

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## A SALUTE TO TRINITY'S RETIRING PASTOR

BY KAREN NANI



Photos by JOE COZZI and KAREN NANI

The ministry of Pastor David Jolly (shown above with Scoutmaster James Goonan) was celebrated at a dinner on April 27, 2024, hosted by City Island's Boy Scout Troop 211 at Trinity United Methodist Church.

the honoree with a special scouting jacket commemorating his support of Troop 211. Pastor Jolly was also awarded Proclamation Citations from New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and State Senator Nathalia Fernandez.

Pastor Dave finally stepped up to the microphone and expressed his love of the church and the community. "It's our seventh year on City Island and everyone welcomed us from day one." He explained the mandatory retirement age of 72 in the Methodist church and announced that he and his wife would be retiring to Kingston, New York.

He reminisced about his years on this unique Island. "I didn't know City Island when the bishop assigned me here, and I hoped it would be a good match." He told the attendees that he loved every special event, including the Blessing of the Fleet and the interfaith services and events with the other houses of worship on City Island. Referring to Temple Beth-El's former rabbi Shohama Wiener and an ecumenical service held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, he said, "In all my 25 years of ministry, this is the only place where a female rabbi was invited to read scripture in a Roman Catholic Church. In this community, we trust each other."

He especially praised the City Island scouts. "I have never seen a troop and pack more amazing than 211. The leaders get the best out of each scout." Pastor Dave pointed to the Wall of Honor plaque hanging in Trinity's Fellowship Hall with the names of all the City Island Eagle Scouts. "Don't give up! Each one of you makes life on City Island better," he told the young scouts hosting and preparing the dinner.

Pastor Jolly is also proud of Trinity's Food Pantry named for former pastor, Susan Chadwick. "We started it during the

second week of the Covid pandemic. We sent word out and food started appearing on my porch." The food pantry is going strong after four years with support from other Island churches, organizations and residents.

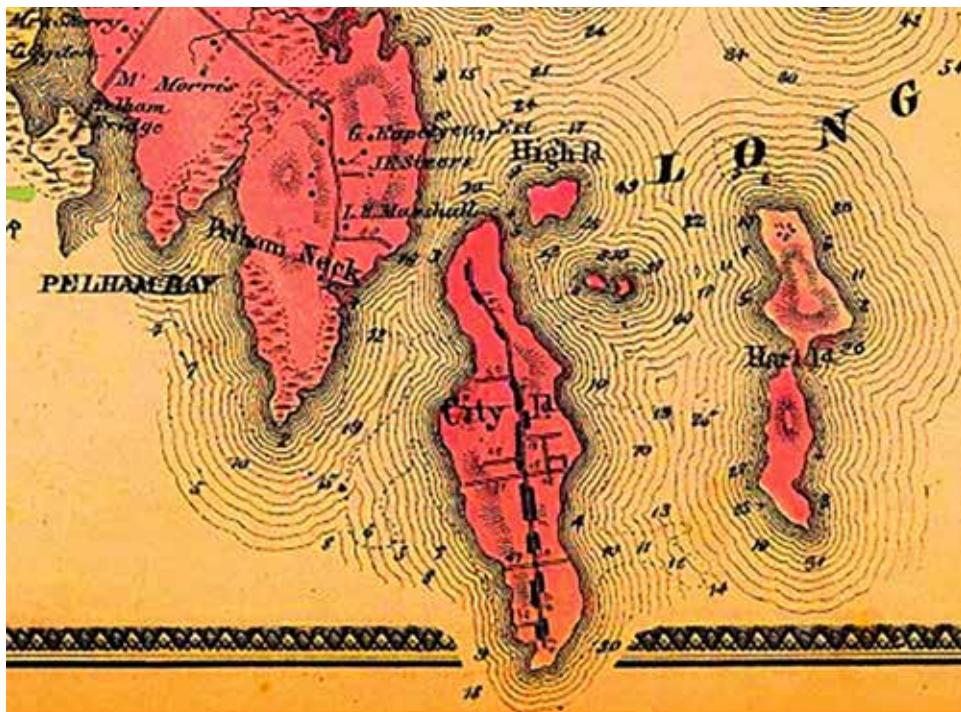
The dinner was a successful effort thanks to many helping hands. The scouts prepared the food in Trinity's recently renovated kitchen, and they were assisted

by local restaurants and businesses that donated uncooked food and supplies (see *Letter to the Editor* on page 6).

In closing, Pastor Jolly asked all Islanders and Trinity parishioners to welcome their new spiritual leader, Pastor Sara Giron-Ortiz. "All the houses of worship uphold the love of God. Please continue worshipping with Pastor Ortiz. Welcome her as you did my wife and me."

## CI Museum Opens with Eye-Catching New Exhibits

BY KAREN NANI



Detail of 1867 Beers Map Showing Hart Island Shortly Before John Hunter, Jr. Sold it to New York City.



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY and NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Three new exhibitions are on view at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. A photo exhibition of Hart Island focuses on its complex and fascinating history. Before New York City purchased the island in 1868 and added 30 acres of landfill, it was a very different shape, as shown in this early map (top photo). During the 1950s, in addition to being a city cemetery where prisoners did the burials, it was a Nike anti-aircraft missile base operated by the U. S. Army (bottom photo). The history of sail making on City Island now has its own exhibition room, including many images of the Islanders who worked there.

The Nautical Museum at 190 Fordham Street re-opened for its 2024 season on April 28 with special new exhibits on the history of Hart Island, sail making on City Island, and navigation and Hell Gate Pilots. An opening reception was held on April 29, and guests were captivated by the rich maritime heritage of City Island through

the lens of these three new exhibits, curated by Dick Sadler, with Mike Clancy, Greg and Jimmy Italiano, with Tom and Lauren Nye, and Barbara Dolensek.

Barbara Dolensek uncovered a number of unfamiliar facts about our sister island when she went digging into the museum

Continued on page 7

City Island's Boy Scout Troop 211 hosted a special dinner honoring Pastor David Jolly and his wife, Donna, at Trinity United Methodist Church on April 27, 2024. The scouts, their leaders and parishioners highlighted Pastor Jolly's many contributions to City Island and gratefully acknowledged that scouting had become a particular focus of his ministry

"City Island was blessed by the arrival of the Jollys in 2017. Reverend Dave has a long history with scouting and has been a Scoutmaster himself in the past. Every year since his arrival he has given the troop a blessing at our first meeting of the year wishing us a safe, fun and productive year of growing and learning scout and life skills," Scoutmaster James Goonan told the large crowd who attended the dinner to pay tribute to the retiring pastor.

Parishioner and Trinity Council Chair Peter Chadwick spoke on behalf of the congregation. "Since his arrival here at Trinity, Pastor Dave has not rested. He has been involved in just about every facet of life on City Island. Whether spoken in church, at a dinner dance or a meeting, his prayers are always heartfelt and comforting. He brings faith, inspiration and a healthy helping of dad jokes to every charity event and fundraiser."

Peter emphasized the strength provided by Donna Jolly. "Donna always has a hug and smile for us, even when she might be going through her own trials and losses. Her patience and sweet spirit both seem limitless."

James Goonan saluted and presented



BRIEFLY...

**SPRING FAIR:** The 2024 Spring Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2. Taste delicious fare from City Island restaurants, and browse the wares of the many vendors who line City Island Avenue between Bay and Carroll Streets from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will also be music in Hawkins Park and representatives from many City Island organizations, so come out and celebrate the change of seasons with friends and visitors.

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENING** at Clipper Coffee, 274 City Island Avenue, will feature winners of the Friends of Pelham Bay Park photography contest, with a special preview on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m.

**THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET,** a unique City Island tradition, will return on Sunday, June 23, beginning at 1 p.m. (1300 hours). Multi-denominational clergy will bless vessels from Barron’s Boatyard dock with the cooperation and support of the City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post. Participation is by water only and starting at 1 p.m. Boats are to assemble in City Island Harbor by the dock at Barron’s Boatyard at 12:30 p.m. Communications: VHF Channel #71 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

**THE BRONX FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA** will take place on Thursday, June 27, at 9 p.m. off Orchard Beach. The fireworks are sponsored by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson. Islanders should watch for traffic jams on the City Island bridge, and boaters should anchor early off the north end of the island to view the show. Check the website [ilovethebronx.com](http://ilovethebronx.com) for details.

**CITY ISLAND PRIDE PICNIC** will be held for the fourth time on Saturday, June 8, at Ambrosini Field from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for a family-friendly afternoon of music, games and food. Face painting from 12 to 2 p.m. Kickball at 2 p.m. Raffle drawing at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to this free event. The picnic will be followed by a showing of a queer-themed movie at Cinema on the Sound at 7 p.m.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from April 17 to May 22, 2024.

4/27 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 46, and charged him as an aggravated unlicensed operator at 9:15 p.m. on City Island Road. The defendant was observed driving, and after a car stop it was found that the defendant’s driving privileges had been suspended.

4/30 – On William Avenue at 12:30 p.m., an Island male reported an incident of petit larceny. The victim stated that he parked his vehicle and upon return found his front license plate missing.

