneford Avenue, City Island, NY 10464) or to St. Mary, Star of the Sea School (580 Minneford Avenue, City Island, NY 10464).

Yes, I would be interested in finding out more about an Early Childhood Program this coming September for my _____-year old(s).

Name: _____

Contact phone # or email address: _____


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I have been in solo Internal Medicine practice in neighboring Co-Op City for over 35 years and have lived on City Island for twenty years. I am seven minutes away by bus and there is free parking available.

I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connolly's Book of "Top Doctors".

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SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY



Scot Henry swings from a bosun's chair.

It's that sea-loving time of the year on City Island. Boats are being cleaned, sanded, painted, oiled, shined and buffed. One by one, boats splash into Eastchester Bay, while captains and crew are fired up, anticipating the new season. One of the foremost tasks now, and throughout the months ahead, is to keep a boat's bottom clean, and Scot Henry and Joseph Lizarazo of the Barnacle Buster, in addition to being avid sailors and boat owners, run a complete under-the-water-line local

boat service.

Scot explains how both he and Joe bought the small company last year and expanded their reach beyond City Island across the Sound to neighboring marinas. "Last year our starting clients numbered about 100, which we grew to nearly 230 by the end of the season."

As an enthusiastic racer, I know how important it is for captains to keep their hulls free of anything that would slow their boat down. A dirty boat bottom creates more drag on the boat and may hasten corrosion, too. It's the smart boat owner who keeps a boat free from marine growth and adds longevity to the vessel. The Barnacle Buster is a friend to racers, but also cruisers, transient boaters and power boaters. Although focused on building their business, these two men have a love of all things nautical. "Joe and I love boats, and it doesn't get any simpler than that," Scot says. Their company offers zinc replacements, hull inspections, in-water hull repair, prop maintenance and installation or removal. According to Scot, they have also undertaken a few recovery dives to find lost props and property.

Scot lives off island and is fairly new to boating, but Joe has lived on City Island for 18 years, working in and around boats in addition to his day job in the food industry. Scot's day job as a research scientist adds a unique component to his marine work. "I have begun to compile data from every dive on how specific bottom paints react to changing water temperatures and the changes in growth patterns throughout the season. With this data we can offer informed advice about which bottom paints are effective in our

home waters."

As the days get longer and warmer, the nearby bay hugging the City Island shore entices many Islanders as they drive off the avenue to work. When the morning breeze stirs the trees with a *whoosh* and kisses the face of a City Island sailor, I think Scot says it best: "Any day playing with boats is a better day than sitting in the office." (For more information on The Barnacle Buster contact Scot or Joe at 914-438-3054, or barnaclebusterny@gmail.com.)

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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 2013									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Wed	0414	7.68	1133	0.00	1729	7.28	2359	0.61	Wed 01
02 Thu	0554	7.38	1242	0.14	1847	7.38			Thu 02
03 Fri	0113	0.50	0716	7.33	1346	0.14	1951	7.61	Fri 03
04 Sat	0218	0.23	0821	7.42	1445	0.06	2049	7.88	Sat 04
05 Sun	0317	-0.09	0918	7.55	1539	-0.03	2141	8.12	Sun 05
06 Mon	0410	-0.39	1010	7.65	1629	-0.09	2230	8.27	Mon 06
07 Tue	0500	-0.58	1058	7.68	1715	-0.07	2315	8.32	Tue 07
08 Wed	0546	-0.63	1143	7.65	1757	0.04	2356	8.27	Wed 08
09 Thu	0628	-0.54	1224	7.56	1836	0.23			Thu 09
10 Fri	0034	8.14	0708	-0.34	1303	7.44	1908	0.47	Fri 10
11 Sat	0107	7.96	0743	-0.06	1338	7.29	1927	0.70	Sat 11
12 Sun	0128	7.79	0811	0.24	1405	7.17	1936	0.85	Sun 12
13 Mon	0145	7.66	0820	0.48	1424	7.10	2007	0.97	Mon 13
14 Tue	0214	7.56	0841	0.64	1451	7.08	2046	1.09	Tue 14
15 Wed	0252	7.46	0917	0.77	1528	7.10	2131	1.21	Wed 15
16 Thu	0335	7.34	1000	0.88	1611	7.13	2220	1.29	Thu 16
17 Fri	0423	7.20	1047	0.96	1700	7.19	2313	1.30	Fri 17
18 Sat	0516	7.08	1139	0.98	1752	7.31			Sat 18
19 Sun	0011	1.20	0613	7.02	1233	0.92	1847	7.51	Sun 19
20 Mon	0113	0.97	0713	7.04	1330	0.76	1943	7.79	Mon 20
21 Tue	0219	0.61	0814	7.16	1428	0.53	2038	8.11	Tue 21
22 Wed	0327	0.16	0913	7.35	1526	0.25	2132	8.44	Wed 22
23 Thu	0428	-0.30	1010	7.56	1623	-0.02	2225	8.72	Thu 23
24 Fri	0526	-0.69	1105	7.75	1719	-0.22	2317	8.89	Fri 24
25 Sat	0621	-0.95	1200	7.88	1815	-0.32			Sat 25
26 Sun	0010	8.93	0715	-1.05	1255	7.93	1913	-0.31	Sun 26
27 Mon	0104	8.80	0811	-1.00	1352	7.90	2015	-0.18	Mon 27
28 Tue	0201	8.52	0910	-0.80	1455	7.81	2123	0.01	Tue 28
29 Wed	0305	8.14	1012	-0.54	1605	7.72	2235	0.18	Wed 29
30 Thu	0422	7.75	1115	-0.26	1717	7.68	2346	0.28	Thu 30
31 Fri	0544	7.48	1218	-0.02	1824	7.72			Fri 31
JUNE 2013									
01 Sat	0052	0.26	0654	7.34	1319	0.13	1926	7.83	Sat 01
02 Sun	0155	0.14	0756	7.30	1417	0.22	2023	7.96	Sun 02
03 Mon	0253	-0.02	0853	7.32	1511	0.26	2116	8.08	Mon 03
04 Tue	0347	-0.17	0945	7.36	1601	0.29	2205	8.16	Tue 04
05 Wed	0436	-0.27	1034	7.39	1648	0.35	2251	8.18	Wed 05



