

The Island Current

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One Dollar

The Changing Face of City Island Avenue

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

These three business storefronts reflect current activity on City Island Avenue: The building that once housed Bistro SK (photo above) will soon open a new restaurant called Anthony's; Connie's New Way Market (top right photo) is for sale; and the brick building where the Library Bar (bottom right photo) once stood is undergoing renovation for use as office space.

Residents of City Island and visitors alike cannot help but notice that there are several "For Sale" signs on the block between Fordham and Hawkins Streets on City Island Avenue. Many are wondering if this is cause for despair, a sign of the times, or simply a coincidence, but a glance at City Island history should generate a ray of hope for the future.

The building that recently held Paddy's on the Island and Filomena's has been for sale for nearly a year, but locals feel confident that new businesses will move in. After all, the building was constructed in 1910 and has hosted a series of gathering spots ever since, from the Bucket of Blood to the Captain's Den, from the Village Inn, which was purchased by Richie DePierro and became Rhodes, to Gallagher's, Six Mile Cross, the Ale House and then Paddy's. Some residents point out that there are too many other gathering spots on City Island for a new bar/restaurant to thrive here, but City Island has always had a great many bars, even during Prohibition!

Residents were happy to learn that Filomena's will soon be reopening in the building that once held the successful Bistro SK restaurant, thanks to Islander Dan Treiber (of 239 Play fame), who organized the purchase of the building from Ruth Markowe, owner of Early Ruth Antiques at 315 City Island Avenue. "Like other Islanders, I thought it was an overnight disaster when we went from two thriving restaurants [Bistro SK and Filomena's] to two empty storefronts," Mr. Treiber told *The Current*. So he formed Rising Tide Revival LLC with another investor and bought the building at 273 City Island Avenue. "We can't have more vacant buildings, and the Island can't go without a pizza parlor for a year!"

He is renting the entire building to Anthony DeLillis who previously ran Filomena's pizza parlor. Mr. DeLillis is a graduate of the Culinary Institute and, together with his brother Peter and son Anthony,

will open a new City Island restaurant called Anthony's in mid-November or early December. They will still offer individual slices of pizza during lunch hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., but be more of an Italian restaurant in the evening with seating for about 40 people inside (more outside during the warm weather months). The bar that patrons remember at Bistro SK will be put to use once a new liquor license is approved, but the famous indoor tree is gone. "I loved the tree, but unfortunately it was a safety issue: the roots were growing into the foundation and it was rotting at the top," according to Mr. DeLillis.

Perhaps the "For Sale" sign that got the most attention was on the window of New Way Market, which everyone calls "Connie's" for its owner, who lives in one of the apartments above the market. Many residents were very unhappy to learn that Connie and her family are retiring, but after all they have been in business in the building for 36 years, and it's clearly time for the family to move on. And, as Skip Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, points out, the closing of Connie's may improve sales of many items available at the pharmacy across the street. The sign-less storefront on the east side of the avenue, known simply as Laura's for its current owner, has been vacant for years, but a new "For Sale" sign has been put up, the place has been cleaned out and the owner seems determined to sell it instead of keeping it bleak and empty.

Those who remain skeptical about the future of City Island businesses need only look a block north to start feeling more confident about the future. For example, the empty storefront next to the Bay Rose Nails will shortly become a juice bar, and the vacancy created by the closing of Papa John's was quickly filled by Sea Breeze Deli, which offers not only sandwiches and sodas but also tacos and quesadillas. And keep in mind that the laundromat at 323



City Island did not remain vacant for long and is now run as Clam Digger's Laundromat. Further south, the frozen yogurt shop, which is about to close for the winter season, reopened this year after a year off and plans to reopen next year.

Across the street, what used to be the Library Bar is now being renovated under new ownership. Island architect Robert Arthur King told *The Current* that there will be an office at the back of the building, and the space in front will be available for rent. The storefront next to Eden Beauty Bar a few doors down is not vacant, as many worried,

but reflects a change in the shop's business model; the skin care side of the business is open to the public, whereas the hair salon is by appointment only.

Further south, there are other signs of progress and improvement that should reassure residents that City Island is beginning to adapt to the times. The building at 135 City Island Avenue on the corner of Reynolds Street has been an eyesore for many years, but the owners finally decided to clean it up and make it the home of their firm, the Cooperstone Realty Group. Those

Continued on page 3

EARLY VOTING

By FREDERICK RAMFTL

For the first time, New Yorkers will join some other states in being able to offer early voting this year, and other changes will also be taking place.

Registered voters recently received voter cards in the mail and should take them to the polls. Instead of the usual voter roll books, poll workers will be using tablets to scan in voters. When the voter arrives at the table, the card is scanned and the registration will come up on the tablet. If a voter doesn't have his or her card, the worker can still pull up the information on the tablet. After being scanned in, the voter will get a ballot to fill out, just as in past elections. The ballot will still go into the scanner when the voter has completed marking it. Voters will not need to present identification unless it is required by the Board of Elections.

The new voter law signed in January makes it possible for voters to cast their ballots before Election Day. The early voting site for City Island is Truman High School in Co-op City, 750 Baychester Avenue, Door #21.

The dates for early voting are from Saturday, Oct. 26, until Sunday, Nov. 3. Hours on Saturdays and Sundays are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Friday hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Voting on that day will still be at P.S. 175. This year the ballot includes races for Public Advocate, District Attorney and the local courts.

Anyone in need of an absentee ballot can call the Board of Elections at 718-299-9017 or go to vote.nyc.ny.us.

BRIEFLY...

THE BRONX MASONIC DISTRICT 2019 CHARITY BALL, celebrating 100 years of service to the Bronx community, will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Marina Del Rey, 1 Marina Drive. The reception will include a full cocktail hour, an open bar, dinner and dancing to live music. Admission \$100 for adults, \$50 for children 5 to 10, and children under 5 free. For reservations or information, e-mail Joseph Manzi at jmanzi8469@aol.com.

FIRST CITY ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL will be presented by the Focal Point Gallery at Trinity Methodist Church hall, 331 City Island Avenue, on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 8 p.m. Admission is free. Featured are films by Hyonok Kim, James and Tommy Breen and Scott Ruderman. For further information, call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403.

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present "Mamma Mia!" on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 8, 9, 15, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m., and on Sundays, Nov. 10, 17 and 24 at 3 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. For tickets, please e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

NYS SAFE BOATING COURSE will be hosted by the City Island Yacht Club, the Westchester Sail & Power Squadron and the City Island Sail & Power Squadron on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The subjects covered include Boat Handling, Boat Types & Terminology, Boating Regulations (NYS & Federal), Navigational Rules, Lines and Knots, Adverse Conditions, Emergencies, Basic Charts, Aids to Navigation, personal watercraft, Marine Radio Usage and Trailer Boating. Lunch (pizza) will be provided during this one-day eight-hour class. Age: 13 and up. The fee is \$50. To register, e-mail cityislandabc@gmail.com or call Richard Welch at 347-202-5305.

CURBSIDE ELECTRONICS PICKUP. The Department of Sanitation has begun to offer curbside collection for electronics, such as computers, televisions and other items banned from the disposal of regular garbage. Request a pickup by calling 311 and then set your e-waste at the curb after 4 p.m. the night before. Pickups will take place Monday through Friday, except city holidays, and may be scheduled up to two weeks in advance. This program is available to residents of 1-9 unit buildings within the designated areas. Buildings with 10 or more units must enroll in *ecycleNYC*. It is recommended that, if possible, all computer hard drives and cellphone information be cleared of private information before electronics are placed at the curb.

TOM NYE'S HISTORY OF SAIL MAKING will be presented at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9. City Island has always been famous for its boat-building history, but sail making was also a major part of the Island's nautical heritage. No reservations are necessary; seats will be made available on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$5; members are free. For information, call 718-885-0008.

SAVE THE DATE. On Thursday, Nov. 28, Trinity United Methodist Church will host a free community-wide Thanksgiving dinner at the church. Dinner is open to all from 12 to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Please call or text Daniella at 347-291-3298.

COMMUNITY POLICE MEETING will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, to discuss public safety challenges in the neighborhood. Doors open at 7 for refreshments. For accommodations regarding any disability, contact Police Officer Ivette Vargas at 718-822-5452 or e-mail Ivette.Vargas@nypd.org at least three days in advance.



On Sept. 11, 2019, one of the two enlarged images of Mark Whitcombe's America's Cup winners that were installed at 311 City Island Avenue during Viacomcommunity Day in May was sliced in half. The culprit has not been identified, but volunteers are working to repair the image so that it can be reinstalled before winter sets in.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September and October 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – THEFT OF SERVICES
- 1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 – IDENTITY THEFT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Sept. 17 to Oct. 21, 2019.

9/18 – An Island male reported an incident of grand larceny at 9 a.m. He told police that an unknown person opened a Verizon account in his name without his permission.

9/21 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island female, 25, and charged her with DWI at 5:48 a.m. on City Island Avenue. The vehicle was observed making an illegal U-turn and police then noticed an odor of alcohol on the driver's breath.

9/23 – On Fordham Street, an off-Island male, 32, was arrested at 6:58 p.m. and charged with criminal possession of a weapon and DWI. Police observed the defendant driving in a reckless manner and found a loaded firearm during a subsequent search of the vehicle.

9/26 – At 3:12 a.m., an off-Island male,

56, was speeding 80 mph in a 40 mph zone. He was arrested for DWI after police observed the odor of alcohol on his breath.

9/26 – An Island male was a victim of petit larceny at 1 p.m. on City Island Avenue. He told police that he received a letter saying he had won \$25 million in a lottery and was instructed to send \$600 in a gift card to secure his winnings. He sent the card, but no lottery winnings were received.

9/28 – On William Avenue, an off-Island male driver reported theft of services at 12:15 a.m. He dropped off passengers on City Island who then refused to pay the fare.

9/29 – A female Islander reported being harassed by unknown persons on Horton Street at 2:10 p.m. She told police that two men were sitting in a car outside her home, smoking marijuana and taking photos of her and her husband without their permission.

10/10 – At 3:18 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, an Island male reported an incident of identity theft. He told police that he received a call from a credit agency saying he owed \$400 on an Optimum account, but he never opened such an account.

10/14 – On City Island Avenue at 3:45 p.m., an Island female told police she was being harassed by an unknown male who knocked on her window and repeatedly asked for her phone number.

CORRECTION:

In the October issue of *The Island Current*, the wrong middle name was given for Leonard H. Hawkins in the story about the American Legion Post on City Island. It was not Hilton but Hillson.

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Rabbi Shohama to Retire

By PAUL KLEIN



Photo by MATT PANZA

Temple Beth-El will honor retiring Rabbi Shohama Harris Wiener on Nov. 24 at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf course.

After 18 years of dedicated service to Temple Beth-El of City Island and the community, Head Rabbi Shohama Harris Wiener will retire at the end of this year.

Rabbi Shohama is the first woman in history to lead a Jewish seminary. As executive dean and then president of New York's Academy for Jewish Religion, she restructured the Academy's curriculum to include a focus on Jewish spirituality and especially Jewish spiritual direction, a field that she helped to pioneer. Her pathfinding volume on Jewish spiritual direction, "Seeking and Soaring" (with Rabbi Dr. Goldie Milgram), quickly became a core text on this field's academic theory and practice.

After serving the Academy for Jewish Religion for 15 years, Rabbi Shohama brought her spiritual gifts to Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE) and became its first resident rabbi in 2002. Under her direction, Temple Beth-El became a beacon for spirituality and a training synagogue for

future clergy in her spiritual legacy. Rabbi Shohama wrote what has become a staple prayer at TBE called "Waters of Healing," which she sings and accompanies on guitar while her husband, Dr. Alan Dattner, plays harmonica and rain stick. The community named Rabbi Shohama's protégé, Rabbi David Markus, to serve as co-rabbi with her in 2015, and he continues as senior rabbi and music director for the growing Temple Beth-El community.

Today Temple Beth-El serves not only City Island but also the entire coastal New York region. The synagogue is cherished for its loving and warm spirit, its musical and mystical approach to liturgy and Jewish life, its growing Band by the Sea, and its commitment to social justice.