5/5 – An off-Island male, 60, was arrested for operating a motor vehicle while impaired at 9:49 p.m. on City Island Avenue. Police responded to a vehicle accident and upon arrival found that the defendant had hit a parked car.

5/13 – At 8:30 a.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island male reported lost property. The victim states that after he finished eating at a restaurant, he discovered the loss of his driver’s license and NYC fire certification. He was not pushed, bumped or shoved.

5/13 – Police received a report of harassment at 12:01 a.m. on City Island Avenue. An Island male states that another male had previously repeatedly bullied him. He further states that this time the perpetrator spoke to him aggressively, causing annoyance and alarm.





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# City of Yes or City of No?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Mayor Eric Adams and the Department of City Planning (DCP) have now introduced the third and final part of the “City of Yes” plan to “add a little more housing” to every neighborhood in New York City. *The Island Current* covered earlier sections of the City of Yes and the potential effect they might have on City Island in the January-February, March and May issues. What is now facing the City Island community is the potential series of changes proposed in the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, which was made available to the public in April.

Potential changes to City Island’s Special District zoning include expanding buildings to fill more of a building lot than is now allowed; converting basements, garages and attics into homes or building small dwellings in one- and two-family zoning lots; eliminating the need for driveways or parking spaces on one’s property; reducing the amount of open space on building lots that could increase the potential for flooding.

On Tuesday, May 14, DCP presented a brief summary of this proposal to Community Board 10’s Zoning Committee and answered questions about what would change if it is approved by the City Council and the borough presidents. Paul Graziano, a city planner who has been speaking out against the plan, also attended the meeting and noted several sections of the plan that were not included in the DCP presentation but that would affect low-rise communities like those in Community Board 10.

Board 10 will vote on the proposal next month, as a quorum was not present at the board meeting on May 23. Community board votes do not, however, carry any weight in the final decision, although they may have some influence on Council members in their districts and perhaps borough presidents. Approval of the plan is also required by the City Planning Commission, but since the chair of the commission is also the chair of DCP, approval is virtually guaranteed.

The first section of the City of Yes, for carbon neutrality, passed in late 2023 without much discussion or public awareness. The second section, dedicated to economic opportunity, is awaiting a vote from the City Council, whose members recognize that a majority of community boards voted against the plan, with 21 others voting yes but with conditions. Negotiations are now taking place to remove or amend certain aspects of the proposal, such as the elimination of a provision allowing corner stores in residential areas and modifying the use of certain businesses. Once the Council has agreed on changes, the Planning Commission will amend the text before a Council vote can take place.

It is expected that the third section, on housing opportunity, which was formally introduced to the public on April 29 (n.b. the date of the earthquake), will be voted on by the borough presidents, the City Planning Commission and the City Council before the end of 2024. Many individuals and groups, including the City Island Civic Association, have submitted testimony objecting to the proposal.

### What Housing Opportunity Means

According to Mayor Adams, the City of Yes initiative would unlock housing growth in every neighborhood. He claims that “Each aspect of the proposal—from helping offices convert to residential, to giving homeowners the option to add small rental units, to adding more affordable housing in high-demand neighborhoods—is a proven strategy to help lower housing costs and help neighborhoods thrive.” He does not, however, provide proof of this strategy, nor does he use the word “affordable” in most of the descriptions.

According to Karen Argenti of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, the real crisis is not the lack of available housing, since there may be more than 230 thousand empty apartments in the city; the problem is the high cost of rent for low- to middle-income residents, an issue that is not addressed in the new plan, which does not provide any substantial solution to increase rent affordability.

The first section of the City of Yes proposal would enable developers to convert commercial spaces into residential housing. “City of Yes will make it easier for vacant offices and other non-residential buildings to become homes, a win-win policy to create

housing, boost property values, and create more active, vibrant neighborhoods in areas that have been hard-hit by the effects of the pandemic.” This sounds like a reasonable proposal, given that many offices have remained empty since the pandemic. However, there are many obstacles to such projects: the cost of conversion is very expensive and would diminish the possibility of affordable housing. Indeed, many office buildings cannot be easily converted. Who would want to live in an apartment with no windows or with large structural columns, which make residential plumbing and access to natural lighting and fresh air difficult if not impossible?

Another part of the proposal reads: “By relegalizing housing above businesses on commercial streets in low-density areas, City of Yes will create new housing, help neighbors reach small businesses, and build vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods.” DCP has already proposed a separate “Midtown South Mixed-Use Plan” for 42 blocks in Manhattan where new housing is not permitted under current zoning rules. The purpose is to expand housing but also to create “vibrant, 24/7 mixed-used neighborhoods . . . in order to enliven the area’s public realm,” certainly not something that City Island would welcome.

The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity would make it unnecessary for developers to provide parking spaces in new apartment buildings, presumably to save money that could be better spent on living spaces. But it is not made clear that the removal of parking spaces would help provide affordable housing; likely it would simply accommodate more apartments for more income. And where will the cars go? One can assume that the mayor and City Planning are trying to convert New York City into a no-automobile zone, so that residents will have to do their shopping on foot or walk to public transportation.

The proposal goes on: “City of Yes would relegalize modest, 3- to 5-story apartment buildings where they fit best: large lots on wide streets or corners within a half-mile of public transit.” Although DCP has implied that this refers to trains or subways, buses are definitely considered public transit, so this aspect of the proposal would apply just as much to City Island as to Pelham Bay. This means that a developer could purchase a lot on any corner on City Island Avenue, remove an existing structure and put up an apartment building of three to five stories. One must keep in mind that three-story apartment buildings do not require elevators, surely a problem for the elderly or those with small children. What is left out of the general introduction to the plan is the fact that these buildings can be built much closer to the property line than is now allowed by zoning regulations.

Accessible Dwelling Units (ADUs) are being proposed for all residential zones, enabling owners to expand living spaces into basements, garages or small buildings, even if it requires sacrificing driveways, parking spaces or lawns. Residential zoning that restricts housing to one-family houses would be eliminated, parking on streets would be necessary, and areas that might absorb rain during storms would be severely restricted, causing flooding in basements, already a problem in some areas. As urban planner Paul Graziano pointed out to a community board in Queens: “There are tens of thousands of illegal basement apartments. About half of them are in Queens. The problem is that the people who have illegal dwelling units do not want to come out into the light. People don’t want to pay income taxes on market-rate units that they are renting out, since legalizing them would generate more garbage and overcrowded schools.”

Another provision of the City of Yes would make it easier for campuses to add new buildings by removing obstacles and streamlining outdated rules in the hope that these buildings provide additional housing or facilities. City Island doesn’t have a college campus, but what about St. Mary’s School, which has remained closed for several years and is rarely used? The building is in an R-2 zone, which is currently restricted to one-family houses, and such a development would require Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), a public review of applications affecting land use. It is possible, if not likely,

that DCP would find a way around that if the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity is approved by the City Council.

### What Next?

First of all, we patiently await the Council vote on the second part of the City of Yes, relating to economic opportunity. Assuming the proposal will pass, it is incumbent on Islanders to study the plan in detail so that we can prepare ourselves for changes in our community. It seems possible at this point that the proposed construction of retail stores on street corners in residential zones is likely to be removed from the plan.

Next, we must pay close attention to the full proposal for the housing opportunity, rather than relying on the brief statements that are easily available online. A more detailed text indicating changes to existing zoning

laws is now available for those who have the patience to navigate it: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/plans-studies/city-of-yes/housing-opportunity/annotated-zoning-text.pdf?r=1>.

Concerned City Islanders should be aware that there will be a rally at City Hall Park on Friday, May 31, at 11 a.m. to protest the City of Yes. There will be a limited number of speakers for the hour-long event, which is being organized by city planners Paul Graziano and Alicia Spears, a resident of Cambria Heights in Queens. Those who can be in attendance may persuade the media that has so far ignored the proposal’s negative aspects to take another look at a project that clearly benefits developers and contractors and severely, and unnecessarily, impacts residential areas throughout the city.



Photos by RICK DeWITT  
Members of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion led the 2024 Memorial Day parade up City Island Avenue on May 27 joined by sailors from the USS *Marinette* and marines from the USS *Bataan*. The New York Metro Pipe Band provided the marching cadence and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, City Council member Kristy Marmorato and US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez lent their support for our veterans. Legion commander Pete Del-Debbio, Sons of the American Legion Commander Peter Chadwick, Auxiliary president Doreen Gallagher and Chaplain Dave Carman led the tributes and were joined by the City Island Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and the City Island Little League, among other marchers who braved the rain and kept on marching.



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA  
An Island-made Quilt of Valor was awarded to James Murray, US Army, in a ceremony at Post 156. Quiltmakers (l. to r.) Judy McCormick, Mary Carman and Sandra Panzarella display his quilt.



TEMPLE BETH-EL  
CELEBRATES 90  
YEARS STRONG

PASTOR DAVID JOLLY  
RETIRES FROM TRINITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.S. 175 COMPETES  
IN SOAP BOX DERBY

INTERESTING NEW  
EXHIBITS OPEN AT  
NAUTICAL MUSEUM

CITY ISLAND PROVIDES  
A PLACE TO REMEMBER  
FOR ALL ON MEMORIAL DAY

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE  
PARTYING LIKE IT'S  
THEIR BAT  
& BAR  
MITZVAHS!