THE BLUES AND THE GRAYS

In last month's column we erroneously labeled a picture of a snow goose as one of three hybrid ducks. After John pointed that out for us, he added that he thought our hybrids might in fact be blue-phase snow geese, in which case they could all be family. This might explain why these waterfowl are spending as much time together as they have been. They were sighted again last month and on more than one occasion in their usual spot, which is in the water near Catherine Scott Promenade near the bridge. On the other hand, the bird in the photograph has a splotchiness about its plumage that does not resemble any of the blue-phase snow geese we could find online.



Ducks or snow geese? Only the birds know for sure.

As far as we can tell, there are two species of snow goose: the greater snow goose and the lesser snow goose. The blue phase belongs to the lesser snow goose family, which includes both a blue and a white phase. It was believed at one time that the blues were a separate species, but because it

was observed that blues and whites were interbreeding as regularly as they were, ornithologists now agree that they are two color phases of the same species. It's something like swan cygnets, who may either be white phase or the more uncommon gray phase. Which reminds us . . .

Regular readers of this column will recall our fond memories of the swan family that made our home a regular destination last spring and summer. Our most recent memories, however, are far from fond. In a territorial dispute between father and son last month, the elder swan had its offspring by the neck and forced it underwater and held it there. Were it not for our interference, we feel sure that the young cob would have been drowned. We know that swans are aggressive birds, but filicide? This was a wake-up call, to be sure, another glimpse of nature's not always pleasant surprises.

As always, we welcome your feedback at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

Small gardens can be made more intimate and in a sense larger by gardening upwards. Beginning in spring it is the climbers that accentuate the vertical giving another dimension to the space. I have a garden divided with yew, holly and box, and in the spring the clematis begin their tendriled ascent, adhering to the taller hollies. By June the garden has become a framework for the purple and lavender blossoms.

The *clematis perle d'azur* blooms June through July with its single blue mauve blossoms. If you had to have only one clematis, this is it. From June through August, try Christopher Lloyd's favorite *prince charles*. Some say it is better than *perle d'azur*, but I love both. I have them twisting through climbing roses and the autumn *clematis paniculata* scrambling through a maple tree.

When they were first planted, a gardener whacked them all to the ground, and this happened for three years until I protected them bodily every spring. But this is the way with clematis, you must be ruthless and chop chop for three years. They bulk up and instead of one spindly sorry shoot, you will have 9 or 10 floriferous vines on one plant. Bury the crown 3 inches and cover with a slate. They like cool roots and hot heads. So you may have clematis all the summer and autumn in this way.

Climbing *hydrangea petiolaris* is always beautiful to clothe a telephone pole, a tree or a fence, but the special *shizophragma* vine has larger blooms and many more florets per head. Get the variety moonlight if you love white. For the climbing hydrangea, a little help is needed for the first years if you would have them dress the trunks of trees. I tack bird netting to the tree, as the vine can attach itself easily to this material. It is almost invisible, and it doesn't seem to harm the tree.