Rabbi Shohama also brought Jewish spiritual direction to ALEPH, the seminary of Jewish Renewal, joining the core faculty as head of spiritual direction and development. In addition to "Seeking and Soaring," Rabbi Shohama served as lead editor of "Worlds of Jewish Prayer," a major volume on re-booting Jewish liturgy and prayer in the legacy of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, visionary founder of Jewish Renewal.

Rabbi Shohama earned her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College, her master's degree in education from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, her rabbinic ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion, and her Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary. She and her husband share a blended family of four children and numerous grandchildren.

Temple Beth-El will honor Rabbi Shohama at a tribute luncheon from noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 24 at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf course. Luncheon tickets are \$60 per person; RSVP by Nov. 11 by e-mailing yourshulbythesea.org.



Photos by MATT PANZA and MARY McINTYRE

On Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, the City Island Theater Group unveiled a window at 286 City Island Avenue to feature its forthcoming production of "Mamma Mia!" At the unveiling of the window, which was designed and installed by Carl Tallent, Nick Sala, CITG president and director of the play, announced that this production would be dedicated to the memory of Christopher McGowan. Rehearsals for "Mamma Mia!" are well under way for the production, which opens on Friday, Nov. 8; the dancers pictured here include (l. to r.): Jana Monteiro, Sarah Brown, Annmarie Tomsen, Heidi Martinez, Astor Sage, Bryce Kylie, Gino Irizarry, Florencia de la Rosa, Armin Pascal, Sharendalle Murga and Morganne Melcher.

Water Main Construction Update

Because of the construction of the new water main to City Island from Pelham Bay Park, the southbound bus stop for the Bx29 bus has been moved from City Island Avenue across from St. Mary's Church to Cross Street. This location will remain in effect through June 25, 2021. There will be no interruption of access to the Island for emergency vehicles, pedestrians and traffic.

The DDC office has alerted the community that some operations during the construction period may be noisy. DDC will monitor operations and work within the noise code regulations set by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Water, gas, electric and cable services to City Island homes and businesses will not be interrupted.

Individuals with special needs who may be uniquely impacted by this work should contact the project's Community Construction Liaison (CCL) at 929-447-5407 to make the office aware of their situation.

All residents or businesses that wish to receive project notifications via e-mail are asked to contact the CCL office. For more information visit the DDC web site at www.nyc.gov/ddc.

City Island Avenue

Continued from page 1

who were unhappy to see one of City Island's last sailmakers leave the Island when UK Sailmakers moved to Port Chester are happy to see the building at 175 City Island Avenue undergoing renovation as the new home of Cogen Electrical Services.

These are not all retail businesses, of course, but their presence here reflects the fact that online shopping and the presence off the Island of such big stores as Home Depot and Costco have altered the way in which City Island is adjusting to new aspects of the economy. Nevertheless, the personal element in serving customers is what will help City Island Avenue to thrive

in the future. For example, if you have a question about hardware, ask Karl at Buddy's; he will probably have what you need and can save you a trip to New Rochelle. And pay attention to the success of Dominick's Market, which is thriving because it is providing items that Islanders want.

Understanding Island residents, in fact, is a key to success, according to Skip Giacco. "The most successful longtime shops on the Island, like Focal Point Gallery, Kaleidoscope and the Black Whale, are run by people who live right here on City Island," he told *The Current*. These owners aren't expecting to make millions by relying on Island customers, but they know what Islanders want and they are happy to live and work in a community that will support them."

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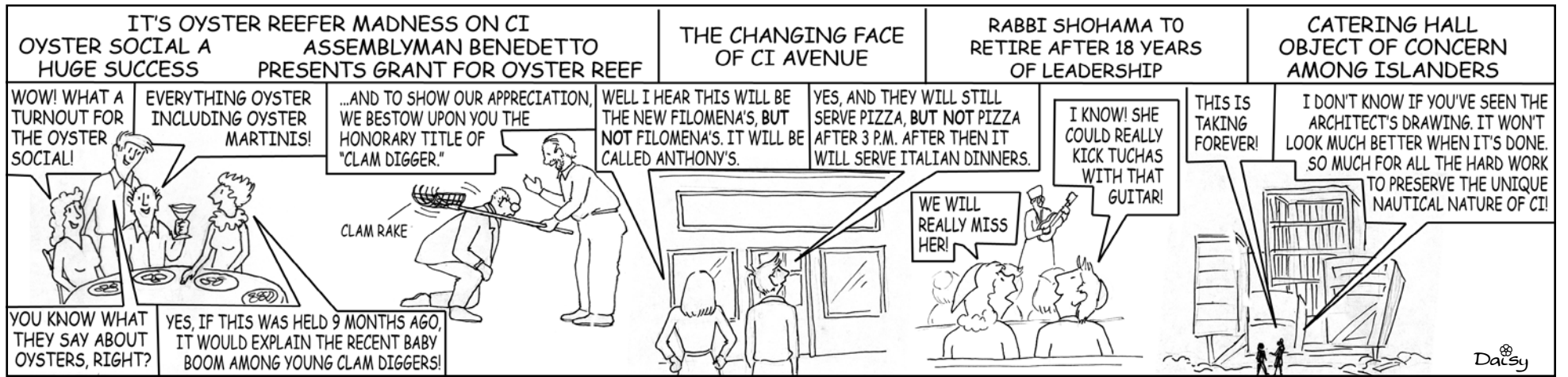
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Asking for Permanent Harbor Patrol

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

Dear Councilman Gjonaj,

The members of the Water Safety Committee of the City Island Civic Association are asking for your help with a problem we have been having for the last three summers. As you are aware, the problem is boat noise and the reckless usage of personal watercraft in both Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound.

With the assistance of Captain Fraser and his Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO's) of the 45th Precinct, the men and women of the NYPD's Harbor Patrol unit, which is stationed temporarily here in the northeast Bronx, have been able to curtail some of the lawlessness that has been taking place. It is time now to render their temporary fix permanent.

How do we accomplish this? Our idea is twofold. First, the northeast Bronx must be serviced with a permanent, year-round Harbor Patrol station. Second, allow the Harbor Patrol officers to work as NCO's on the water.

This summer, Harbor Officers Hansen, Hessian, Brown and Davis demonstrated what is possible when officers work in concert with their counterparts of the 45th Precinct and with the communities that they serve. Their combined efforts made a difference in the northeast Bronx. And not only City Islanders saw a difference. Ask the residents of Locust Point, Edgewater Park, Country Club, Spencer Estates, Silver Beach and Throggs Neck; they noticed the difference, too.

We welcome your continued support in our efforts.

The Water Safety Committee of the City Island Civic Association

Thanks from CIOR

To the Editor,

The City Island Oyster Reef wishes to express deep gratitude and to acknowledge the City Island restaurants, merchants and artisans for their generous support of the Oyster Reef Social at the home of Barbara Dolensek on Sept. 21, 2019. It was a shining example of City Island businesses assisting a community event by donating delicious food, expertise, artwork and entertainment. The event was a tremendous success with more than 250 guests who showed strong interest in the City Island Oyster Reef initiative.

We would like to thank the following restaurants, businesses owners, and artisans for their donations: The American Legion Post 156; Archie's Tap and Table; Artie's Steak and Seafood Restaurant; Augie's City Island Deli and Pizzeria; The Black Whale; City Island Diner;

City Island Yacht Club; Clipper Café; Dominick's Market; Harlem Yacht Club and Anne Booth Catering; Johnny's Reef; JGL Wines and Liquors; JP's; Lobster Box Restaurant; Lobster House; Morris Yacht Club and Beach Club; Michael Proietti; The Original Crab Shanty; Orion Lillyreed; Portofino Seafood and Italian Restaurant; Sammy's Fishbox; Scavello's on the Island; Seafood City; Seashore Restaurant; The Snug; Tony's Pier; Vistamar Restaurant; Mike Carew, Captain Mike's Diving Services; Marguerite Chadwick Juner; Mary Colby; Jill Commins, Jill's Cottage; Don Gilligan; Jeffrey Goldfarb, City Island Yacht Club Sailing Center; Elliot Glick, The Starving Artist; Paul Klein, Kaleidoscope; Heike Neumeister; Astor Sage; Sarah Stinson-Hurwitz; Lynn Thompson.

Many young people volunteered at our community event, and we would like to thank them individually for all their hard work and enthusiasm: Chandler Campbell, Benjamin Chadwick, Megan Conaghy, Nick Connolly, Christopher DiMarco, Oona Foxe, Hannah Gannon, Joseph Goonan, Jack Morrisey, Angelo Nieves, Alana Pecorelli, Steven Rice, Matt Rodstrom, Emily Standiford, Sarah Stinson-Hurwitz and Annalise Vivolo.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all our generous benefactors, with special thanks to Adelaide Rosenfeld Bialek, a longtime supporter of City Island. The proceeds of this event go to supporting the mission of the City Island Oyster Reef restoration, which is a community-based effort to restore oyster reefs and improve biodiversity in the local waters surrounding City Island.

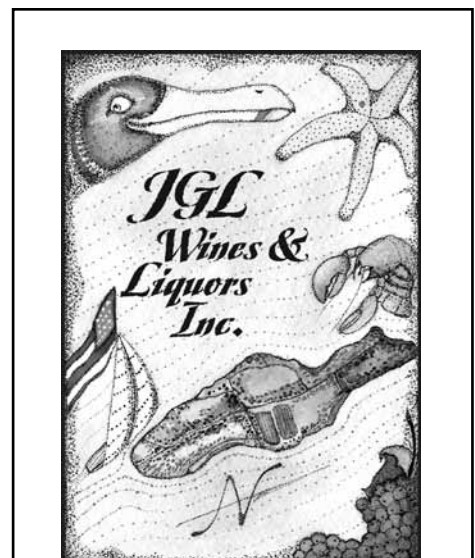
With profound gratitude,
City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR)

Remembering Pat Dolphin

To the Editor:

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral spray, and if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all but just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you very much whatever the part.

With love and gratitude.
The Family of Pat Dolphin



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CITY ISLAND OYSTER PROJECT GETS NY STATE SUPPORT

By KAREN NANI



Photo by MATT PANZA

Members of City Island Oyster Reef cheered Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (above, center) following his announcement of funding for their oyster project on Sept. 26, 2019, on the waterfront by the bridge. He presented charts showing the low oxygen levels in Long Island Sound and the East River, along with the water-quality grades around City Island caused by the high nitrogen levels (photo above, right).

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto may become an honorary “clam digger” following his announcement of funding for the City Island Oyster Reef on Sept. 26, 2019. He is also introducing a bill to the New York State Assembly to support oyster reef projects all over the city by providing rebates and tax credits to restaurants that recycle their oyster shells.

Mr. Benedetto announced the presentation of a grant of \$2,000 on the waterfront by the bridge surrounded by members of the local group that is spearheading this project. “Oysters are known to naturally filter water and oyster reefs can help to protect New York City from storm damage,” he explained to the crowd.

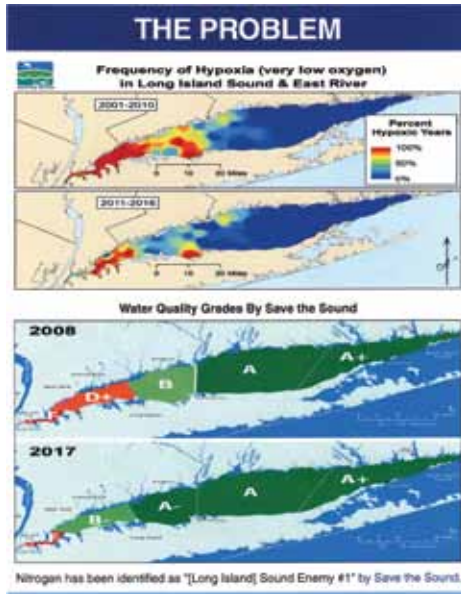
Although he was quick to say he is not a “marine biologist,” the Assemblyman provided scientific charts showing the very low oxygen levels in Long Island Sound and the

East River, along with the poor, but improving, water quality grades around City Island due to the high nitrogen levels (see charts this page).