SEA SHORE

FOUNDING  
BIRTHDAY!

PASTOR SARA, THE PARISHIONERS  
GOT TOGETHER TO MAKE A COOKBOOK  
SOME TIME BEFORE MY PASTORAGE. IT'S  
GREAT, BUT I WANT TO PASS ON MY  
PERSONAL RECIPE FOR  
GUARDIANSHIP  
OF THIS CHURCH.  
IT'S CALLED  
FILET OF SOULS.

COOL, BUT I DON'T  
THINK THE  
RULES ALLOW  
FOR SAILS.

I AM FROM CITY ISLAND, YOU KNOW!

WOW! A NIKE MISSILE  
BASE ON HART ISLAND!  
I WONDER IF THEY  
EVER GOT TO DEFCON  
3 OR 2.

BUT MS. HEIL  
ENCOURAGES  
THE STEM  
MODEL WHICH  
NOW INCLUDES  
HISTORY.

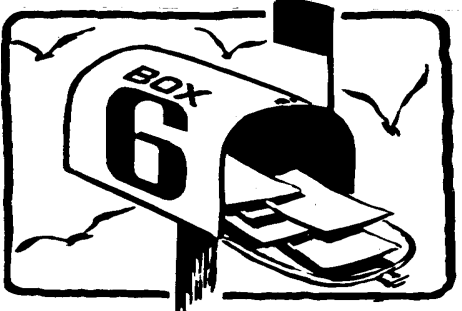
YEAH! AND I  
WONDER IF IT  
EVER GOT  
THAT SERIOUS,  
DID ISLANDERS  
EVEN KNOW?

IT'S WHEN WE REMEMBER  
THAT ALL  
GAVE SOME,  
AND SOME  
GAVE ALL.

WHAT'S THE  
MEANING  
OF MEMORIAL  
DAY,  
GRANDMA?

HONORED  
HERO

Daisy



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



AOC at the CI Memorial Day parade.

Congresswoman's Requests  
for Federal Funding

To the Editor,

On May 17, 2024, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez requested federal funding for 15 community projects that would serve New York's 14th Congressional District. The House Appropriations Committee solicited these requests from all members as part of their annual spending process. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez reported that "our office submitted funding requests for 15 community projects ... that will directly benefit our communities in the Bronx and Queens. These projects include investments in violence interruption, green infrastructure to mitigate flooding, youth literacy programming in the South Bronx, and more.

"I want to thank our community and government partners who collaborated with our office during the submission process. While many non-profits were restricted from eligibility this year, we worked with Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand's offices to ensure they receive consideration in the Senate. We look forward to securing funding for all 15 projects and the timely passage of Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Bills."

Among the nominees is City Island Oyster Reef, which is requesting \$403,491 to reestablish a resilient ecosystem in western Long Island Sound by purchasing the material to create two oyster reef habitats in order to increase oyster populations in the waters surrounding City Island. The island's location for these oyster reefs makes it a critical hub and essential connection between reef restoration sites to the west in the East River, at Soundview and SUNY Maritime College, as well as to existing oyster populations in Long Island Sound east of City Island.

Also included in the grant proposals was the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for green infrastructure improvement and the Bronx River Alliance to improve coastal resiliency and community development at Soundview.

Communications Office for  
Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

Thank You for Support of  
Farewell to the Jollys

To the Editor,

City Island Troop 211 would like to thank the City Island community for supporting our fundraiser on behalf of Trinity United Methodist Church in honor of Pastor David Jolly and his wife, Donna. We were able to raise almost \$4,000 on April 27 in a fun evening for all.

Several senior scouts earned their cooking merit badges, to the delight of all who came to enjoy the fine food and entertainment.

The night would not have been such a success without the support of many City Island businesses, which sponsored the event through donated food and advertising. We would especially like to thank Seafood City, Scavello's, The Original Crab Shanty, Augie's Deli and Pizzeria, City Island Pizza Company, the City Island Culinary Club, Jack's Bait and Tackle, Leonard Hawkins Post 156, City Island Diner, Bayview Glass, Pampered Chef Ginger Kotoff-Hanford, *Riptide III*, *BuyTheBronx.com* and the Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez campaign for Congress.

The Jollys will be leaving City Island this summer, and we wish them all the best for the next chapter in their life together. The support from our community will provide Pastor Dave's successor with critical funds to carry on Trinity's important work for the community. Thanks again to all who supported the evening, and many thanks to Pastor Dave and Mrs. Jolly for your steadfast support of Scouting and Troop 211.

James Goonan,  
Scoutmaster Troop 211

KATIE MCCORMICK

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NOTARY



On May 18, 2024, Auxiliary Unit 156 held its annual community poppy fundraiser on City Island. Shown above (l. to r.) are the patriotic auxiliary members: Gloria Kenny, Irene Penny, Sandra Panzarella and Pat Genovese.

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KELLERWILLIAMS



# Temple Beth-El Celebrates 90th Anniversary

BY KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

A gala dinner at the Sea Shore restaurant was held on May 2, 2024, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Temple Beth-El on City Island. More than 150 members and friends of the temple came together to commemorate the anniversary and honor longtime member David Stark. Shown above at the celebration are (l. to r.) Shari Berkowitz, Stuart Sorell, Jack Rothman, Barbara Gold, Rachel and David Stark, Deborah Izzi, Loretta Genetelli and Viviana Galluzzo.

Temple Beth-El has been a part of the City Island community for 90 years, and this milestone was celebrated on May 2, 2024, at a gala dinner at the Sea Shore restaurant. More than 150 members and friends of the temple came together to commemorate the special anniversary and to honor longtime member David Stark.

The evening began with an outdoor cocktail hour on the Sea Shore’s waterfront deck under clear skies, as guests were serenaded by the talented young violinist Viviana Galluzzo. Temple president, Rachel Stark, kicked off the evening’s events. She recognized those who organized and made the anniversary celebration possible,

including Sam and Lauren Chernin, board members Shari Berkowitz, Deborah Izzi and Stuart Sorell, and members Jack Rothman and Barbara Gold. She also noted the two past presidents in attendance, Bob Berent and Paul Klein.

Ms. Stark highlighted the history of Temple Beth-El, which started with a small group of 17 men in 1934 who met for prayers in a private home on Hawkins Street (then Orchard Street). As the group began to grow, they rented space on City Island Avenue. In 1942, the first Jewish school classes were held at Trinity Methodist Church, which opened their doors to them. Later that year, the expanding City

Island Jewish community began fundraising for a permanent home.

In 1947, the group purchased a small parcel of land, and the organization became known officially as Temple Beth-El. Then in 1956, the dream became a reality and construction began on the building at 480 City Island Avenue. Temple Beth-El was officially dedicated in 1957 as a home for Jewish worship and education, and it has been the congregation’s home ever since.

The family of the evening’s honoree, David Stark, was involved in the purchase of the land. In accepting his award, Mr. Stark reminisced about his life on City Island and his family’s involvement in the temple. “I have been a member of Temple Beth-El for 60 years! My father received a Man of the Year award in 1964 for his efforts to establish a local temple and keep it open.”

Mr. Stark is a clam digger and has many fond memories of growing up on City Island. “I used to deliver dry cleaning from Harry’s on my bicycle,” he reminisced, referring to the longtime dry-cleaning business owned by Harry Chernoff on City Island Avenue between Fordham and Bay Streets. “Longtime temple leader Rabbi Shohama married my wife Rachel and me.”

Temple Beth-El has been active in the City Island community and has participated in many interfaith services and events over the last 90 years, including the Blessing of the Fleet and the Hanukkah menorah lighting every December in Hawkins Park. As Pastor David Jolly of Trinity United Methodist Church noted (see article on page 1), Rabbi Shohama’s reading at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, was the first time he had known a female rabbi to read scripture in a Roman Catholic Church.

The temple has overcome adversity over the years and flourished in spite of some troubling events. In 2012, “Your Shul by the Sea,” as it is known, was broken into

and vandalized. According to police at the time, unknown perpetrator(s) forced entry into the Temple by smashing the basement windows. They then broke through the doors to the office and sanctuary. Most distressing for the congregants, the burglars broke into the Ark and stole a number of hand-carved ritual objects.

“We lost the silver crowns on our Holocaust-era Torahs and our silver Kiddush cups,” Rabbi Shohama told the City Island community in a letter sent to all the churches on Jan. 16, 2012. In addition to the structural damage, the vandals left the sanctuary a mess and damaged the sound system.

Then in 2022, Rabbi David Markus was notified of an incident on City Island involving anti-Semitic mail by the synagogue board, which is kept informed of such incidents by the police. “It sent shock waves through our congregation and the City Island community,” he told those gathered. He explained that the terrible message contained in the mail was meant to scare and divide us, but “it did not work. We have come together against this hate.”