Old rose varieties have very long canes, and they can climb into trees. *Rosa cecile brunner* and *new dawn* will adorn a large tree in time. *Rosa kiftsgate* will take over a neighborhood.

Wisteria and *trumpet vine* are beautiful, but to control them you must prune them to one stem. Also be prepared for them to be popping up all over your yard in time. If you want to plant either of these beautiful, breathtaking thugs, please read up on the care and pruning of them. They can very easily get out of control, yet in a wild landscape or just in front of your house on a pergola, there is little else that can be as beautiful.

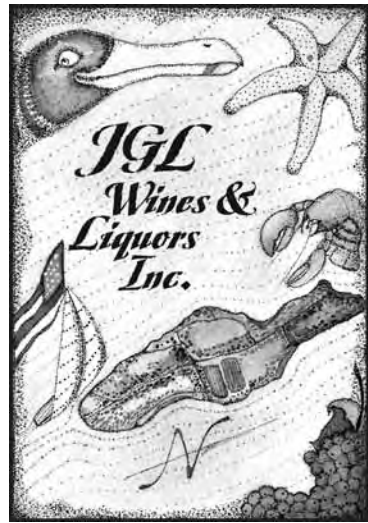
The annual vines I love—and you can plant these from seed directly in your soil from May 15 on—are *nasturtium vine*,



Clematis louise

morning glory and *cobea*. The seeds will benefit from an overnight soak in water. The nasturtium vine is stunning weaving in and about shrubbery. Plant three per shrub. Morning glories are great in the perennial garden. After a plant like phlox has gone over and finished blooming, you can pull the morning glory onto it and it fills the gap. These look good on pyramids (tuteurs) of sticks placed amidst the vegetable patch. How very French! A simple arch above a front gate filled with any of these climbers will make a home very special.

Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.



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The Christening of Minesweeper YMS-214

By WINIFRED WALSH DOANE



Photo by MORRIS ROSENFELD

Joan Habel, age 14, receiving a medal of honor from Robert Jacob on the occasion of the launching of YMS-214 on Feb. 26, 1943. Her father holds the champagne bottle that was used to christen the ship.

The 70th anniversary of the christening of an Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper, which had been built on City Island during World War II, was celebrated on Feb. 26, 2013, in Arizona, 3,000 miles from where the ship had been launched in 1943. The minesweeper had been constructed in the Robert Jacob Shipyard and was christened YMS-214 by a 14-year-old girl from Mount Vernon, New York, named Joan Habel. She was the daughter of Clifford Habel, the department head of the shipyard's business office. Today she is a retired teacher who resides in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is known by her married name, Joan Burtnett.

Originally rated as service craft, minesweepers were used during World War II for sweeping mines along the shore to prepare the way for amphibious assaults. The first "Yard class Minesweeper (YMS)" was designed and built at the Henry B. Nevins Shipyard on City Island, and she was launched on January 10, 1942. Nevins built 24 minesweepers during World War II, and the Robert Jacob Shipyard built a similar number (7 more were built during the Korean War). Other yacht yards across the country built a total of 561 minesweepers using the Nevins design during WWII. A model minesweeper based on the original Nevins blueprints for YMS-1 is in the City



Photo courtesy CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YMS-446, also built at the Robert Jacob Shipyard for use in World War II. This type of minesweeper had no stacks, whereas YMS-214 had one.

Island Nautical Museum.

Joan's minesweeper, YMS-214, was completed at anchor on July 2, 1943, less than a year after its construction had begun. Its length was 136 feet, its beam 24' 6", and its draft 8 feet. It had a General Motors diesel engine that could attain a speed of 15 knots. Wooden minesweepers like YMS-214 were being built and launched so rapidly during WWII that there was no time to find a suitable female name for each. They were simply christened YMS (Yard Minesweeper) and given a number. YMS-1 through 134 had two stacks; YMS-135 to 445, 480 and 481 had one stack; and YMS-446 to 479 had none. YMS-214 fell into the second category. It was one of 53 U.S. Navy minesweepers with a single stack that was transferred on or soon after completion to Great Britain under the Lend Lease Program. (Before then, 80 YMS's with two stacks had been transferred.) Once in the British Navy, YMS-214 became a "British Motor Minesweeper" and was listed as BYMS-2214. It was returned to the United States on Dec. 10, 1946, but its ultimate fate remains a mystery.