“We need to support the ecosystem by protecting the waters around my district, including City Island, Throggs Neck and Country Club. This is not pie in the sky! Similar programs have been established in Maryland and North Carolina, and the Billion Oyster Project is repopulating New York Harbor with oysters.”

He proudly told the audience that there is support in the state assembly for the bill which would rebate restaurant owners 10 cents for every pound of oyster shells that they recycle up to \$1,000 annually. “I will introduce the bill during the next session and I expect it to be approved by early next year,” he told *The Current*.

Building an oyster reef is not an easy



task, but it has been done in New York Harbor by the Billion Oyster Project and at other locations on Long Island Sound, the Hudson River and Jamaica Bay. Oyster shells must be collected and deposited on land where they can “cure” for up to a year before being placed on a reef in the water. Led by Islander Maria Caruso, the City Island Oyster Reef has taken these first steps and arranged for six local restaurants to provide shells, which are then transported to locations where they can rest for a few months.

City Island restaurant owners, including JoJo Mandarino representing the Lobster House and Debbie Ianniello from the Sea Shore, attended the presentation to show their support for the effort. “I have worked for the last 26 years for Sammy Chernin, and we support donating and recycling oyster shells to improve the water quality,” Ms. Ianniello told the crowd.

The new plan does not include farming oysters to be eaten or transported to restaurants. Its goal is to make the waters around City Island healthier and safer. An adult oyster can filter as much as 50 gallons of water a day, thereby transforming sediment and nitrogen into packets that end up at the bottom of the bay, where they are no longer harmful. The sediment provides food for annelids, arthropods and other marine ani-

mals, and the oyster beds will attract other creatures, as many as 100 different species, enriching the ecosystem on several levels.

Also on hand for the presentation was Dr. Paul Mankiewicz, an ecologist who resides on City Island, and who attested to the scientific basis for the project. “We are standing next to what was one of the richest estuaries on earth. At one time, you could just dump oysters in the waters around City Island and they grew! Now we need to recreate the oyster beds by recycling the shells instead of sending them to landfills. Then we will turn them into habitats.”

Barbara Dolensek of the City Island Historical Society explained the history of oystering on the Island, which began when Orrin Fordham developed a system of “planting” oysters to enlarge the natural beds in Eastchester Bay in the 1830s. “Because oysters could be gathered and delivered to market by boat rather than over land,” she recounted, “oyster harvesting quickly became a major industry on City Island before the first bridge was constructed in the late 19th century. According to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1880, ‘It is safe to say . . . that half a hundred families derive their support from the oyster-industry in this one community. . . . The total production of East Chester bay, last season (1879–80), may be placed approximately at 55,000 bushels.’”

Unfortunately, because of overharvesting, pollution, landfilling and bottom dredging, the oyster population in New York declined toward the end of the 19th century, and with it the popularity of oysters with the restaurant trade. Some City Islanders caused trouble by acting as oyster pirates, as they were called by the New York Times and other newspapers, for invading the waters of communities on Long Island, but business on City Island by then had turned to boat building, and oystering was on its way out.

It is hoped that this 21st-century oyster project will contribute to restoring the ecological health of the waters around City Island, and the community is grateful to Assemblyman Benedetto for helping launch this important program.

Noise Control on the Water

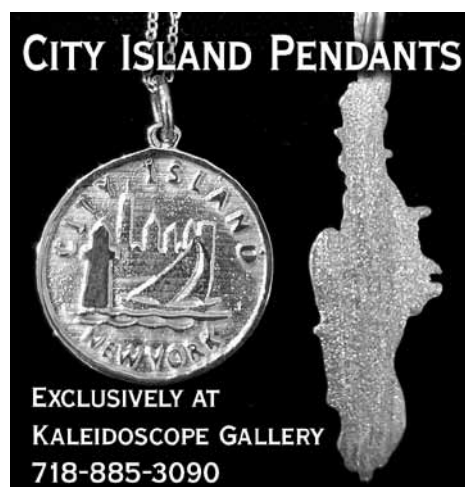
By MARK LIMARDO

Over the past several summer seasons, boaters and jet skiers have become a nuisance to City Island residents. Fleets of large power boats armed with gigantic sound systems routinely venture out from several local marinas, blasting music at rock concert levels at all hours and serving as mobile party platforms for accompanying jet ski packs. After dark, these party boats tie up together to form massive raft-ups, often growing to dozens of watercraft

with hundreds of people on board. City Island residents living anywhere near the water couldn’t hear their own televisions in their living rooms or get a good night’s sleep.

In response to numerous complaints from City Island residents over the past two years, NYPD’s harbor patrol stepped up their enforcement actions this summer around City Island. Over the course of the summer, NYPD harbor patrol issued numerous summonses and broke up many raft-ups. As a result, City Island residents noticed a huge improvement in conditions on the water.

Looking ahead to next year, City Island residents, with the help and support of the City Island Civic Association, are pursuing funding for a permanent NYPD Harbor patrol presence in the waters around City Island. Without this funding, City Island will likely not receive adequate future coverage from NYPD Harbor patrol and should expect bad behavior on the water to return. Concerned City Island residents are urged to reach out to Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, Community Board 10 and the 45th Precinct in support of this funding request.



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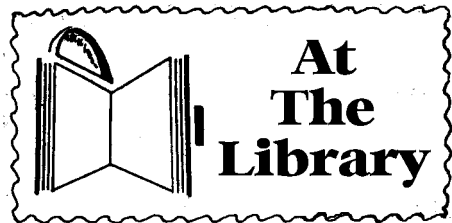
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What's Going On In There?

ZS Design Architect PLLC is an architectural firm that has recently opened at 634 City Island Avenue. Zachary Schweter, R.A., a resident of City Island, is a graduate of Pratt Institute and has worked on a wide range of projects, from large-scale commercial and corporate interiors to restoration projects, interior design. He has worked along with other firms to develop programs to help those in NYCHA city housing that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. He has also worked on several projects on City Island and in nearby Westchester, most recently the landmark building at 65 Schofield Street. He can be reached at 914-589-1229 or zschweter@gmail.com.

Join Robert Arthur King on Saturday, Nov. 2, from noon to 5 p.m. at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) as he showcases a delightful collection of architectural details he has captured from his most recent travels abroad.



At The Library

PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703

Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Nov. 15, at 11:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Happenin' Habitats: The New Canaan Nature Center will take participants on a virtual tour of our native local habitats. Learn how plants, animals, fungi and bacteria all work together in harmony to create some of our favorite natural homes as a New Canaan Nature Center naturalist brings the natural world inside your library! For ages 13 to 18 years old. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, 3 p.m.

Books and Bites: Every week come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! We will be reading "The Bridge Home" by Padma Venkatraman. Ages 10 to 14. Thursdays at 4 p.m.

After School Lounge: Hang out in the teen zone to catch up on homework, read and relax. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. This month's activities are: Nov. 1, Wii and Board Games; Nov. 8, Paper Airplane Competition; Nov. 15, Wii and Board Games; Nov. 22, Makey Makey Work-

shop; Nov. 29, Wii and Board Games

NOVEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, Nov. 14, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Nov. 4 and 18, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to help one another along in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet and Resumé Instruction: Stop in, or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m.: Nov. 2, "Aquaman"; Nov. 9, "Holmes and Watson"; Nov. 16, "The Upside"; Nov. 23, "Robin Hood"; Nov. 30, "Our Kind of Traitor"


Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!



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

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
477 King Ave.	\$415,000	7/1/19
94 Schofield Street	\$845,000	7/10/19
629 King Ave.	\$449,000	7/18/19
298 William Ave.	\$529,000	7/29/19
102 Carroll Street	\$236,500	8/23/19
226 Bowne Street	\$673,000	8/30/19
140 Reville Street	\$605,000	9/3/19
461C Minneford Ave.	\$210,000	9/12/19
654 King Ave.	\$1,697,500	9/17/19
289 Paulis Place	\$590,000	9/27/19
77 Bay Street	\$580,000	10/4/19
400 King Ave.	\$600,000	10/4/19
Two-Family Houses		
49 Bay Street	\$470,000	7/25/19
185 Rochelle Street	\$1,300,000	8/28/19
293 Paulis Place	\$800,000	9/5/19
100 Fordham Street	\$520,000	9/26/19
85 Earley Street	\$800,000	10/3/19
Condominiums		
152 Tier Street 101A	\$311,237	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 103A	\$219,329	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 105B	\$309,671	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 108B	\$309,671	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 109C	\$309,671	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 110C	\$219,329	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 112C	\$311,237	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 205B	\$309,671	7/17/19
152 Tier Street 212C	\$311,237	7/17/19
190 Schofield Street 3N	\$240,000	8/12/19
37 Island Point	\$898,000	10/8/19
Commercial		
273 City Island Ave.	\$410,000	9/13/19
Land		
81 Carroll Street	\$560,000	7/16/19

Disclaimer: The above sales include foreclosures and family transfers, which do not reflect real market or assessed value in those cases.



LEONARD H. HAWKINS
AMERICAN LEGION POST 156

100TH Anniversary / Serviceman's Dinner

Scavello's On The Island
101 City Island Avenue

Date: Saturday November 23, 2019
Time: 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Price: \$85.00 Per Person


Includes: Cocktail Hour 6 pm to 7pm
Consisting of Carving and Chafing Station, Taste of Italy Display

Full 4 course dinner with entree choice of:
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The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156: A History

By JOANNE VALLETTA



Photos by RENA HANSEN and RICK DeWITT
The American Legion Auxiliary was founded in 1919, and the City Island Auxiliary was chartered on May 25, 1934. In 1984, members of the American Legion Auxiliary showed off their trophies, including the Americanism Trophy, the Cancer Control trophy, and the Butterfly award for the most new members (top photo, l. to r. Lucille Masterson, Agnes O’Keefe, Anne Petrini, Sheila Davis, Nilda Nye, Joyce Maloney, Chris Hansen, Mary Anne Clancy and Anne Clancy). The Auxiliary has always proudly marched in the Memorial Day Parade (top right).

Founded a hundred years ago in 1919, like the American Legion itself, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization. It was originally called the Women’s Auxiliary of the American Legion, but in 1921 at the Auxiliary’s first convention, the word “Women’s” was eliminated, and the official name became the American Legion Auxiliary.

The mission of the organization reads: “In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. We advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.”

The original purpose of the Legion was to “preserve the memories and incidence of our association in the great war,” helping those who had served in foreign wars to reintegrate into their hometowns while still remaining connected to those with whom they had served abroad. In that way, the Legion served as a support group, a social club and an extended family for former servicemen.

After the formation of the American Legion, a number of women’s organizations wanted to be officially affiliated, and the women who had served during the war wanted to continue to serve. After careful consideration, the Legion agreed that a new organization should be made up of women closely associated with the men of the Legion, and that these women would serve with the Legion, in peace as they had in war. The committee decided to build a new organization, so that the Auxiliary could carry forward the Legion activities that were more suitably performed by women at the time.



In less than a year, 1,342 local units of the Women’s Auxiliary to the American Legion had been organized in more than 45 states. The Leonard Hawkins ALA Unit 156 was established in 1934, and the first Auxiliary president was Sarah Hawkins, a direct descendant of Leonard Hawkins. The organization now has more than 200 members.

In August 2019 the American Legion voted to extend membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of U.S. veterans and service members. During the American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis that month, delegates of the American Legion voted to replace the word “wife” with “spouse” in the constitution and bylaws, opening up membership in the Auxiliary.

There are currently 1.9 million women veterans living in the United States, and 9 percent of the U.S. military is female. By 2045, it’s estimated that women will represent 18 percent of the U.S. military. By welcoming eligible male spouses into the American Legion Auxiliary, we gain another perspective on the needs of military families—enabling the Auxiliary to support even more veterans, service members, and their families.

The Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 works actively in our community on Auxiliary-sponsored outreach programs, such as Children & Youth and Community Service, which promote programs that protect, care for and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans. The goal of the Poppy Program is to educate membership and the



public about significance of the poppy and to create a financial benefit for veterans as a result of its distribution. The Public Relations committee works collaboratively with all levels of the organization to create, implement and support a proactive communication network that projects a positive image of the Auxiliary’s programs to the general public.