Mr. Stark addressed the current wave of anti-Semitism since the attack on Israel in October 2023. “We need to stop the hate. The world changed on Oct. 7, and we can’t turn a blind eye to recent events.”

The honoree expressed optimism for Temple Beth-El’s future on City Island. He and his wife made a matching donation to the temple, and he acknowledged the generosity of Sam and Lauren Chernin and all those who donated to the successful silent auction. Funds raised will be used for needed repairs and renovation to the 67-year-old building, including work on the front steps, a new boiler and a new roof. In addition, the congregation will welcome a new rabbi in 2024.

Happy anniversary to Temple Beth-El, Your Shul by the Sea!

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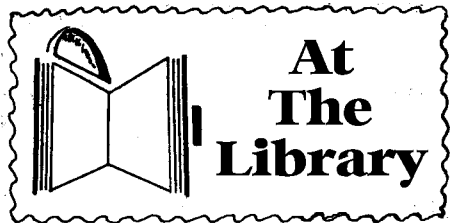
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Photos by JESSE COWAN and CESAR HERRERA

On May 4, 2024, P.S. 175 competed once again in the District Soap Box Derby at P.S. 11 on Baychester Avenue in the Bronx. Coached by science teacher Karen Heil, the team consisted of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders Nishara Conley, Charlee Kiesler, Maxine Alvarez, Sophia Siegfried, Ava Cautillo, Bella Najeera and Ashly Garcia. Shown above are drivers Bella Najeera and Ashly Garcia in the cars they built.





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**Summer at the Library:** Join us as we embark on a journey of discovery all summer long at the City Island Library! Discover fun free programs and events for patrons of all ages. We will also be giving out free books (while supplies last). Tuesday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**JUNE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

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

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

**Steam Play:** Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 to 10. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Chill Zone:** No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be

available. Ages 10 to 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

**JUNE TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Unwind:** Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.: **June 4, Pride-A-Palooza:** Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride month with the City Island Library by making pride buttons, helping us create a large pride flag to display and creating pride jewelry/keychains! **June 11, Morning Glory Gardens:** Plant a lovely morning glory flower and design the pot it will live in! **June 18: Maker's Club:** Join us to see what you can make in various activities, while getting hands on practice in art, coding and technology, physics and more! **June 25: Bingo!** Celebrate the end of the school year with a game of bingo!

**JUNE ADULT PROGRAMS**

**One-to-One Resumé and Job Search:** Subjects will include help in job searching and resumé writing. Online with Google Meet; please register online at [www.nypl.org/locations/city-island](http://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island). Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, June 3 and 24, at 5 p.m.

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

**Origami for Adults:** Origami—the art of paper folding—originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for more than 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it “engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.” Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

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



Photo by AVELINO ESPINOSA

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson paid a visit to the PSS Healthy Seniors Program at Grace Church on May 23, 2024. She spoke with director Susan Rosendahl-Masella (above right) about the City Island Center and offered support for their efforts. Ms. Gibson explained that she is planning to include more funds for adult senior centers in the upcoming New York City budget. She enjoyed chatting with some of the seniors during the acrylic painting class.

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Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
A pictorial history of the famous City Island sail lofts is part of the museum's 2024 season (top photo). A display of navigational instruments is accompanied by a fascinating history of the Hell Gate pilots who guided ships down the East River to New York Harbor and back.

# Ted Pryor: Clam Digger, Resident, Attorney

By DAN HICKEY



The following is the latest in a series of business profiles of long-time advertisers in The Island Current.

When I asked Ted Pryor if he was a clam digger or a mussel sucker, he replied “Yes.” When I protested, he explained “I think the traditional clam digger is someone who was actually born on City Island. I was born in a hospital in Manhattan.” He then came home to his family’s house on Hawkins Street. So we both agreed that he qualifies at least in the modern sense of the term.

The house has remained in his family ever since, and he says “it’s always been home.” They converted it to a two-family dwelling many years ago so that Ted’s older brother Michael, a retired detective, could live with their aging mother, who passed away in 2020, “a couple of months shy of 95.” Ted’s other older brother, David, is a shipping pilot in Virginia. You can take the boy out of City Island, but you can’t take City Island out of the boy. The Pryor boys lost their father in 1983, when Ted was only 20 years old. He had been a journalist for UPI, covering the Lindsay Administration and the courts.

“We were very lucky, my brothers and I, to have our mother,” Ted says. “She was a very strong woman. Very optimistic.” Losing his father at such a young age must have been traumatic, but Ted had been infused with a strong work ethic that saw him through this early life crisis. Like so many young clam diggers, he had a wide variety of jobs with local businesses that he has never forgotten. Some of his employers doubled as baseball coaches and helped form the person he is today.

“I was not a very good baseball player when I was in Little League, but I loved it.” Some of his baseball friends still live on City Island, and those coaches/employers are now among his clients. The names Sam Chernin and Jack Stark came up several times in our conversation about work and baseball.

“When I was about 16, I started working at Sammy’s Fish Box and by hustling and working hard I ended up also working at Crab Shanty and the Sea Shore. I was able to earn enough money working part time, parking cars and occasionally waiting tables, to pay for college and law school. “

Word of his strong work ethic must have spread widely. “I also worked for John Mini Indoor Landscaping, which was a business that got started on City Island . . . and I was the first employee of Seaside Electric, formed by City Islander Walter Henning Jr.,” father of

current clam digger Walter III. That was “one job I absolutely loved.”

It may have been his father’s work as a journalist covering the courts that gave Ted his calling to the law. “I went to Westchester Community College, got an associate degree in mathematics, and then I went to St. John’s undergrad, where I got a bachelor’s degree in economics. And then I went straight from college to St. John’s University School of Law.”

He graduated from law school, passed the bar exam and got married in 1989. “I had a clerkship right out of law school at the Appellate Division Second Department, which is the second highest court in the state.” He then went to work for a commercial litigation firm before establishing his own law practice on May 3, 1993. “I just celebrated 31 years in my own practice.”

Early in his career, he lived in Mineola and commuted to Brooklyn, but his contacts and relationships were calling him back to the Bronx, so he set up an office on Williamsbridge Road, and his growing family moved to Pelham. “I’m grateful for the opportunity that the restaurant businesses on City Island afforded me, in particular those of Sam Chernin and Jeffrey Weiner, who was at the Sea Shore.”

Divorce led Ted back to City Island, where he hung the shingle at his current office at 292 City Island Avenue, across the street from Hawkins Park. He built a new house on King Avenue to live with his three sons, two of whom have established their own homes on City Island; his youngest still lives with Ted. His son Christopher works in the hedge fund world, Dennis is a New York State Trooper and Mathew is pursuing his education, and all of them feel a strong connection to City Island.

In discussing Pryor Law, Ted explains that many Islanders know him from doing real estate transactions. “I do it because I like it, but it’s not the most lucrative area of work for me.” He also does estate work, trusts and wills, as well as probate, but he says “my primary source of revenue is plaintiff’s personal injury litigation.”

I asked him how he competes with all the lawyers we see advertising on TV. He explained how they only take cookie-cutter cases, while he thrives on complex cases that those firms won’t handle. “I don’t mind handling cases that present challenges.” His cases span the surrounding counties, and most of his clients come through referrals. He understands that neighbors may be hesitant to let him know their secrets, but he always enjoys helping other City Islanders. “I’m not always the right shoe for the foot, but I’m always happy to guide someone and get them the right shoe.”

Although City Island is not his most lucrative market, Ted feels compelled to maintain his presence in the community. That’s why he has been a long-time supporter of City Island Little League and why he advertises in *The Island Current*. As the son of a newspaper man, he wants to support his local paper and his community.

In his fourth decade practicing a wide range of the law, Ted Pryor has seen it all. He advertises in *The Island Current* because he wants to help City Island and his neighbors. So whatever legal needs you may have, check out [PryorLaw.com](http://PryorLaw.com) and see if the shoe fits.



Photo by CATHY CEBEK  
The City Island Civic Association asked the Parks Department's Office of Marine Debris Disposal and Vessel Surrendering to remove abandoned boats near the City Island Bridge and surrounding waters. Thanks to Nate Grove, Chief; Kevin Murtagh, Director; Katie Stromme, Coordinator; and Contractor Dwayne Reith of Custom Marine for keeping our waterways safe and clear of debris and derelict boats.



# 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.

## Trinity United Methodist Church

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission; “That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ.” Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we all live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won’t you come?

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.

Our Sunday School runs during Sunday worship, in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and youth, won’t you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and youth, and we do so with love, joy and peace.

The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m.

Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. but closing soon for the summer season. Thanks to the community’s donations and support, it is stocked full of bargains, so please stop by!

Rick DeWitt

## City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the meeting, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

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

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 3040 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 107 Bronx, NY 10461 Her telephone number is 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554 New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is [District13@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District13@council.nyc.gov).

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

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

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

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

We are collecting dues for 2024 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three

years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the “friends and family” option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

## City Island Oyster Reef

The 14th Annual Orchard Beach Cleanup and Clambake, hosted by CIOR, took place on Sunday, May 19, and was lots of fun and very productive. There were more than 160 volunteers (beachcombers and divers) who collected over 2,000 pounds of garbage and marine debris. This year’s cleanup was co-sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, American Littoral Society and the Hutchinson River Restoration Project.