Joan celebrated her christening of U.S. Navy YMS-214 by hosting a dinner party at Lo Cascio, a well-known Italian restaurant on Scottsdale Road in Tempe. I was among the guests, as a native of City Island who had lived at the western end of Pilot Street until 1950; at the eastern end of Pilot Street was Jacob's shipyard, which was sold to

Consolidated Shipbuilding in 1946. Joan and I have been yoga classmates for about eight years, but we had no idea how much we shared in common until I mentioned an article I had read in *The Island Current*, to which she subscribes.

Since discovering our mutual ties to City Island, Joan has read every issue of *The Current*, searching for the names of people she knew on the Island during her youth, but she has yet to find one. This year Joan played an April Fool's Day joke on her yoga classmates, which inspired me to play one on her in return by writing a story for *The Current* in which she would finally recognize a name—her own.

Joan often visited City Island while attending Mt. Vernon's A. B. Davis High School. She received her B.A. degree in early childhood education from Adelphi University in 1950 and married Robert Burtnett on Nov. 27, 1948. After serving in the Army Air Corps in South America, he worked at Tucson Steel and later the U.S. Postal Service for many years. The Burtnetts and their three children moved in 1963 and settled in Scottsdale. Joan earned her M.A. in education at Arizona State University and taught in the Scottsdale School District from 1964 until her retirement in 1991.

After all these years, Joan still has the protective mesh bag containing glass shards from the champagne bottle she used to christen YMS-214. At her 70th anniversary dinner, she was given a large shadow box by her daughter Jane. In it were the remains of that bottle hanging next to a picture taken by Morris Rosenfeld showing Robert Jacob pinning a medal of honor on Joan's jacket, a necessary part of the christening ceremony. Her parents are standing behind Joan, and her father is holding the champagne bottle that was smashed over the bow of YMS-214.



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The Scanlon Family

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.

Thomas Costello

Thomas Peter Costello, a longtime City Island resident, died at the age of 89 on March 28, 2013. He was born on Sept. 21, 1923, to Michael and Mary Costello shortly after they arrived in New York City from Ireland. The family settled in the Country Club section of Bronx, where Thomas attended Our Lady of Assumption grammar school and Mount Saint Michael High School, where he graduated as valedictorian in 1941, representing the third generation of the same family to have graduated.

Tom went to Georgetown University in 1941 and on to Notre Dame for six months, but his college career was interrupted by World War II, in which he served in the Third Division of the United States Infantry. He was taken prisoner of war at Anzio, Italy, on April 29, 1943, and was liberated on V-E day, May 8, 1945. He received the POW Medal, Infantry Men's Badge, European Theatre and was honorably discharged on Dec. 23, 1945. A two-part article about his wartime experiences, written by Russell Schaller, appeared in the June and July-August issues of *The Island Current* in 2006.

Tom Costello continued his education at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts, where he was class president for the graduating class of 1948, beating classmate William (Rocks) Gallagher (who eventually became president of the American Foundation for the Blind). This competition led to a lifelong friendship with Mr. Gallagher that resulted in one Mr. Costello's proudest accomplishments in 2012, a biography entitled "Rocks, The Blind Guy at the Lake." Holy Cross was also where Tom met a young nurse named Anne McKeon, whom he married in 1949.

After their marriage, the Costellos moved to the Bronx, where Tom was attending Fordham University School of Law. He graduated in 1951 and became a member of the New York State Bar in 1952. The following year, the couple moved to City Island, living first on Minneford Avenue and in 1960 moving to Tier Street. Tom became a member of the New York State Bar in 1952.

Tom Costello's 50-year career as a lawyer in New York City actually began long before he went to law school. His best friend at Mount Saint Michael was a promising football player named Art Donovan, who wanted to go to Boston College rather than Notre Dame, much against his mother's wishes. Tom defended Art's decision to Mrs. Donovan, who relented, and Art went on to play for three teams in the National Football League and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1968. Tom always felt that it was this experience that convinced

him to become an attorney.

Tom served on New York's Character Committee and the formation of one of the first groups in New York City dedicated to assisting lawyers in the battle with alcohol dependency. He was among the first to offer testimony before the New York State Bar in disciplinary proceedings citing new research that alcoholism was a physical disease that needed to be treated as such. He participated in several prominent cases as a defense attorney and later specialized in malpractice and negligence cases. He was a partner in the law firm of Diamond, Rutman, and Costello and a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society. He served as past president to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 4, Bronx County and the Brooklyn Manhattan Trial Lawyers Association. His trial skills were recognized by the New York Law Journal, which rated him as one of the top defense trial attorneys in the New York Metropolitan area.