The purpose of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives, to bring physical comfort and mental cheer to veterans in hospitals and to help the disabled to reestablish themselves in life. The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of the American Legion. Through lobbying efforts, both organizations are able to influence legislation of benefit to veterans, the community and the nation.

In 2015 Harlan Sexton introduced the Quilts of Valor Program to the City Island unit. Patriotic quilts are awarded to veter-

ans and active service members touched by war with comforting and healing quilts. Last December, Auxiliary Unit 156 became an official affiliate with the “Quilts of Valor Foundation” and is now officially known as “Quilters by the Sea QOV.” To date, five quilts have been awarded to community veterans: Neil Carroll, Buddy Pontecorvo, Billy McGee, Vincent Warner, Joseph Bartels and Jack Hartigan.

Past community outreach events include an annual Baby Shower, whose donations go toward military families at Fort Drum; ALA Bingo; a Fall Bake Sale, the Veteran’s Day Pancake Breakfast, the Holiday Pick A Veteran, the VA Holiday Gift Shop, a Spring Craft Fair, Paint Night and Memorial Day Parade. All fundraising proceeds go toward ALA veteran-approved programs to assist veterans and their military families.

Islanders interested in becoming members may e-mail Laura Booth, the Bronx County membership chair, at Lamc2051@verizon.net, or Viki Trifari, first vice president of membership, at wik99@me.com. The Auxiliary’s Facebook page is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156; the post’s web page is www.leonardhawkinspost156.com.

An Oyster Social

By KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA
A sunny day at Delmour’s Point, the home of Barbara Dolensek, pictured here with co-host Rose Rodstrom, brought more than 225 guests to support the City Island Oyster Reef, a new organization that plans to create reefs in Eastchester Bay and beyond in order to improve water quality and minimize storm surges.



The weather was perfect, the tide was right and the spirit was enthusiastic on Saturday, Sept. 21, when the City Island Oyster Reef held a fundraising event, an “Oyster Social,” at Delmour’s Point, the home of Barbara Dolensek, one of the volunteers with the project.

The event, organized by Rose Rodstrom, Sally Connolly, Orion Lillyreed, Malcolm and Charlene Campbell and Maria Caruso, along with many other volunteers, drew more than 225 people and raised over \$15,000, which will be used to pay for supplies, scientific equipment and permits to “plant” oyster shells in the waters around City Island.

Thanks to advice and support from the Billion Oyster Project, Coastal Steward on Long Island and SUNY Maritime, the City Island project has been able to launch its program of collecting shells and curing

them for eventual deposit in underwater reefs in order to improve the quality of the water. These supporters, along with local restaurants and businesses, which provided food and beverages for the fundraiser, will make it possible for the City Island Oyster Reef to move ahead with its ambitious program. A scientific analysis of water quality, for example, will be undertaken by the project’s scientific committee, which is headed by Heike Neumeister, Paul Mankiewicz, Mike Carew, Amelia Zaino, Sally Connolly and Chandler Campbell.

Islanders who are interested in knowing more about the City Island Oyster Reef or who would like to offer their services as volunteers or to donate funds to help cover expenses are invited to e-mail cityisland-oysterreef@gmail.com.

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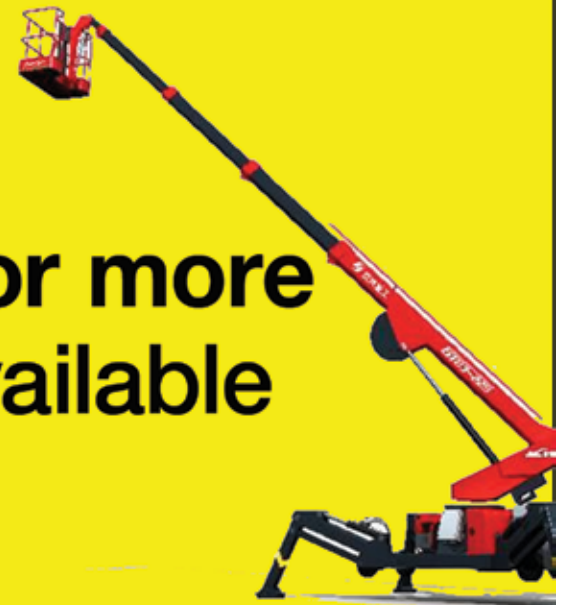
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CATERING HALL CONCERNS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



The new catering hall that is being built next to Seafood City was designed by Edward Weinstein (image above), whose proposed design was featured on his website. The building is being constructed on property that was once owned by Dunham's Shipyard (photo, top right), which operated on the site from 1946 to 1994.

Most Island residents have noticed the exceptionally large structure rising next to Seafood City that seems to be in a constant state of incompleteness. Concerns expressed by residents range from the fact that the building is 52 feet high (counting rooftop structures) in a community where Special District Zoning calls for a height no greater than 35 feet, to the concern that its industrial design is not in keeping with City Island's nautical atmosphere.

The height of the building is accounted for by the fact that flood resilient zoning rules, which supersede Special District

Zoning regulations, call for new buildings in flood zones to allow for an extra height allowance of up to 16.9 feet. Structures on the roof, such as those related to elevator shafts, make the building appear to be even taller, but are allowed by Building Department regulations. The extra building height is intended to improve the use of spaces at ground level subject to flooding for parking, storage and building access.

That the building is designated to become a catering hall and restaurant in a community that already has a surfeit of restaurants only adds to concern about traffic



congestion. The fact that the structure has been under construction for at least four years is another sore point, although Dino Esposito, Island resident and part owner of D & D Realty as well as C. I. Construction, explains that the restaurant should be ready to open in the spring of next year after numerous construction delays caused by factors beyond their control. Window frames, for example, were ordered months ago but are only just now being delivered, so that the siding can finally be finished. There are also issues relating to storm water outfall, which is being worked out with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Historically speaking, the land on which the structure stands was once the location of Dunham's Shipyard, which operated on the site from 1946 to 1994, when the property was put up for auction. In 2004, the former boatyard was purchased by D. and D. Bowne Street Realty Corp. In 2006 the firm received approval from the NYS DEC to do work on the waterfront at that site and also on the waterfront of the neighboring lot, the former Kretzer's Shipyard which was sold in 1999 to 459 Realty Corp. (owned by the same principals as D and D Bowne Street Realty Corp.), which built Seafood City on the property.

In 2013, the owners of the property applied to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for permits to replace the existing timber bulkhead with a new steel bulkhead, to demolish to timber piers and construct a new restaurant within the tidal wetlands adjacent area. They stated their intention to establish a planted buffer area between the wetland and the developed area, including a bio-retention rain garden and a public access walkway. DEC was prepared to approve the application, but the City Island Civic Association strongly objected in a letter that outlined the threat a large restaurant and parking area would pose to a protected wetlands area only 150 feet away. In spite of protests, DEC granted the permits anyway.

In February 2017, the Civic's zoning committee found the website of the architect Edward Weinstein, who had redesigned Tony's Pier after it was destroyed by fire during Hurricane Sandy, and who had been selected

to design the new catering hall at 435 Hunter Avenue. The drawing of the proposed building was viewed by many residents (see image), who felt that it was completely out of keeping with City Island, not only because of its height but also because of its design and colors. City Councilman Jimmy Vacca arranged a meeting with representatives of the Civic Association, including Island resident and architect Andrew Blackman, and with the architect and owner of the new project. The discussion was cordial and the complaints were noted, but the basic design submitted to the Department of Buildings (DOB) was not changed.

Complaints were then raised by the Civic Association with the DOB that there was insufficient parking given the size of the projected restaurant, but they were dismissed when the DOB and the Department of City Planning determined that Seafood City had more spaces than required by law and these were adjacent to the catering hall.


Although many in the community continue to object to the appearance of the building, there is nothing that can be done about its physical appearance, as New York City has no "taste police" except in official historic districts, and there is nothing illegal about the dimensions of the structure.

However, two other issues also play a role in the community's response to the project, which is expected to attract a great deal of automobile traffic to the Island. In 2017, John Doyle wrote to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and requested that a traffic light be placed at Bowne Street and City Island Avenue because of the accidents that have occurred as cars depart the Seafood City parking lot. The opening of a new facility is expected to increase the potential for traffic hazards at that site, and DOT approved the installation of a traffic light at that location.

The second issue has to do with the fact that Community Board 10 approved the liquor license application of the owners of the new catering hall, which is to be called Dano's, without giving the City Island community a chance to consider it. John Doyle believes that if the community had been properly notified in advance about the liquor license application, the Community Board "would have been inundated with requests to turn it down." He further notes that the company hasn't yet submitted their license to the State Liquor Authority (SLA) so that residents can weigh in once they apply. "Per my conversation with the SLA, if residents are opposed to this concerned license and the lack of community notification about it, they can e-mail Licensing.Information@sla.ny.gov with the subject '435 Hunter Avenue, Bronx NY 10464' and voice their concerns. When the license is eventually submitted, at that time the submissions will be reviewed."

It should be noted, however, that the Community Board rarely rejects an application for a liquor license unless there has been evidence that a restaurant or bar has created serious issues for the community, which of course has not been the case with Dano's, which is not expected to open until next spring.

And City Islanders can hold out hope that once the windows have been installed and the brightly colored insulation has been covered with a modestly colored stucco or whatever is planned for the exterior, the appearance of the building will not be so obtrusive. And if the building is to hold a catering hall rather than a fast-seafood restaurant, perhaps the traffic can be more carefully controlled by the proprietors and the existence of a new traffic light at the exit.



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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

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 5, **Election Day Bake Sale and Raffle**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fri., Sat., Nov. 8, 9, 15, 22 and 23, Sundays, Nov. 10, 17 and 24, **City Island Theater Group's "Mamma Mia,"** 8 p.m. or 3 p.m. (Sunday matinee), Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Sun., Nov. 17, **Bronx Masonic District 2019 Charity Ball**, Marina Del Rey, 1 Marina Drive, 1 to 5 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 23, **American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post Centennial Dinner Dance**, 6 to 11 p.m., Scavello's on the Island.

Tues., Nov. 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs., Nov. 28, **Community-wide Thanksgiving dinner at Trinity Methodist Church**, City Island Avenue at Bay Street. Free and open to all from 12 to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Please call or text Daniella at 347-291-3298.

Sat., Nov. 30, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

Sat., Nov. 30, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Reception follows at Kaleidoscope Gallery.

DECEMBER

Fri., and Sat., Dec. 6 and 7, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Sat., Dec. 7, and Sun., Dec. 8, **St. Mary's Christmas Fair**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop.

Sat., Dec. 14, **Grace Church Holiday Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Sat., Dec. 14, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, 7 to 11 p.m., Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

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.

This fall, children 3 through 10 years of age began learning the theme of "Communities" by studying the Bible, including Acts, Psalms and Exodus, and engaging in art, games and music activities. Children over 10 will study various topics through Bible study, art, and poetry.

The response of the community to our Sunday School's collection of clean medicine bottles, which are sent to clinics in poor communities, including Africa, has been wonderful. To date, we have collected more than 475 bottles (including 240 donated by Anthony and Alberto at the City Island Pharmacy). We will continue to collect bottles this year. If you would like to donate, the bottles must, for safety purposes, be washed with hot soapy water and dried thoroughly. We appreciate having the labels and all residue removed, but if you are unable to do so, we will do this for you.

Each weekday morning, Pastor Dave opens the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time, we pray for the children, the schools, businesses, families and individuals and those who are grieving, and for the health of any who we have heard are ill. If you would like to have yourself

or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Ave. Prayer requests can also be sent to david.jolly@nyac-umc.com. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

The Budget Shop is open. Our volunteers are hard at work stocking the shelves and sorting the communities generous donations.

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 3, at 12 noon. Dues are past due; please mail \$55 soon as possible or drop off at the Post; make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion for all that they do to assist in our success.

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

Please visit the website Leonardhawkinspost156.com to find the latest community information and downloadable flyers of veteran events.