Our seasonal shell collection from six City Island restaurants started last week! Johnny’s Reef, Sammy’s Fish Box, Sammy’s Shrimp Box, Sea Shore, Seafood City and Tony’s Pier are part of our shell collective. We are looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from these local restaurants and deliver them to our curing site at the Pelham Bay landfill. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail [luna.placchi@cioysterreef.org](mailto:luna.placchi@cioysterreef.org).

Check out the CIOR website ([www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org)) for upcoming monitoring sessions of oyster cages and water-quality parameters!

Sally Connolly

## Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

**Save the Date:** The vestry and clergy of Grace are planning to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the parish on Sunday Sept. 22, 2024, with a special service at noon followed by a luncheon. More details to follow.

**Arts and Crafts Fair:** Grace will have a booth at the City Island Spring Arts and Crafts Fair on June 1 in front of Lickety Split on City Island Avenue. Stop by and pick up homemade cookies, pies, brownies and other goodies made by Grace bakers.

**Blessing of the Fleet:** Fr. Kevin and other City Island clergy will participate in the Blessing of the Fleet on Sunday, June 23, starting at 12:30 p.m. Boats will gather off Barron’s dock near the Hart Island Ferry Dock on Fordham Street. Bring your vessel to be blessed!

**Sunday School:** Members of Grace’s Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Youth Service on Father’s Day on June 16. All are welcome to join. If you would like to be part of Grace’s Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

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



Photo by TERI KURTZ

Nine children from St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church received their First Holy Communion on May 5, 2024.

Trinity.

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

Karen Nani

## St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our monthly holy hour will take place on the First Friday, June 7, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

On Fathers’ Day, Sunday, June 16, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

The Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program had another successful year; we thank everyone for your support! Please keep an eye out for registration forms. Have a safe and blessed summer. See you in September.

St. Mary’s Thrift Shop will be open during the month of June and will close at the end of the month for the summer. The shop will reopen in September. Enjoy your summer months!

Happy summer to all!

Rosette Dietz

## City Island Nautical Museum

The Museum opened to the public on Saturday, May 4, and will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. until the end of October. Visitors to Hart Island on Tuesday, May 14, were invited to view the new Hart Island exhibit at the museum, and future visitors on alternate Tuesdays will be welcomed.

Visitors have enjoyed viewing our new exhibitions, including the Sail Makers of City Island, the History of Hart Island, and Navigation and Hell Gate Pilots, and we expect that the review on page 1 will bring

in many residents as well as off-Islanders.

Stay connected with us on social media for updates on special events, and don’t hesitate to schedule a group tour by calling 718-885-0008 or e-mailing [info@cityisland-museum.org](mailto:info@cityisland-museum.org). Also, be on the lookout for our revamped website and e-mail system, thanks to support from M4 Consulting, which is offering a streamlined way to engage and pay your membership dues!

The Nautical Museum shop is stocked with unique City Island-themed gifts and apparel. If you can’t get to the museum on the weekend, Paul Klein’s Kaleidoscope Gallery has some museum gifts for sale.

The best way to visit and support the museum is by becoming a member! For the 2024 year, individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free, a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop, as well as exclusive events and communications. Single day tickets are \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

Lauren Nye

## AARP Chapter 318

We meet in the Trinity United Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. Our next meeting will be on June 13 at 12 noon. It is the last meeting before the summer (no meetings in July and August). There will be bingo after the meeting. During the meeting we will take reservations for our Octoberfest on Oct. 2 at The Staaten on Staten Island. The cost is \$105 for members, \$115 for non-members. For more information about this trip, call Loretta Monahan at 646-322-3544.

Our meetings will resume on Sept. 12 at 12 noon. Have a wonderful summer!

Cathy Kehoe

## St. Mary’s Thrift Shop

The shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sales, Sales, Sales! End of Season bag sales. Lots of good buys. We will close for the season on June 27 and reopen on the third Thursday in September. Thank you for all your support. Have a great summer!

Arlene Byrne

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

Thank you to all who supported our second Flea Market event on May 18.

Holidays and graduation season are upon us. Book your party or celebration soon. A friendly reminder: Community Center rentals are limited to City Island residents only. Please call board member Maria Sipas at 917- 807-5933 to reserve your date.

Our schedule of offerings is below:  
**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Civic Association:** Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

**Children’s Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!  
Happy June!

Melissa Cebollero

Sons of the American Legion

Greetings to all. June 13 at 7:30 p.m. will be our final meeting of 2023–24. We will be holding both nominations and elections for the executive committee positions in 2024–25.

If you have not done so, we ask that you please pay your dues for 2024.

Thank you for all who came out for the Memorial Day Parade to honor the memory of those who have fallen in service to our country and show your gratitude to our veterans and those who serve today.

June 6 will be our third annual SAL golf outing at the Split Rock golf course. The fee is \$170, which includes a BBQ lunch and beverages, a round of golf and dinner back at Post 156. Not a golfer? Sponsor a hole or a gift card, or donate to the SAL directly. Proceeds raised from this event will go to charities associated with each of our military branches of service. For further details, you can come to the Post or call 718-885-0639.

As the SAL Commander, I am happy to

say that it has been a great year. My fellow committee members and SAL brothers have made this an easy transition for me. I thank them for their knowledge, patience and teamwork. And thank you to the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who have given me so much support.

God bless the men and women who serve every day in our armed forces. God bless the American Legion. And God bless America!

Here's wishing everybody a great summer!

Peter Chadwick

Quilters by the Sea QOV

In April, we awarded James Murray, U.S. Army, a Quilt of Valor at a well-attended ceremony at Post 156. DJ Ray accompanied Theresa Sareo singing her own “Through a Soldier’s Eyes.” Also in April, we awarded 14 Quilts of Valor to veteran personnel at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, which marked our 50th off-Island award. This year we will have more Sew Saturdays. Each sew day will have a group of learners with a teacher and a group sewing quilt tops. We continue to work on awarding Quilts of Valor to Island veterans with 30 or more years of membership in the American Legion.

Harlan Sexton

PSS City Island Center

We have several exciting activities planned for June, including another gleeful dance class, a belly dance show for Father’s Day, a fire safety presentation by the FDNY, and our monthly birthday party with entertainment by Mark Doyle. In addition, the Center has received a SU-CASA Immersive Art Explorations grant. Teaching artist Crystal Benetiz will be at the Center twice a week until the end of June. Please stop by and check out our calendar for more details on these and other exciting activities we have to offer this June. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free, and members have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the Center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. He is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and more formal tech classes in the afternoon for iPhone and Android phone users. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the Center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick-up for lunch will be available at noon as well. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program is available for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to take someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

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

June Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Monday, June 10, Trip to a Hindu temple built by volunteers in New Jersey  
Thursday, June 13, at 11 a.m., Father’s Day Belly Dance show

Tuesday, June 18, at 12:30 p.m., Gleeful Dance program

Thursday, June 20, Trip to Tanger Outlets in Deer Park (\$8)

Monday, June 24, at 12:30 p.m., FDNY Fire Safety Presentation

Friday, June 28, at 12:30 p.m., Birthday Party with Live Entertainment; also a trip to the American Museum of Natural History (\$15)

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified.

**Monday:**  
8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio  
9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in-person)  
10 a.m. to 12 noon SU-CASA Immersive Art Explorations Program  
11 a.m. to 12 noon Technology class for Apple Devices on Zoom only with Julio  
11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays  
1 p.m. iPhone classes  
1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes

**Tuesday:**  
9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)  
10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)  
12 noon In the News  
12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

**Wednesday:**  
10:15 Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)  
12:45 to 2:45 SU-CASA Immersive Art Explorations  
1 p.m. Board Games. Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

**Thursday:**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in person)  
10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)  
1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

**Friday:**  
9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Becky (in person and remote)  
10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)  
11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing  
11:30 a.m. Brain Games  
Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips, which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joe’s and Target. On-Island afternoon trips are also available. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note that the Center will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.

Happy Father’s Day!

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

Our annual luncheon held on Thursday, May 16, at the City Island Yacht Club, was a great success. The raffle, including gift certificates from local merchants and an abundance of gift baskets provided by members, was a lot of fun. The Garden Club thanks those merchants who so generously donated gift certificates, helping us to raise funds for our projects.

The pansies that members planted in March have filled our containers on City Island Avenue and by the Pelham Cemetery gates, but they will not survive the coming hot weather. We appreciate help from merchants and residents in keeping the containers free of garbage.

We are in the process of replacing the pansies with heat-tolerant plants, which should last well into fall. In June, members will also be adding new plants to the Post Office garden. These plants are native to the northeast, and we hope they will attract butterflies and native birds.

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

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

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, drop a note

to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meetings that are open to the public will be on Monday, June 3 and Aug. 5, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the new year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), “your shul by the sea.” In July we will be welcoming our new rabbi, Barbara Symons. We look forward to introducing Rabbi Barbara to the City Island Community.