In addition to his published work and accomplishments in the law, Tom Costello was a dedicated grandfather, a poet and a teacher of the Gaelic language to City Islanders. He was a devout Catholic and assisted the Legion of Mary in his parish of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. He was also an enthusiastic golfer and loved tending his garden on Tier Street.

He is preceded in death by Anne, his wife of 64 years, and his daughter, Regina Costello Knapp. He is survived by two sisters, Theresa Honan and Patricia Wright; his children, Michael Costello of Stamford, Connecticut and his wife, Gayle; his daughter and dedicated editor, Marianne Costello Quattrociocchi and her husband, Frank, of Westchester, New York; Thomas A. Costello and his wife, Donna, of Cary, North Carolina; and Marie Costello Inserra, Esq., and her husband, Paul, of Cary, North Carolina; his son-in-law Stephen Knapp of Ithaca, New York; 10 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on City Island on Thursday, April 4, followed by full military honors.

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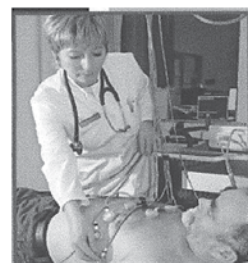
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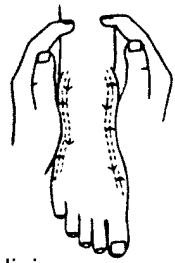
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WANTED TO HIRE: A reliable female companion to visit homebound elderly woman 2x weekly for the month of July and first week of August. You must be able to walk her to shops on City Island. You must have references. Email me at: cg.sunrise2014@gmail.com or call 646-732-1445.

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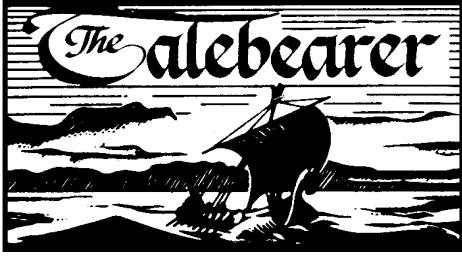
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Happy Birthday on May 19 to Peter Lenz, with love from your family.

Birthday greetings across the miles to former Minneford Avenue clam digger Genie Jones, who will celebrate on May 9. Genie now resides in Oceanside, California. Love from your cuz, Barbara.

So very proud of our grandson, Dominick Acocella, who was recently accepted to the Apollo Theater Workshop series. Love from Grammy and Poppy Sortino and Nona and Grandpa Acocella.

Best wishes for continued success to Alaura Imperoli, who will graduate from Iona with a Master's degree in Education on May 18. We are so very proud of you! All our love, Mom, Dad, Joey and Michael.

Happy "anniversary" to Winter Street's Bobby Swieciki, who will celebrate seven years in the U.S. Coast Guard on May 2. Semper Paratus!

Happy May 8 birthday wishes to Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday on May 9 to former Islander Bobby Mennona, from all of your siblings and cousins.

Happy May 16 Birthday to waiter Maurice Richard of the Black Whale, from all

of your "favorite" coworkers.

Happy 75th birthday on May 17 to Red Brennen, with love from your daughters Marcy, Brenda and Amanda; the guys Mike, Mike and Eddie; and grandkids Mitchell, Dusty, Travis, Russell and Tracen.

Happy anniversary on May 12 to the Sailmaker's John and Judy Iovieno, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

Birthday greetings on May 28 to Patrice Ortega of To Go Express.

Happy first wedding anniversary on May 12 to Brian and Kim Moore, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday wishes on May 30 to City Island's friendliest letter carrier, Tommy Cleary, with best wishes from everyone along your route.

Happy 19th birthday wishes on May 16 to Justin. Happy ninth birthday(s) to Joseph, Frankie and Brianna, who will celebrate on May 14. All our love, Mama, Pop, Aunt Toni, Mom, Dad, Kesley, Justin and Kasey.

May birthday greetings go out to former Islanders Robert Booth, Dorian Cormier and Kate Fenton.

Happy May birthday to Joe Euell from your Carroll Street family.

Belated Happy Birthday wishes on April 18 to John Musto.

And a very happy Mother's Day to all our hard-working mothers and grandmothers. We love you!

Maria Swieciki



A group of hearty City Islanders participated in the Spartan Race at CitiField on April 13, 2013. All four competitors shown above (Mark Nani, Maryann Emerick, Jillian Lotrionte and Mike Bollati) finished the challenging boot-camp style obstacle course, which emphasizes fun and team cooperation.



Red Brennen with his daughters (l. to r.) Brenda, Amanda and Marcy.

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