The following are dates of upcoming events: Nov. 3, regular Post meeting at 12 noon; Nov. 10, Bronx Veterans Day Parade, which forms up at East Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Ave at 12 noon (We will step-off under the Bronx County banner); Nov. 11, Pelham Grove (Winged Victory Monument) Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:30 a.m. at Pelham Bay Park; Nov. 11, NYC Veterans Day Parade; form up at 26th Street at Fifth Avenue at 1 p.m. uniform: blue jacket, gray pants, shirt and tie, Legion cap; Nov. 23, the 100th Anniversary and Serviceman's Dinner Dance at Scavello's On The Island; Nov. 28, Happy Thanksgiving to all.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Our next meeting is Nov. 5, Election Day, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post. All members should bring one roll of gift wrap to support the annual Holiday Gift Shop at Bronx VA Medical Center.

Centennial Dinner: Remember to buy your tickets for the Legion's anniversary dinner, which will be held on Nov. 23, 2019, at Scavello's on the Island. You may purchase tickets at the Post bar. If Auxiliary members have a framed photo of a deceased military veteran family member for the Memory Table, you may leave it at the Post, att: Laura Booth.

Support our Troops: The Auxiliary is partnering with our sister group, Theodore Korony Unit 253 to ship personal supplies to troops in Afghanistan. All are welcome to help through purchases or funding. There are drop-off bins at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post, Island Pharmacy, Trinity Church and Morris Yacht Club. For more information, contact Joanne Valletta at jcute53@aol.com.

Quilts of Valor: The next Sew Saturday for Quilters by the Sea QOV is Nov. 2 at the Legion Post from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is our final quilting bee of the year. Interested? Contact harlan.sexton1@gmail.com.

ALA Unit 156 and Girl Scout and Brownie Troops 115 and 1165 will participate in the Bronx Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 10 on East Tremont Avenue at noon.

Well wishes to our sister Auxiliary member Margaret Fennel for a speedy and com-

GORGEOUS GOURDS!



Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN and MATT PANZA

Orange was the color of the day at the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 during the annual Legion Pumpkin Sale on Oct. 4 through 6, 2019, thanks to the hard-working legionnaires (top photo, l. to r.: Nick Batista, Bob Hamje, John Ulmer, Carol Mennona, Bob Mennona, Gerry McCormick and Linda Ulmer). They also had help making the 2019 sale a success from City Island Boy Scout Troop 211 (bottom photo).

plete recovery!

Gratitude: The Auxiliary thanks everyone who baked for and bought at our October bake sale during the Legion's pumpkin sale event. Your generous help enables the Auxiliary to help others. At our annual October clothing drive, we collected new children's winter clothes for the Fort Drum Base families. Meaghan Clancy leads this program and delivers the clothes directly to the base, a 12-hour round trip. She reports: "Everyone was so appreciative. There was one little boy, 3 or 4, who found matching boots, hat and a 'big boy coat' and was so super cute and excited." Many thanks to Meaghan and to all who donated.

Harlan Sexton

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall. The first meeting of the month, Nov. 6, will be a regular meeting. At our second meeting, on Nov. 20, we will have a pizza/bingo. The price is \$15, which includes lunch, one bingo card and a ticket for the turkey raffle. Extra bingo cards may be purchased for one dollar. All are welcome.

Carroll A. Reid

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Sunday worship services at 10 a.m., led by Father John Covington, Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We have birthday and anniversary prayers, and anointing for healing, during the service on the first Sunday of each month.

You are invited to join Father Covington's Bible Reading Group, which meets during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Judges.

Sunday School: The group meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 13, and newcomers are welcome. No

extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation during the exchange of peace. During November, the students will work on Thanksgiving crafts and lessons, as well as begin preparing for Advent and the Christmas Pageant.

Music Ministry: The GraceTones are enjoying their fourth year of singing at area nursing homes, assisted-living centers and homes for seniors. They recently entertained residents of Dumont Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care and have been invited back to sing Christmas carols in December. The GraceTones are currently seeking more singers to join, so if you like to sing and have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need, please contact Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

City Island Rising

The mission of City Island Rising is to strengthen the social and cultural fabric of our diverse community by promoting civic engagement, preserving the historic and nautical character of our Island, protecting our remaining open space, preserving our environment, enforcing traffic control and municipal safety and supporting small business. Improving the quality of life in our community for all residents and businesses is our objective. Rather than feeling isolated, residents join together in our association to leverage solutions to community problems. We strive to maintain a free, open and democratic association. Please consult our Facebook page for upcoming monthly meetings.

We welcome all new residents to our community. If you or someone you know would like a City Island Welcome Packet, please contact Joanne Valletta, chair of the Welcome Committee, at jcute53@aol.com or co-chair Stephanie Fischer at creativefilms@gmail.com.

Joanne Valletta and Stephanie Fischer



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

Our fall membership drive is under way. We depend on all of you to keep the City Island Community Center warm, clean and safe. If you don't receive a renewal in your mailbox, please call 718-885-1135 and we will get one to you.

Thank you and congratulations to all supporters and volunteers who made our Fall Harvest Benefit a resounding success with great entertainment and delicious food.

Membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

EVENTS

Craft Crop and Workshop: Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Calling all adult crafters who like to create. DeMail Handcrafts is bringing "Create Pretty Things Crops" and classes to you. For information, please contact Desiree Demail at 914-562-5857 or demailhandcrafts@aim.com.

Day of the Dead Celebration: Saturday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Music, makeup and Central American cuisine hosted by Eva Bonilla and family. Call 646-954-7410 for reservations.

NEW

Beginning Calligraphy: Tuesdays, 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Free for students 10 and up. To register or for more information, call the Center at 718-885-1145 or e-mail rsangler10464@gmail.com.

Chair Yoga: Day and time to be announced. Join Joann for this gentle class with an emphasis on the benefits of stretching and flexing. Please contact joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719 for more information and to register.

Compassionate Journey: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Meets this month on Nov. 13. Open support group for anyone who has lost a loved one. The goals are to create a safe, empathetic and supportive environment and offer coping mechanisms and insights for those working through bereavement. Please sign up with Jillian Cea via jcea@gmail.com or 347-419-1222.

Creative Arts Workshop for Ages 4 through 6: Tuesdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Children have fun with collage, finger painting, mask making and more. Call 914-837-6830 to register for this free class. New sessions to be announced.

Mambo: Community Dance Workshops: Sundays, 3:30 p.m. One World Arts and Retumba invites City Islanders of all ages to come join the fun of learning to dance, play an instrument or choreograph a Mambo. Call Yvette Martinez for information at 718-885-2574.

Salsa Classes on the Island: Thursdays, 8 p.m. A beginner course that teaches all about salsa, the moves and the steps, with Melissa Rosado. To register, e-mail www.melissarosado.com or call 347-739-2076.

Scrappy Days Are Hear Again: Wednesdays, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Preserve precious memories using the latest crafting techniques. Bring your mother or bring a friend. All ages welcome. The \$35 fee includes a scrapbook. Contact the Center at 718-885-1145 or e-mail rsangler10464@gmail.com.

Zumba with John: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Have fun, feel energetic and get in shape

with John Molina. Call 914-882-0245 for details.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. To register for fall classes or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Pre-school children get together to socialize, have fun and play. Register for the fall with Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Thursdays, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish program for kids grades K through 8 at all skill levels. Register for the fall at espanol-experience.com or call 917-889-4938.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! To enroll, call Geri Smith at 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

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

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, 7 p.m. On Nov. 4 and 18 the meetings will be all about potatoes. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters, and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Feldenkrais Class: Call to join future classes. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness to improve the way your body feels and functions. Contact Julie Kavee at 347-266-6247 or juliekavee@gmail.com.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of The Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to the Community Center. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

WW/Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a great new leader, Alex Sokoloff. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia: Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursdays, new time, 6:30 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

PSS Senior Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We

are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

Nov. 5, Tuesday: Statue of Liberty/ Ellis Island Trip

Nov. 6, Wednesday: 12 p.m., Lunch with Dessert Day

Nov. 7, Thursday: 1 p.m., SEC Workshop—Investing for Older Americans

Nov. 8, Friday, 12:30 p.m., Island Pharmacy, Pizza Day

Nov. 11, Monday, 1:15 p.m. Fall Concert

Nov. 14, Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Nutrition Presentation, VNSNY

Nov. 15, Friday, 12:30 p.m. Sugar Addiction, Anchor Health

Nov. 22, Friday, 12:15 p.m. Movie and Lunch, "Robin Hood or Our Kind of Traitor"

Nov. 27, Close at 1 p.m. Lunch served from 11:30 to 12:30

Nov. 28, Happy Thanksgiving. Center is closed.

Nov. 29, Friday. Center is closed.

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Library Day, Nov. 19

12 to 1 p.m. Lunch

1:15 Singing Group

1 p.m. Gardening Exchange

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training

10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Blood-pressure screening

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

9 a.m. "Stuff: Let's Talk," discussion group with continental breakfast

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy on the second and fourth Wednesdays

1 p.m. Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 on Nov. 9 and 23. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m.: The Wonderful Crazy Brain, Nov. 21.

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life: Vigorous cardio and toning

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

12:30/1 p.m. See Highlights above.

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information or for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Garden Club of City Island

At last month's meeting on Oct. 7, our guest speaker was Nick Storrs, an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, manager of the Randall Island Urban Farm and owner of Homegrown Kitchen Garden Nurseries in Tarrytown, NY. He spoke to us about plant propagation from seeds: information on seed storage, germination of seeds, and seedling care. Basically, the germinating seeds need warmth, lots of water, low light and little nutrition; when seedlings emerge, they need a lower temperature, less water, lots of light, fertilizer and good airflow in

their area. All you need are seeds, plant trays, a bit of space and care.

Our next meeting is on Monday, Nov. 4, and will feature ornithologist Jack Rothman. He will give us an update on the birds of Pelham Bay Park and also some suggestions for beginning birders. Our December meeting on Monday, Dec. 2, will have a presentation by Jennifer Bakshi, an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, whose subject will be "Unraveling the Mystery of Plant Names."

Garden Club meetings are held monthly, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee.

Sharynne Wilder

City Island Republicans

We currently have several candidates running for Congress next year against Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. We will hold a meeting next month to discuss the race further. Joe Borelli is the candidate for Public Advocate on this year's ballot. Remember, you now have the early voting option (see cover page) but if you vote on Election Day, you can do so at P.S. 175 and take advantage of the raffles at the Election Day Sale.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. At other times, services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly so please arrive 15 minutes early. Services are followed by an oneg* (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

Nov. 1: Community-led services
Nov. 8: Community-led services
Nov. 15: Community-led services

Nov. 22: Celebrating Shohama-Kabbalat Shabbat. Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David and the Band for this special Shabbat honoring Rabbi Shohama. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Other Activities

Nov. 24: Celebrating Shohama: Luncheon Tribute: 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course, 870 Shore Road. Please join us and dignitaries of seminary pulpit as we celebrate Rabbi Shohama's 18 years of service to Temple Beth-El of City Island and the Jewish community. Tickets for the luncheon are \$60 each. Please visit our website to include your special blessings, memories and best wishes to Rabbi Shohama and to donate to her Legacy Fund.

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Tikkun Olam, serving lunch at Trinity Methodist Church at 12 noon. Join Rabbi David and members of the TBE family as we serve Thanksgiving lunch to regional community members at Trinity United Methodist Church. This annual event is heart-warming and a wonderful opportunity to give back. Part of the TBE Tikkun Olam program.

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

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

*Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion

Continued on page 14



A Selected Filmography of Helen Mirren

Dame Helen Mirren, aged 74, is an English actress who has been married to American director Taylor Hackford for 22 years. She began her acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1967 and is one of the few performers who has won awards for acting on the stage, in film and on television.

Mirren made her screen debut at the age of 24 opposite James Mason in **The Age of Consent** (1969), in which she plays Cora, a breathtakingly beautiful Australian who lives on a remote island on the Great Barrier Reef. When frustrated aging painter Bradley Morahan (James Mason) moves to the island from New York, he is captivated by Cora and is inspired to paint again. There is a fair amount of tasteful nudity in the film, which began Mirren's cinematic career as an alluring sex symbol, which she has maintained throughout her life.