Our shul 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. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

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

The following events are scheduled for June 2024.

EREC Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m.)

June 7: Zoom service with Shari and Monty

June 14: Zoom service with Stu and Helen

June 21: Join our community, as we join Rabbi Bella Bogart in Shabbat prayer. Zoom details TBA

June 28: Backyard Shabbat for members and invited guests

Havdalah and Torah Study will be on vacation during the month of June.

Our 2024 fundraiser at the Sea Shore Restaurant was a fabulous success. A big thank-you to all who came out to support Temple Beth-El, and many thanks to the staff at the Sea Shore.

Special Events in June

Sunday, June 2: City Island Craft Fair. Come visit us at our table.

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11, 12: This year, we will be community partners with Temple Israel of Boston. This is Temple Israel’s fifth year doing this program and we are excited to join in 25 hours of learning with the five books of Torah. Check our website for information about joining.

Thursday, June 13: Join us on Zoom as Shari leads us through Yizkor and Havdalah. Check our website for the Zoom link.

Thursday, June 20: Temple Beth-El’s annual meeting. Hear about our plans for the future. Members will be able to speak on various issues and vote on our budget.

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

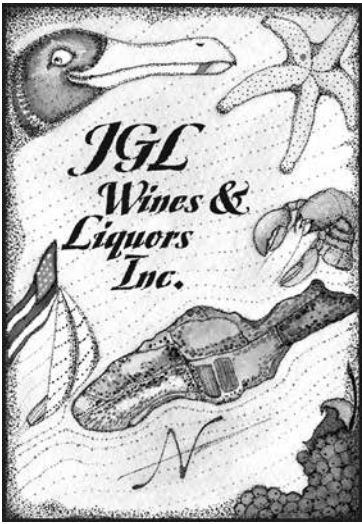
Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please e-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

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

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

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

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President



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718-885-0200





## Fathers and Daughters

With Father's Day on the horizon, we find that the cinema industry has a plethora of films about fathers and daughters. **Trouble along the Way** (1953) casts John Wayne in a role that is completely atypical for him. As Steve Williams, a former famous football coach and now a bookie in a pool hall, he is struggling to earn enough money to keep custody of his tomboy daughter, Carole (Sherry Jackson). His former wife, Anne (Marie Windsor), now remarried, complained to Social Services that he is an unfit father, and Social Services worker Alice Singleton (Donna Reed) is sent to investigate. An elderly rector, Father Burke (Charles Coburn), is attempting to save St. Anthony's College from closure caused by its dire financial situation. He hires Steve to build a lucrative sports program.

**In Paper Moon** (1973) real-life father and daughter Ryan and Tatum O'Neal team up as slick con artists in 1930s Kansas. Tatum is Addie Loggins, whose mother has died and who needs to go to relatives in Missouri. Ryan as Moze Pray is unexpectedly saddled with transporting the nine-year-old child. He is ultimately forced to take her on as a partner, and they swindle their way through farm country. The pair is nearly done in by a burlesque dancer (Madeline Kahn), an angry bootlegger, and his twin brother sheriff (John Hilleman). Tatum O'Neal earned the Best Supporting Actress Oscar, making her the youngest winner in the history of the Academy Awards.

**Music Box** (1989) is a dramatic courtroom thriller. When Hungarian-American immigrant Michael J. Laszlo (Armin Mueller-Stahl), an anti-Communist, is threatened with having his U.S. citizenship revoked and being deported to Hungary to stand trial for war crimes, Laszlo insists that it is a case of mistaken identity. His daughter, Ann Talbot (Jessica Lange), a tough Chicago defense attorney, unwisely decides to defend her father in the case, motivated by the deep love that her son, Mikey (Luke Haas), has for his grandfather. The film's title is a reference to a pawned music box that contains proof of Laszlo's guilt or innocence.

**An American President** (1995) stars Michael Douglas in the title role of President Andrew Shepherd, a widower with one teenage daughter (Shawna Waldron), with whom he has a delightful relationship. She even gives him advice when he starts dating environmental lobbyist Sydney Ellen Wade (a sparkling Annette Bening), but the repercussions of the romance shake the foundations of his administration. The President's staff includes Martin Sheen (chief of staff), Michael J. Fox (chief domestic adviser), Anna Deavere Smith (press secretary), David Paymer (pollster) and Samantha Mathis (secretary). His chief adversary is Richard Dreyfuss as Senator Bob Rumson. Aaron Sorkin's terrific script was brought to the screen brilliantly by producer-director Rob Reiner.

**Fly Away Home** (1996) stars a young Anna Paquin as Amy, who must leave her New Zealand home to live in Canada with her eccentric artist father, Thomas (Jeff Daniels), after her mother is killed in a car crash. His art includes huge metal sculptures, and he has a hobby of trying to fly with his friend David (Terry Kinney). Miserable in her new home, Amy's spirit is lifted when she finds a bunch of goose eggs abandoned because their mother was killed by land developers. How father and daughter work together to teach these birds to fly and migrate is fascinating.

In **Meet Joe Black** (1998) Death takes human form by entering the body of a young man (Brad Pitt) and insists that media mogul William Parrish (Anthony Hopkins) act as a guide to teach him about life on Earth. In the process, Death (called Joe Black) falls in

love with Susan (Claire Forlani), his guide's physician daughter. Parrish's other adoring daughter is Allison (Marcia Gay Harden), who is married to Quince (Jeffrey Tambor). Jake Weber appears as Drew, a scheming executive in Parrish's firm.

Set in Seattle, **Ten Things I Hate About You** (1999) is the story of the Stratford sisters, Bianca (Larisa Oleynik), the younger popular one, and her shrewish brainy older sister, Katarina (Julia Stiles), who is an iconoclast and never dates. Two guys want to take Bianca to the prom: sweet shy Cameron James (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and conceited handsome Joey Donner (Andrew Keegan). Unfortunately, Bianca's father (Larry Miller) has forbidden her to date until her older sister starts going out. Cameron hatches a plot to persuade bad boy Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger) to ask Kat to the prom.

In **Save the Last Dance** (2001) when Sara Johnson (Julia Stiles) loses her mother in a car crash, she is forced to go live with her musician father, Roy (Terry Kinney), in a Chicago black ghetto. She gives up her dream of dancing at Julliard and tries to fit in at the new high school, where she is befriended by Chenille Reynolds (Kerry Washington) and eventually Chenille's brother, Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas). Sara and Derek communicate through dancing, and their relationship grows in an intelligent way that does not overlook the problems of inter-racial friendship. Roy does all he can to give Sara the support and love she needs.

**Matchstick Men** (2003) is to the story of Roy (Nicolas Cage), a depressed con artist with obsessive-compulsive disorder, and his partner, Frank (Sam Rockwell). They find their schemes complicated by the arrival of Roy's teenage daughter, Angela (Alison Lohman). When she brings some spirit back into Roy's life, some of his disorder symptoms seem to slowly dissipate. But when Angela wants to learn the family business, and Roy allows her to assist in a big scam concerning a businessman (Bruce McGill), he reconsiders his parenting techniques.

**Taken** (2008) is an English-language French action-thriller starring Liam Neeson as former CIA agent Bryan Mills who is trying to reconnect with his daughter, Kim (Maggie Grace). He is appalled when his ex-wife, Lenore (Famke Janssen), permits Kim and her best friend, Amanda (Katie Cassidy), to go on vacation in Paris by themselves. His worst fears become real when sex slavers abduct the two girls shortly after their arrival. With just four days until Kim will be auctioned off, Bryan must call on every skill he learned in *Black Ops* to rescue her.

Set in a small village on the Irish coast, **Ondine** (Irish, 2009) is the story of fisherman Syracuse (Colin Farrell), a recovering alcoholic who shares custody of his wheelchair-bound daughter, Annie (Alison Barry), with his alcoholic wife, Maura (Dervla Kirwan). Determined to maintain his sobriety in the absence of any local AA group, Syracuse

turns to the local priest (Stephen Rea) for help. One afternoon, a mystifying and beautiful girl, Ondine (Alicja Bachleda), gets caught in his fishing nets. Annie is convinced that Ondine is a Selke, a mythological creature.

**The Descendants** (2011) is the story of Matt King (George Clooney), who lives with his family in Hawaii. Their world shatters when a tragic accident leaves his wife, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), in a coma. Overnight he must become a full-time parent to his young daughter, Scottie (Amara Miller), and her older rebellious teenage sister, Alexandra (Shailene Woodley). Not only must Matt struggle with the stipulation in his wife's will that she be allowed to die with dignity, but he also faces pressure from relatives to sell the family's enormous historic land trust. Angry and terrified at the same time, Matt tries to be a good father to his young daughters, as they too try to cope with their mother's impending death.

**The Trouble with the Curve** (2012) stars Clint Eastwood as Gus Lobel, who historically has been one of baseball's best scouts. However, his age is catching up with him. Tasked with checking out the country's hottest batting prospect, Gus is forced to accept help from his daughter, Mickey (Amy Adams). Although they haven't spent time together in years, father and daughter make new discoveries about their shared past, which could change their future.

**Gifted** (2017) is the story of Frank Adler (Chris Evans), a loving single man raising his seven-year-old niece, Mary (Mckenna Grace), a child prodigy. Frank wants to follow his late sister's desire for a normal school life for Mary. Unfortunately, when Frank's formidable mother, Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan), learns about Mary's mathematical abilities, her ambitions for her granddaughter threaten to separate Frank and Mary. The supporting cast includes Octavia Spencer as Roberta, Frank and Mary's landlady and best friend, and Jenny Slate as Mary's teacher, Bonnie.

In **Leave No Trace** (2018) a father and daughter, Will (Ben Foster) and Tom (Thomasin McKenzie), live a perfect but mysterious existence in Forest Park, a beautiful nature reserve near Portland, OR, rarely making contact with the world. Will is a military veteran with PTSD and has been unable to return to civilization. When a small mistake tips them off to the authorities, they are sent on an increasingly erratic journey in search of a place to call their own.

**Hearts Beat Loud** (2018) is the story of single father, Frank (Nick Offerman), owner of a vintage record store in Brooklyn. He is preparing to send his hard-working daughter, Sam (Kiersy Clemens), off to college, where she has ambitions to study to become a doctor. Hoping to stay connected through their shared musical passions, Frank urges Sam to turn their weekly jam sessions into a live father-daughter act. After their first song

becomes an internet breakout, both Sam and Frank are conflicted about their future paths. Frank's landlady and loyal customer, Leslie (Toni Collette), offers a proposition to save the store, and Frank's best friend, Dave, offers Frank a job at the bar he owns. There are several enjoyable music numbers.

**The Father** (British, 2020) stars Anthony Hopkins in his Best Actor Oscar-winning role as Anthony, an elderly man with dementia who refuses all assistance from the people his daughter, Anne (Olivia Coleman), hires to care for him. The viewer experiences his confusion as he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances. Sometimes Olivia Williams also appears as his daughter, and Rufus Sewell and Mark Gatiss appear as two sons-in-law who are ostensibly the same person. It is no wonder that Anthony begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality.

In **Stillwater** (2021) Matt Damon stars as Bill Baker, a laid-off American oil-rig worker who travels to Marseille, France, to visit his estranged daughter, Allison (Abigail Breslin), who is in prison for a murder she claims she didn't commit. Confronted with language barriers, cultural differences and a complicated legal system, he soon builds a new life for himself as he makes it his personal mission to exonerate her. Camille Cottin appears as Virginie, a single mother living in France who decides to help Bill investigate his daughter's case. She rents Bill a room and translates for him as he pursues leads. Lilou Siauvaud appears as Virginie's daughter Maya. Bill helps Virginie care for Maya and acts as a father figure to her.

**King Richard** (2021) stars Will Smith in his Best Actor Oscar-winning performance in the title role as Richard Williams, a father who is determined to write his two daughters, Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena (Demi Singleton), into history as champion tennis players. At first, he trains them himself on courts in Compton, CA, but eventually he finds professional coaches, Rick Macci (Jon Bernthal) and Paul Cohen (Tony Goldwyn), who are willing to take over the training. Aunjanue Ellis appears as Richard's wife. Real-life sisters Serena and Venus served as co-producers, making sure that the film was as accurate as possible.

And until next time, Happy Father's Day,  
and happy viewing...

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# The Tech-Free Vacation: Think You Can Pull it Off?

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

So, it's June and summer vacation is coming up soon. Many families plan vacations in the summer, and often that planning is limited to three basic parameters: Where? When? With whom?

How about adding another dimension to your family time: going tech-free? Keep a cell phone for emergencies but leave all screens at home. Maybe you can watch some TV in your hotel room, but no gaming or YouTube bingeing. What a concept!

Research is suggesting (once again) that screen time can be addicting. Social-

ization through screens (like your children chatting with their friends on Discord) goes only so far. We seem to need face-to-face contact, looking into one another's eyes as we talk, laugh and cry together. (Look up "mirror neurons" for an explanation of why in-person conversation adds a whole new dimension.)

Loneliness, according to the United States Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, is epidemic right now. The retreat into screen time for hours a day is contributing to that epidemic.

Social skills are like muscles; they need training and exercise. Family dinners can be a good place to start right now: no cell phones or devices during dinner. Then try screen-free days (that includes parents!) and see what happens. Plan alternative activities—a walk, bowling, cooking together—and see what happens. When the time for your vacation arrives, you will be well-versed in how screen-free family time can work.

Families remain the key social unit for healthy relationships. Use your family as a vehicle for growth and appreciation of the world and enjoy the results. I truly believe you will not be disappointed.



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Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The popular City Island Garden Club luncheon was held on May 23, 2024, at the City Island Yacht Club. Blooming board members and luncheon organizers are shown above (l. to r.): Judy Judson, Teri Kurtz, Ellen Murphy, Boo Dennis, Elena Nuesslein, Melanie Benvenue and Francine Alheid.



The 33rd annual Ascension Day service in memory of all those buried on Hart Island was held on May 9, 2024. It is an ecumenical service by appointment with the Department of Parks and Recreation, which allows 10 people to attend, though others can attend via Zoom. Attendees met at the ferry dock at 10 a.m. and held the service at the stone cross (above photo). Fr. Kevin Moroney (third from left) of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island conducted the service.

## City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings. May was so much fun because we played going on a picnic. Members brought foods whose names began with their first initial, so Lisa brought lasagna and Scott brought sausage and Sue brought salad and so on. It was great to see how creative everyone could be.

Then, for the second half of May, we did a Chinese stir-fry night and all cooked together with each member helping to chop, peel and stir. We enjoyed chicken with stir-fry vegetables with fried rice, and we even served our food in Chinese take-out containers. We also had chopsticks for members who wanted to eat with them. And at the

end, of course, we all read our fortunes from cookies.

Looking ahead, it's almost time for us to take our summer break, but not before we do Greek cooking. Here is one of my favorite recipes.

### Greek Meatballs in Wine Sauce

Yield: 4 servings

#### Ingredients

- 3/4 pound ground lamb
- 3/4 pound ground beef or ground veal
- 1 small yellow-skinned onion, minced or grated with hand grater
- A handful of flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 lemon

**Directions**

Step 1: Preheat a medium skillet over medium high heat.

Step 2: Combine meats, onion, parsley, salt and pepper in small bite-size balls. Add butter and oil to the pan and just sauté the meatballs. Cook the balls for 10 to 12 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally so that the balls brown equally on all sides. Deglaze the pan with wine, and allow it to reduce by half (one or two minutes). Remove the pan from the heat, and squeeze the juice of half a lemon over the meatballs.

Step 3: Serve in a bowl.

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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.

## Robert Neuner

Robert "Bob" Neuner, born Dec. 11, 1938, to Helen Shanley and John Robert Neuner of City Island, passed away peacefully at his home in Wyckoff, NJ, on March 25, 2024, at the age of 85.

Bob grew up on City Island, where he displayed remarkable athleticism from an early age playing baseball and football. He excelled as a swimmer and served as a lifeguard at Orchard Beach. On a whim, he swam around City Island as a teenager escorted by his younger brother, John, who was rowing a small pram. Bob, as he preferred to be called—or Bobby as he emphatically called himself, when he missed a golf shot or tennis ball—was known for his love of family and zest for life.

Guided by priests from St. Mary, Star of the Sea, who recognized his academic potential, Bob applied to and was accepted by Regis High School. He flourished there and went on to pursue his studies in electrical engineering at Manhattan College before earning a law degree at night from Fordham Law School.

Law became a cornerstone of Bob's life, culminating in his role as a senior partner at Brumbaugh Graves Donohue & Raymond, where he specialized in intellectual property law. His dedication to his profession was evident in his leadership as president of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association, and he reportedly never lost a case. He had a strong commitment to low-income, pro-bono work; he always wanted to give back.

However, Bob's true fulfillment came from his family. He and his wife Claire Cavaliere raised four children in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Bob's love for his grandchildren was palpable, evident in the countless cherished moments they spent together.

Throughout his life, Bob enjoyed various pastimes, whether playing softball at Indian Trail Club, where he was known as Big Bad Bruising Bob for his long home-run balls, or relaxing in Holgate, Long Beach, NJ. He was a great listener and fun to be with. He often met with his brother, John, for lunch and never failed to reminisce about how fortunate they were to have grown up on City Island in the 1950s with loving parents, caring friends and friendly neighbors. During the summer, before lunch, they delighted in taking a late morning high-tide swim together on the King Avenue beach of their childhood.

In 2007, Bob found love once again when he married Debby Aronsohn. Bob and Debby spent 17 caring and happy years together in Wyckoff, NJ, with winters in Naples, FL.

Bob was predeceased by his first wife, Claire. He is survived by his children Kristin Miller, Karen Fortunato, Robert and Christopher Neuner, and their spouses John, Michael, Lynn and Sharon; 12 grandchildren: Kaitlin, Madison, John, Nicole, Christopher, Emily, Bobby, Kelly, Annabel, Gabriele, Christopher and Michael, all of

whom held a very special place in his heart. Bob's legacy lives on through the memories he created and the lives he touched. His warmth, generosity and unwavering love for family will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Bob Neuner was laid to rest at Pelham Cemetery.