The Long Good Friday (1982) is a British gangster movie classic, which stars Bob Hoskins as Harold Shand, a ruthless Cockney crime boss who dreams of going legit. His efforts are supported by his moll/mistress Victoria (Mirren). Shand plans to get the American Mafia to partner in his transition to the role of real estate mogul by converting a derelict area of London into the possible venue for a future Olympic Games. His scheme is jeopardized by a series of bombings in his territory on the very weekend the Americans are in town. While Victoria attempts to hold the deal with the Americans together, Shand tries to identify the traitor in his organization who he believes is responsible. Set in the late 1970s, the film mixes in pieces of IRA violence. Mirren fought to have the originally dumb blonde Victoria changed into an intelligent character, and many of her lines in the script were written during filming.

Mosquito Coast (1986) is the story of Allie Fox (Harrison Ford), a brilliant but unstable inventor, and his family: wife (Mirren), and their children, Charlie (River Phoenix), Jerry (Jadrien Steele), April (Hilary Gordon) and Clover (Rebecca Gordon). After his invention of an ice-making machine that runs without electricity is snubbed by the commercial world, the embittered Fox, who has become disenchanted with the materialistic, consumer-oriented American culture, drags his family to Central America to build an ideal society. Unfortunately, the appearance of an exasperating preacher (André Gregory) interrupts their life, and along with insurgents, Mother Nature's trials and his family's growing discontent, the ideal life of Fox's dreams is greatly challenged.

Prime Suspect is a British police procedural television drama series that ran sporadically from 1993 to 2006. It stars Mirren as Jane Tennison, one of the first female Detective Chief Inspectors in Greater London's Metropolitan Police Service. The series shows how she navigates through sexism and alcoholism as she works to attain the rank of Detective Superintendent. She survives partly with the support of her boss, Detective Chief Superintendent Mike Kernan (John Benfield), and loyal colleague Detective Sergeant Richard Haskons (Richard Hawley) in a male-dominated profession that is determined to see her fail. Each season consists of two episodes with both devoted to one case, except for season four, which features three separate episodes and cases. This very dark series looks at such issues as pedophilia, child abuse, political scandal and prostitution. The viewer gets to know Mirren's character not only profes-

sionally, but also in her erratic relationships outside her job.

Set in 1932 England, **Gosford Park** (2001) is a fascinating murder mystery that takes place during a weekend gathering of aristocrats and their servants. Kristin Scott Thomas is Lady Sylvia McCordle, host of the party, whose guests include American film producer Morris Weissman (Bob Balaban) and his often inappropriate Scottish valet, Henry Denton (Ryan Phillippe); matinee idol Ivor Novello (Jeremy Northam) and the Countess of Threntham (Maggie Smith). The staff includes the head butler, Jennings (Alan Bates), and the housekeeper, Mrs. Wilson (Mirren, whose outstanding performance earned her an Oscar nomination).

Tennessee Williams's **The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone** (2003) is an American-Irish made-for-television romantic drama film and a remake of the 1961 film of the same name. While failing actress Karen Stone (Mirren) is on a trip to Italy with her wealthy, adoring husband, Tom (Brian Dennehy), he suffers a fatal heart attack. She decides to stay in Rome, where she meets a conniving "Contessa" (Anne Bancroft) who introduces her to various gigolos she has instructed in ways to make money off the lonely widow. Stone's life is profoundly changed when she becomes enamored with the handsome young Paolo di Lio (Olivier Martinez). Her various hairdos and modes of dress reveal her desperate attempts to seem younger than she is.

Elizabeth I (2005) is a two-part TV PBS mini-series in which Mirren stars in the title role, which won her an Emmy. The docudrama reviews the last 24 years of Elizabeth's reign of nearly 45 years. Part 1 concerns the final years of her relationship with the Earl of Leicester, played by Jeremy Irons. Part 2 focuses on her subsequent relationship with the Earl of Essex, played by Hugh Dancy. Mirren is the only actress to have played both Elizabeths I and II. In **The Queen** (2006), the drama depicts the British royal family at the time of Princess Diana's death. Mirren is remarkable in her Oscar-winning role as Queen Elizabeth II, who preferred to keep the family's grief private, which made the populace mistakenly believe she didn't care.

State of Play (2009) is an intelligent political thriller set in the halls of Congress and the city room of the Washington Globe newspaper. Ace investigative reporter Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe) is concerned about the growing crisis affecting newspapers. At the behest of the Globe's editor (Mirren), he reluctantly serves as mentor to Della Frye (Rachel McAdams), one of the newspaper's bloggers. When the research assistant to McAffrey's friend Congressman Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck) winds up dead, Collins tries desperately to protect his name and career. As the journalists investigate, they uncover an intricate web of lies that stretches to the highest levels of power. The film also features Robin Wright Penn as the congressman's wife and Jason Bateman as a public relations executive.

Produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey, **The Hundred Foot Journey** (2014) is the story of Hassan

Kadam (Manish Dayal), a talented culinary apprentice whose family restaurant in Mumbai is destroyed in a fire, forcing them to immigrate to France. When they reach a quaint French village, Papa (Om Puri) decides to buy a piece of property in order to open an Indian restaurant. Unfortunately, he chooses a location just 100 feet away from an acclaimed French restaurant run by Madame Mallory (Mirren), who strongly objects. Hostilities erupt between the two establishments, which is especially problematic for Hassan because he has affections for Mallory's sous chef Marguerite (Charlotte Le Bron). How the conflicts are resolved is rather heartwarming.

Woman in Gold (2015) is the noteworthy true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice for what happened to her family. Sixty years after she fled Vienna during World War II, an elderly Jewish woman, Maria Altmann (Mirren), starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis, among which is Klimt's famous painting of her aunt, "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I." Together with Randy Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds), her inexperienced but dedicated young lawyer, she embarks upon a major battle which takes them all the way to the heart of the Austrian establishment and the U.S. Supreme Court.

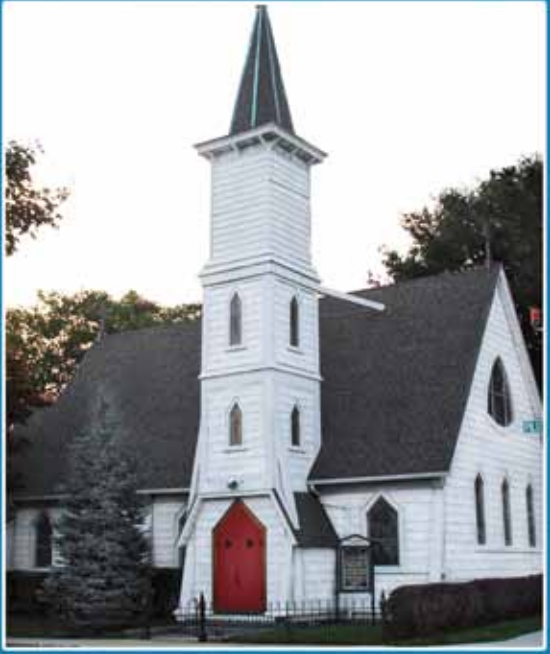
In the absolutely riveting **Eye of the Sky** (2016) Mirren stars as Colonel Katherine Powell, a British military officer in command of a top secret drone operation to capture terrorists in Kenya. Alan Rickman is Lieutenant Colonel Frank Benson, charged with supervising a group of non-military government officials who are witnessing this mission via satellite imagery. Other significant participants in

the operation are drone pilots Steve Watts (Aaron Paul) and Carrie Gershon (Phoebe Fox) and undercover Kenyan field agent Jama Farah (Barkhad Abdi), who uses short-range video bugs for ground intel. There are people working in at least eight locations, seven of which are operating thousands of miles away from the actual mission site. The political ramifications and morality of every act, and the reluctance of the powers-that-be to make decisions, increases the tension so that the audience can hardly breathe as they watch this quintessential modern war film. The film was released after Alan Rickman's death and is dedicated to him "in loving memory."

The English-language French action thriller **Anna** (2019) stars Sasha Luss in the title role as a stunning young woman lifted out of poverty by KGB officer Alex Tchenkov (Luke Evans) to become a Russian supermodel and assassin, much to the consternation and disapproval of KGB Officer Olga (Mirren). The comic-book-like film emphasizes violence over substance. However, Anna is portrayed as a powerful, resilient woman who stands up for herself after a lifetime of abuse by men. Also featured are Cillian Murphy as American CIA agent Leonard Miller and Eric Gordon as KGB head Vassiliev. Though similar in ways to such films as **La Femme Nikita** (1990) and **Point of No Return** (1993), there are enough plot twists and back-and-forth in time storytelling to hold interest. It is fascinating how the usually beautiful Mirren submerges herself into the role of a dowdy, heartless, cigarette-smoking Russian officer.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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A Conversation with City Island's Two Divas

By MARY MCINTYRE



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Susan Rauh (left) and Elizabeth Paldino have been a significant part of the City Island Theater Group for many years, as actors and directors. The group is currently celebrating its 20th year.

Although they are definitely not the only two divas on City Island, Elizabeth Paldino and Susan Rauh have become the familiar local faces of the City Island Theater Group. For a long time, both have been CITG board members and directors, as well as actors in many productions, including the upcoming production of "Mamma Mia," in which they

both play featured roles.

MM: Why are you drawn to the theater?

EP: I like being able to play someone new each time and leave the audience with something new, whether it be a good time or something deeper than that.

SR: As a child I was very shy in public. With my family, however, I was always

making jokes or clowning around. I think performing was a way to bridge the gap between my shy and outgoing personas.

MM: What was your earliest involvement with community theater on City Island and what prompted you to get involved?

EP: I sang in the children's choir at St. Mary's which was led by Sheila Davis, and that led to the Patchwork Christmas shows she directed. My first involvement in an actual show was "Annie" in the late 1980s.

SR: My first involvement was the Christmas show for Island Patchwork at Trinity Methodist Church in 1986. I played Virginia and recited the story of "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus." I still remember the warmth of the spotlight on my face and the calm I felt onstage.

MM: You both have directed very powerful productions for CITG. Tell us what led you to direct these particular shows and how the directing experience differs from acting.

EP: My first choice will always be acting, but when I venture into directing it has to be a piece I feel passionately about. I have chosen shows that have a deeper meaning to them, that tell a story as relevant today as it was when it was written. I chose "Laramie Project" because I wanted to get the Island talking. One of my favorite quotes from the show is, "We don't grow children like that here." I think that resonates loudly on City Island, and I wanted the audience to feel that although it was set in Laramie, Wyoming, it could easily happen anywhere.

Directing is a whole different beast from performing. There are so many other things you have to take into account. Lights, costumes, props, overall feeling and tone of the show. People rely on you and your vision, and unfortunately directors don't get nearly as much credit as they should.

SR: I've always loved the story of "The Glass Menagerie" with Laura and her fragile glass figurines. The directing experience is very different from acting. You are at the helm of the entire production (casting, backstage team, technical help, design theme, etc.). As an actor you only need to worry about yourself. Directing presents many difficult challenges, but the result is so rewarding. It's like the actors are your kids and you are sending them to school for the first time.

MM: Talk about the CITG audiences.

EP: I'd like to think that the CITG audiences want to be challenged when they come to see our shows. They want to talk about it afterwards and remember years later what

they saw and how it made them feel. But I also think they just want to be entertained and forget about things for two and a half hours.

SR: I love the CITG audiences! They are so loyal and so appreciative of the work we do. It is wonderful to get their compliments after the shows. Their smiles tell it all!

MM: What do you hope you give to the audiences?

EP: No matter what I do in a show I want them to leave feeling something—joy, sadness, even anger. I want to provoke conversation. I want the audiences to remember what they saw and how they felt.

SR: I hope to give the audience an honest, true performance. We put everything out there for them—vulnerability, sadness, joy—sometimes we go to deep places. We owe it to our audiences (and fellow actors) to give 110 percent every time the curtain opens.

MM: What was your favorite production and why?

EP: As a performer, I pick "Sylvia." It was such a fun show and a great concept. Being a human playing a dog but looking like a human was a challenge. I needed to be able to get the audience to look past my physical appearance and believe I was a dog.

As a director, it's a tie between "Laramie" and "A Few Good Men." I'll always have a special place in my heart for "Laramie," because it was the first full production that I directed. Everyone in it had a personal reason to be there. "A Few Good Men" was also special, because I had such a great group of extremely talented actors who trusted me completely with my vision. It was a big show and I made it work in a small space. We had new lights, and it was a big step for the group and an honor to kick off our 20th season.

SR: Can I pick two? The role of Shelby in "Steel Magnolias," which was directed by Christopher McGowan. A classic script, an incredibly talented cast, and we became a family. At the last performance, we were all crying real tears! The second one is the role of Chris Gorman in "Rumors," which was directed by Nick Sala. Nick's consummate directing style brings out the best performances in all of his actors. And I really enjoy getting to show off my comedic timing!

"An actor has to burn inside with an outer ease."

Michael Chekhov

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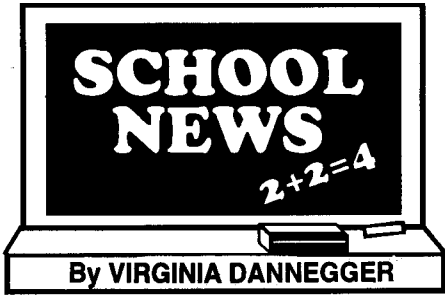
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Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start! In addition to the academic work students do each day, engaging in conversations about text and implementing problem-solving strategies, teachers are planning wonderful trips to supplement the curriculum.

Some of the exciting trips that have taken place so far this year or will take place in the coming weeks include kindergarten pumpkin picking at the Green Meadows Farm and a trip to the City Island Library. The second grade is visiting the Queens Museum of Art and the New York Botanical Garden. Third-graders are going to Queens College to see "Charlotte's Web," and the fourth grade has gone to the Bronx Zoo and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Our first School Spirit Week was a huge success. Students and staff participated in events such as Crazy Hat Day, Wacky Wednesday, Pajama Day and Sports Day.

During this election season, our own student government elections have taken place in grades four through eight. Elected fourth- through eighth-grade students will work with our student government leader, Ms. Danielle Minor, and class representatives from each class on grades K-3 to hear student voices. These students will work together to share their ideas to enhance the school community and bring about positive changes.

Thanks to the generosity of Councilman Gjonaj, we are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide musical and theatrical arts to our students. Fifth-grade students will put on a spring performance of "The Most Epic Birthday Party."

The building continues to buzz after regular school hours as well. The New York Edge program, which serves students in grades six through eight, includes a sports component that changes throughout the year and provides homework help, art, technology and games. The New York Edge program also includes many exciting trips that students may attend during school holidays. MMCC (Mosholu Montefiore Community Center), which continues to serve our students in grades K through five, offers the students various sports, art, homework help, team building and coding technology.

Several exciting events will be taking place in the weeks to come: the annual October/Fall Fun Morning for students in grades K-3, a movie and snacks for fourth- and fifth-graders, and the Halloween Dance for students in grades six through eight. The PTA is having its Election Day Sale on Nov. 5, and we hope to see many of you there. As always, we are greatly appreciative for all of the support we get from our community!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 5, Election Day; school closed for students; Nov. 11, Veterans' Day; school closed; Nov. 14, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

Organization News

Continued from page 11

(e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrtzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or get more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or at 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Paul Klein

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We begin the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts: the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) and the Commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2). On Nov. 1, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

Come and pray the rosary with our parish family for the revitalization of our parish after the 7 a.m. Mass on Monday through Friday and on Saturdays after the 8 a.m. Mass. Please bring your personal intentions and pray with us.

Our monthly coffee hour will take place on Sunday, Nov. 10, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come enjoy light refreshments with fellow parishioners.

Our Religious Education Program will hold its annual Turkey Bingo in St. Mary's school gym on Friday, Nov. 22; the doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Let us give thanks together as a community of faith for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods, which will be distributed to those less fortunate. All are invited to attend. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Dec. 1, is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the preparation for the coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ. The advent candle will be placed in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of His coming. Let us pray for world peace as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop. Come take a look; you are sure to find great gifts.

Rose Dietz

City Island Civic Association

The Bronx DOT commissioner Nivardo Lopez attended the September meeting and promised to address our long list of concerns, such as the roadways leading to City Island, a request for a stoplight at Pilot Street, lighting on City Island Avenue and better signage at the Hutchinson River Parkway entrance.

The membership voted as follows on three of the four Hart Island bills to be voted on in the New York City Council: 1: oppose transfer of Hart Island to the Parks Department from Corrections, 2: oppose a ferry study, 3: include two City Islanders in a Hart Island task force.

The Water Safety Committee has commenced a letter-writing campaign to support a permanent base for Harbor Patrol in the Bronx. It is also advocating for the extension of Commissioner O'Neill's NCO initiative to Harbor Patrol. They are in regular contact with Councilman Gjonaj's office as well as the Commissioner's office regarding these requests.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, in the Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. If you would like to be a member, send \$20 with your contact information to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464.

Jane Protzman

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the month of November, watch out for our many special bag sales. Save the date for our Christmas Fair, which will be held both at the Thrift Shop and in St. Mary's gym on Dec. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

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.

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

NOVEMBER 2019

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0320	7.32	0930	0.49	1527	7.79	2224	0.05	Fri 01
02 Sat	0421	7.05	1029	0.95	1633	7.38	2322	0.52	Sat 02
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 3									
03 Sun	0425	6.89	1036	1.31	1645	7.10	2322	0.87	Sun 03
04 Mon	0528	6.88	1142	1.48	1751	6.99			Mon 04
05 Tue	0020	1.05	0626	7.01	1243	1.46	1851	7.01	Tue 05
06 Wed	0113	1.10	0720	7.21	1338	1.29	1945	7.10	Wed 06
07 Thu	0202	1.05	0809	7.43	1427	1.04	2033	7.21	Thu 07
08 Fri	0246	0.95	0853	7.60	1512	0.76	2117	7.28	Fri 08
09 Sat	0325	0.85	0933	7.72	1551	0.50	2156	7.30	Sat 09
10 Sun	0356	0.75	1004	7.78	1626	0.28	2229	7.27	Sun 10
11 Mon	0417	0.65	1021	7.84	1654	0.10	2248	7.24	Mon 11
12 Tue	0434	0.53	1035	7.97	1716	-0.05	2306	7.27	Tue 12
13 Wed	0503	0.41	1104	8.13	1743	-0.16	2336	7.32	Wed 13
14 Thu	0540	0.36	1140	8.25	1818	-0.20			Thu 14
15 Fri	0014	7.34	0621	0.40	1222	8.28	1859	-0.14	Fri 15
16 Sat	0057	7.32	0706	0.51	1307	8.18	1945	0.01	Sat 16
17 Sun	0145	7.25	0756	0.69	1358	7.96	2037	0.22	Sun 17
18 Mon	0239	7.16	0852	0.89	1454	7.65	2136	0.43	Mon 18
19 Tue	0339	7.08	0957	1.02	1557	7.33	2247	0.56	Tue 19
20 Wed	0449	7.11	1125	0.97	1711	7.11			Wed 20
21 Thu	0019	0.49	0615	7.32	1305	0.57	1846	7.11	Thu 21
22 Fri	0133	0.22	0731	7.69	1414	-0.02	2005	7.30	Fri 22
23 Sat	0233	-0.10	0831	8.08	1512	-0.59	2105	7.51	Sat 23
24 Sun	0327	-0.39	0923	8.39	1606	-1.06	2158	7.66	Sun 24
25 Mon	0417	-0.57	1012	8.58	1657	-1.33	2248	7.71	Mon 25
26 Tue	0505	-0.61	1059	8.61	1745	-1.38	2336	7.66	Tue 26
27 Wed	0551	-0.50	1144	8.50	1833	-1.23			Wed 27
28 Thu	0023	7.53	0635	-0.25	1228	8.27	1919	-0.90	Thu 28
29 Fri	0110	7.34	0719	0.09	1312	7.94	2006	-0.46	Fri 29
30 Sat	0158	7.14	0803	0.48	1359	7.57	2052	0.02	Sat 30

DECEMBER 2019

01 Sun	0249	6.95	0849	0.87	1450	7.19	2140	0.47	Sun 01
02 Mon	0345	6.81	0943	1.20	1552	6.86	2231	0.85	Mon 02
03 Tue	0443	6.75	1047	1.42	1659	6.63	2323	1.11	Tue 03
04 Wed	0540	6.77	1150	1.48	1802	6.52			Wed 04
05 Thu	0015	1.23	6.34	6.87	1249	1.39	1858	6.51	Thu 05
06 Fri	0104	1.24	0724	7.00	1342	1.17	1950	6.56	Fri 06
07 Sat	0148	1.16	0809	7.15	1429	0.88	2036	6.63	Sat 07



A PARKER'S PARADISE

One of the things we like best about City Island is its proximity to Manhattan Island. We can enjoy fabulous views of the skyline from afar, yet be there live and in person in mere minutes. We timed ourselves once and went from City Island to the Strand Bookstore on 12th Street in 22 minutes by car! Of course, that was early one Sunday morning when the traffic was light. And it was years ago.

A recent ride to the Strand took something more like an hour and 22 minutes. And the parking, which has always been free and easy on a Sunday, was made painfully more complicated by the addition of bicycle-only lanes and station after station for those blue Citi Bikes. We could have taken a cab from our eventual parking spot to our destination.

Thankfully, the frustration that the powers-that-be have manufactured in Manhattan for its visitors, as well as its residents, has not yet been inflicted upon us here at home, on City Island. Sure we have our summer traffic issues to negotiate, but those go away with the warm

weather. And, besides that, most of us have adapted by now. What we don't have are the bike lanes or stations to gobble up our parking on City Island Avenue. And the parking we have is free, 24/7. That's not always the case, even in the Bronx.

Something else we don't have is street cleaning. Not the signs for it, anyway. This means that we don't have to cope with alternate-side-of-the-street parking regulations here either. Although we can't be sure, our guess is that City Island's relative isolation has something to do with the spotty street cleaning we do receive here. Those street cleaning machines don't go very fast and might not make it back to the garage before the witching hour.

And, besides, do those machines really clean city streets or do they just push the dirt around? We have heard talk of hidden conveyor belts and super vacuums that bring the refuse from the ground to a holding tank, but we remain skeptical. Even if we're mistaken, we would still have to say that, on balance, City Islanders have it pretty good when it comes to where we park our cars and how much we don't pay for that.

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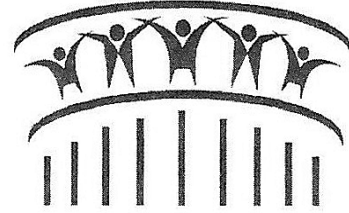
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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

English Ivy in bloom

Autumn at the NYBG and Bees

Autumn comes to City Island, and we are so lucky to be graced to have a world-class garden minutes from home, the New York Botanical Garden.

Inspiration for the park and the conservatory stemmed from an idea that Nathaniel Lord Britton and his wife, Elizabeth, had when they visited the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew in Surrey, England, on their honeymoon in 1888. They thought that New York City should have something equally beautiful. Nathaniel was an American botanist and would become the first director of the NYBG, a position he held until 1929. He raised money by naming plants after wealthy contributors, including Andrew Carnegie, J. Pierpont Morgan and Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Lord and Burnham, an American boiler and greenhouse manufacturer in Irvington NY, designed the conservatory based on the conservatory at Kew and the Crystal Palace in South London. It was completed in 1902 for \$177,000. Enid A. Haupt saved it from demolition with a \$10 million donation in the 1970s, and in 1978 it was named after her. Then, in 1993, it was further restored to its original beauty, and at that time the inner workings were computerized.

The Lorillard family owned most of the land that would become the Bronx Zoo, the eastern part of Fordham University and the NYBG. The family were tobacco magnates, and their snuff mill was built in 1840. Their mansion stood on a hill overlooking the river complete with an acre of roses, which were mixed with the tobacco to form snuff. This is now the site of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden.

In 1888 the City of New York bought the land from the Lorillards, and the great garden was financed by Columbia College,

Andrew Mellon, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller. The City matched these men's gifts, and a total of \$250,000 was raised to begin work. Construction of the library and conservatory was begun in 1882. The Mertz Library, in beaux arts style, is considered the largest and most comprehensive botanical library in the Americas. Works dating back to medieval times are compiled there.

Calvert Vaux, who had designed Central Park with Frederick Law Olmstead, laid out the main buildings and connecting pathways at the new garden from 1891 to 1895. Vaux's architectural design has had lasting impact on the garden's sophisticated and classical layout. In 1923, the Olmstead Brothers, sons of Frederick, the premier landscape architecture firm of its time, continued to consult on the garden's layout.

There are 50 gardens to explore at the NYBG. Famous designers include Beatrix Farrand (the Rose Garden), Penelope Hobhouse (the Herb Garden), and Lyndon Miller (the Ladies' Border), to name just a few.

In 1993 I was given a ticket by my good friend Ellen Grace to the opening of the Enid A. Haupt Greenhouse at the NYBG. It was a stormy evening. The band was playing and the huge globelike chandeliers, designed by Martha Stewart, were swaying in the tents. The greenhouse sparkled like a jewel, and the bad weather only enhanced the glory of this newly restored glass edifice. Bagpipes, men in kilts and delicious morsels passed by tuxedoed waiters gave this splendid evening a magic I will never forget. It was to herald a new age for the garden, which has been supported and reimagined ever since to become one of the most striking of all public gardens. Visit soon and often. Take a class, of which there are many. Revel in the beauty of this mellow season at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

A last word on the bees. I have eight hemlocks in my backyard, which were planted 40 years ago with English ivy as a ground cover. The ivy climbed these trees and have nearly choked them to the top of their 50-foot height. But the ivy is blooming (only old ivy will blossom), and when I first saw all the honey bees clustering around them, I thought: is ivy toxic? Will it produce unhealthy honey? Google to the rescue. Apparently the ivy is a boon for bees. Because there are so few late flowering plants, the bees can gather the pollen late into November from the ivy. This makes the bees healthier and able to overwinter better. So hooray for ivy. Plant some for the bees.



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

Tax Deductions for Teachers and Educators

Educators can take advantage of tax deductions for qualified out-of-pocket expenses related to their profession such as classroom supplies, training, and travel. As such, as the new school year begins, teachers, administrators, and aides should remember to keep track of education-related expenses that could help reduce the amount of tax owed next spring.

Prior to tax reform, educators could choose one of two methods for deducting qualified expenses: Claiming the Educator Expense Deduction (up to \$250) or, for those who itemized their deductions, claiming eligible work-related expenses as a miscellaneous deduction on Schedule A, Itemized Deductions.

Taxpayers should note, however, that under tax reform, miscellaneous itemized deductions are no longer deductible for tax years 2018 through 2025.

Teachers and other educators can also take advantage of various education tax benefits for ongoing educational pursuits such as the Lifetime Learning Credit or, in some instances depending on their circumstances, the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

How the Educator Expense Deduction Works

Educators can deduct up to \$250 of unreimbursed business expenses. If both spouses are eligible educators and file a joint return, they may deduct up to \$500, but not more than \$250 each. The

educator expense deduction is available even if an educator doesn't itemize their deductions. To take advantage of this deduction, the taxpayer must be a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide for at least 900 hours during a school year in a school that provides elementary or secondary education as determined under state law.

Those who qualify can deduct costs of books, supplies, computer equipment and software, classroom equipment, and supplementary materials used in the classroom. Expenses for participation in professional development courses are also deductible. Athletic supplies qualify if used for courses in health or physical education.

Keep Good Records

Educators should keep detailed records of qualifying expenses noting the date, amount, and purpose of each purchase. This will help prevent a missed deduction at tax time. Taxpayers should also keep a copy of their tax return for at least three years. Copies of tax returns may be needed for many reasons. A tax transcript summarizes return information and includes adjusted gross income and are available free of charge from the IRS.

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Be an Advocate for Your Child (and the Teacher)

By JOHN SCARDINA

Let's face it: we all have days when our child comes home and makes one of the following comments: "Nobody likes me. I have no friends!"; "Johnny is bullying me at school!"; "Susie is the teacher's pet!"; "My teacher never explained the homework!"; "I must be stupid!"; and so on and so on and so on. . . .

Often our first instinct is to support our child, even when it means choosing between our child and the teacher. This is natural but perhaps unfortunate. Why? Because 1) all children lie (it's a developmental phenomenon that some of us never out-grow!); 2) it takes time to sort out the facts and get through the feelings; 3) children

need to learn how to deal with difficult situations; teachers are trained professionals who deal with hundreds of children every day.

So, before you get out the ice cream as you dry the tears and prepare to send an e-mail to the teacher, try this simple formula from "Parenting with Love and Logic" by Fay and Cline:

- Respond with empathy: Listen, stay calm and say something like "that must be hard for you right now."
- Pause.
- Say in a calm voice, "What are you going to do about it?"
- Pause.
- Say, "You are a smart kid, and I love you, and I know you will figure this out. Let me know how it goes."
- Go on with your day.

Children are often excellent problem solvers when they are left to sort things out. You can still give feedback on potential solutions, and you can still contact the teacher if there is clear injustice going on. Most of the time, kids just need to work out being kids. You are giving them a gift when you let them think on their own.



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Photos by MARIA SWIECIKI
Following the announcement of her support for presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders, Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and the senator had dinner at The Black Whale on City Island on Oct. 19, 2019. The congresswoman graciously posed for photos with the Moore family, Brian, Penelope and Kimberly, and Senator Sanders met Islander Steve Swieciki.



Islanders Matt Panza and his daughter Theresa participated in the Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach on Oct. 20, 2019.

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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.



Patrick Dolphin

Patrick Dolphin, resident of City Island, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, at the age of 86.

Pat was born in Dromore West, County Sligo, Ireland, on March 27, 1933, the youngest of 11 children born to Leo and Mary Jane Dolphin.

Pat came to the United States in 1956 and worked for the Carpenter's Union Local 608 until his retirement in 1981. He married Mary Keaveney, from County Roscommon, Ireland, on Nov. 20, 1965. They moved to City Island in 1969 and raised their three children here.

Pat was predeceased by his son Chris, who passed away in 1989 at the age of 22, and a granddaughter Siobhan. He is survived by his wife; his son Patrick, who resides in the Bronx; his daughter Mary Ann Maginnis, who lives in Staten Island; four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Although Pat loved his family, home and life here in New York, he held a very special place in his heart for his homeland in County Sligo. His family was sad to say

"farewell for now," but they take comfort in knowing that he has been reunited in heaven with his son Chris and his granddaughter Siobhan.



Thomas A. Lassandro

Former City Island resident Thomas Lassandro passed away on Sept. 8, 2019, at the age of 84.

He was born on Oct. 27, 1934, in the Bronx. He lived on City Island from 1936 until he was married in 1958. His father was the first mate on the Hart Island ferry. He had two sisters, Carole and Theresa.

Thomas married the love of his life, Grace Jane Hinds. They raised two daughters, Patricia and Jennifer, and three sons, Tom, Russell and Keith. The family moved to Florida, but Thomas's heart always remained on City Island.

Thomas was predeceased by his sister Carole (Sullivan). He is survived by his wife, Grace, and his sister Theresa; his children, Patricia and her husband Wayne Anderson, Jennifer and her husband Steve Glass, and his sons and their wives Tom (Diane), Russell (Terrie) and Keith (Linda). He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren: Heather, Audrey, Mike, Jessica, Emily, Kailey, Tanner, Kaitlin, Ian, Spencer and Genna; and one great-granddaughter, Ada Grace.

His legacy echoes behind him in the family he led so well. A celebration of Thomas's life will be held by his family in Florida in November.

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

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SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 1, 2019: Annual Holiday Fair at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club on City Island from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. So many amazing vendors and great gifts. Come on out and do your holiday shopping. E-mail kimfmybc@gmail.com with any questions or requests for renting a table.

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FOR SALE: \$550K! Gorgeous New Rochelle updated ranch-style home on oversized 65' X 115' lot. LR w/wood burning FP, updated bathrooms (2), DR, Large kitchen, finished basement, unfinished attic, garage + driveway, All new central air/heat, HW floors, near Palmer Ave. shopping. Call listing agent Maria Swieciki @ Today Realty at: 718-885-0017 to view this property.

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"THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL"



Photos by PAUL NANI and MATT PANZA

Animals were blessed on both ends of City Island this year during the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on Oct. 6, 2019. Father John Covington sprinkled holy water on dogs, cats and a parrot at Grace Episcopal Church (top photo), while Deacon Bill Mueller blessed creatures great and small in St. Mary's schoolyard (bottom photo).

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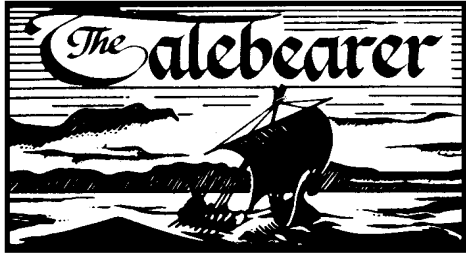


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Theodore Jay Stivala was born on Sept. 23, 2019.



Photo courtesy of MCCOY MURDOCK FAMILY
Elsie Lynn Murdock McCoy was welcomed by parents Stephanie Murdock and Jack McCoy.



Photo courtesy of THE WIRTZ FAMILY
Winifred Helen Wirtz



Leah and Roger Nani welcomed their son, Luke, on Oct. 17, 2019.



Photo courtesy of MARY JO BYRNE
Aidan Byrne and Kelsey Welsh were married on Sept. 27 in Brooklyn, NY.

It's a boy! Clam digger Roger Nani and his wife Leah welcomed their son, Luke Mace Nani, on Oct. 17. Luke weighed in at 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Paul and Karen Nani of King Avenue and Fran Mentch of Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Blessings to all!

Belated happy Oct. 29 birthday wishes to Kelly Claire Carmody, and not-so-little anymore "Li!" Bob Carmody on his 23rd birthday, also in October. Love, Mom and Dad, Grandma, Nanny and the whole family.

Aidan Byrne, son of Mick and Mary Jo Byrne of City Island and Madison, WI, and Kelsey Welsh, daughter of Libby and Jimmy Welsh of Rye, NY, were married at the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn on Sept. 27 on a beautiful fall afternoon. Many City Islanders joyously traveled by the NY Trolley to join in the ceremony. Guests were then transported by NY Water Taxis to the reception at the Liberty Warehouse in Red Hook, Brooklyn, which provided a spectacular backdrop of the Statue of Liberty as she faces France. The newlyweds will honeymoon in Italy.

Welcome to the world, Winifred Helen Wirtz, born Sept. 13 to Jason and Brittany Wirtz of City Island.

Congratulations to Amanda M. Hanglow, who graduated from Penn State (2016) with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and is now pursuing a career as a physician's assistant. Her proud family includes her mother, Colleen Curran (NYPD/Ret.) and her sister, Lauren.

Kudos to three generations (in one kayak) who participated in the Touring Kayak Club's Boot Hill Races: Leila Ishaq; her mother, Kurstin Laue Ishaq; and grandpa Heinz Laue.

Belated happy birthday wishes on Oct. 12 to Thora and Waverly Treiber, who turned eight! Grandma and Nana love you!

Welcome to Winter Street's newest resi-

dent, Elsie Lynn Murdock McCoy, who was born Oct. 15. Proud parents are Stephanie Murdock and Jack McCoy. Thrilled grandparents are Francis and Barbara Murdock and Daniel and Mary Jane McCoy.

Bob, Sue and the staff of City Island Realty One welcome new City Island residents Cynthia and Bob Dukes from Brooklyn to their new home on Fordham Street, and Miami residents Cora and Stan Gilbert to the Nautical Winds Condos on Fordham



Three generations of Laues.

Street, Boaters Paul and Carolyn to Cross Street and Islanders Debbie and Angel, who are relocating to Minneford Avenue.

Birthday wishes across the miles in California to our "Coastie" Bobby Swieciki, who will celebrate his 32nd birthday on Nov. 12. Looking forward to seeing you home just in time for the holidays!

Welcome City Islands newest clam digger Theodore Jay Stivala!! Congratulations to Robert and Alaura Stivala. We are all over the moon!

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

Maria Swieciki

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