## Rita Piri

Longtime City Island resident Rita Piri passed away on April 4, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born on July 19, 1936, the youngest of four children to Rose and Frank Muscolino. She was born and raised on East 110th Street in East Harlem, part of a large tight-knit Italian family.

She went to St. Ann's Elementary School and Washington Irving High School, where she learned to be a secretary, a job that she would have for 40 years. She was 17 when she graduated and met Joe Piri. They married two years later and remained married for more than 68 years, a marriage filled with love, loyalty and laughter.

Rita worked at the New York Foundling Hospital, which was run by the Sisters of Charity, and it housed young children waiting to be adopted. She would take children home on the weekend before she had her own children.

Rita and Joe moved to City Island in 1958. They were married for nine years before she had children. First came the twins, Maria and Gina, and then Anthony. Rita worked as a secretary at Korvette's Department store, International Underwater Contractors (IUC) and Dr. Russell Trahan.

In the late 80s Rita and Joe bought a condo in Florida and moved there when Joe retired. They would winter in Florida and summer on City Island.

Rita was beautiful, elegant, classy and kind. She would never leave the house unless she was nicely dressed; she would do her hair and put on make-up, and she always wore lipstick. Rita was well known for her cooking, and she made meatballs for everyone. She was a devoted wife, a selfless parent and grandparent, who always put her children's needs before her own. She adored her grandchildren, Connor, Aidan, Mark, Priscilla and Cassidy, and was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, cousin and friend to many people.

She left an indelible mark on this

planet. In the days after she passed away there was an earthquake, an aftershock and a solar eclipse, and Mt. Etna blew smoke rings into the sky. That was some entrance to heaven.

Rita is survived by her husband, Joe; her children, Maria (Leslie), Gina (Amy) and Anthony (Bernadette); and her grandchildren, Connor, Aidan, Mark, Priscilla and Cassidy.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Saturday, April 20.



Photo by RON TERNER

## Daniel "Bird" Sterman

Daniel Sterman, also known as Bird and (Capt.) Mike, passed away in his apartment at Pilot Cove on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Reports vary as to where he was born, either in a Manhattan hospital or in a boatyard on City Island, so whether he was a true clam digger or a mussel sucker, he loved City Island. He was frequently seen riding along City Island Avenue on his three-wheeled trike or two-wheeler. His dedication to security, most recently at City Island Marina on City Island, would find him sitting in his chair, sometimes under an umbrella, or roaming the grounds. His daily vigils were impressive.

Bird's earlier work years were spent as a legal "snatch and go" repo man. He also worked in private sanitation and was a security guard for various companies, marinas and boatyards. He had a way around boats and either owned, operated or crewed on different types throughout his life. His love for the water included living on boats for most of his life before he moved recently to Pilot Cove, which he loved and was so thankful for.

He was a man of mystery and stories. One proud Bird story was finding a sunken sailboat off the south end of City Island in 80 feet of water with a single grappling hook after just 10 minutes. Many others had tried previously, using high tech equipment, but they could not find the boat, even after days of trying.


Bird would also tell of the story of his "ugly boat." He made a pile of dough leasing this small boat to a movie production company. In the process, the boat was damaged. Not only did he get cash for the use, but he also got two new boats.

His kindness and love for so many was demonstrated by his giving the shirt off his back or doing whatever he could. He would frequently donate food for events by catering them. Whether for a church, a wedding, a birthday, a funeral or whatever, he would just give. He made friends everywhere he went with his infectious personality, "quirks and all," and was dearly loved by many.

Pastor Dave of Trinity United Methodist Church told *The Current*: "Our friend, whom we knew as Captain Mike, served the church in many ways, including life-saving ways. We love our brother and God loves him." The church in return honored him with a luncheon in the church hall about two years ago.

He was predeceased by his parents, Daniel and Eloise, and two sisters. He leaves behind close friends he would lovingly call his family.

There will be a memorial service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m.



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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK									
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)									
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).									
HH = hours; MM = minutes					Tide chart by Tom Smith				
JUNE 2024									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0125	0.4	0658	7.5	1334	0.3	1938	8.3	Sat 01
02 Sun	0235	0.1	0816	7.5	1439	0.2	2041	8.7	Sun 02
03 Mon	0335	-0.3	0920	7.7	1537	0.1	2136	8.9	Mon 03
04 Tue	0430	-0.6	1015	7.8	1632	0.1	2226	9.0	Tue 04
05 Wed	0523	-0.7	1107	7.9	1724	0.1	2315	8.9	Wed 05
06 Thu	0613	-0.7	1157	7.9	1815	0.2			Thu 06
07 Fri	0003	8.7	0701	-0.6	1247	7.8	1903	0.4	Fri 07
08 Sat	1251	8.4	0747	-0.3	1335	7.7	1948	0.6	Sat 08
09 Sun	0137	8.1	0833	0.0	1423	7.5	2032	0.8	Sun 09
10 Mon	0224	7.7	0919	0.4	1512	7.3	2119	1.1	Mon 10
11 Tue	0313	7.4	1005	0.7	1602	7.2	2214	1.2	Tue 11
12 Wed	0405	7.0	1050	0.9	1651	7.1	2312	1.3	Wed 12
13 Thu	0501	6.7	1132	1.1	1740	7.1			Thu 13
14 Fri	0009	1.4	0559	6.5	1209	1.3	1829	7.1	Fri 14
15 Sat	0107	1.3	0700	6.3	1245	1.4	1920	7.2	Sat 15
16 Sun	0202	1.2	0802	6.3	1331	1.5	2010	7.3	Sun 16
17 Mon	0254	1.0	0855	6.4	1422	1.4	2052	7.5	Mon 17
18 Tue	0341	0.8	0941	6.6	1508	1.3	2125	7.6	Tue 18
19 Wed	0423	0.5	1019	6.7	1551	1.2	2156	7.8	Wed 19
20 Thu	0503	0.3	1052	6.9	1633	1.1	2231	8.1	Thu 20
21 Fri	0541	0.1	1123	7.1	1717	0.9	2312	8.3	Fri 21
22 Sat	0619	0.0	1159	7.3	1803	0.7	2357	8.5	Sat 22
23 Sun	0658	-0.2	1241	7.4	1850	0.5			Sun 23
24 Mon	0045	8.6	0739	-0.2	1327	7.6	1939	0.4	Mon 24
25 Tue	0135	8.6	0823	-0.2	1416	7.8	2032	0.4	Tue 25
26 Wed	0228	8.4	0911	-0.2	1509	8.0	2132	0.4	Wed 26
27 Thu	0324	8.2	1004	-0.1	1605	8.1	2244	0.4	Thu 27
28 Fri	0425	7.9	1101	0.1	1705	8.3			Fri 28
29 Sat	0001	0.4	0532	7.5	1202	0.2	1809	8.4	Sat 29
30 Sun	0114	0.3	0646	7.3	1311	0.4	1918	8.4	Sun 30
JULY 2024									
01 Mon	0221	0.1	0803	7.2	1421	0.5	2026	2026	Mon 01
02 Tue	0321	-0.1	0909	7.3	1525	0.5	2125	8.6	Tue 02
03 Wed	0417	-0.3	1005	7.5	1622	0.5	2219	8.6	Wed 03
04 Thu	0509	-0.4	1057	7.6	1716	0.4	2309	8.5	Thu 04

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Stewartia pseudocamellia

Small Trees

This spring a good friend invited me to go to a plant sale at the famous “Stone Crop” garden in Cold Spring, New York. There were many great growers and nurseries displaying their horticultural offerings and so many wonderful plants for sale that it was difficult to choose. Aside from the fact that I have barely any room left in my garden to squeeze in another plant, I decided on a tree, among a few other delicacies. The tree I chose was a Stewartia pseudocamellia, which is one of the few small trees that have four seasons of interest, with maybe the most amazing bark in the horticultural kingdom. The bark is smooth and buff-colored with patches of ochre and brown. The leaves are flaming to reddish orange in the fall, and spring brings flowers that mimic a camellia, white with yellow anthers. It doesn’t get much better.

The presence and placement of a tree will do more to glorify your garden than any hardscape, or herbaceous border. The size and shape of a tree are significant but hardly as important as its seasonal interest, whether it can survive in your climate zone, and if your exposure to sun or part shade is correct for it.

Cornus kousa is another good example of a tree with multi-seasonal interest. The flowers bloom in early to mid-June after the abundance of spring flowers and flowering

trees has passed. It has many ivory-colored flowers that ripen to rosy red fruits in the fall. All summer the foliage of this 30-foot tree is deep green and resistant to dogwood fungus. Autumn sets its leaves ablaze in coral and ruby, and as it matures the bark exfoliates to a patchwork pattern. A good choice: it has four seasons and that is what you want. For something more delicate I would try the old standby, the Cornus florida, which is always comely in partial shade.

The crape myrtle is another stunner with patterned bark like the kousa and the stewartia. Billowing with conical flowers, it does its thing in August when no other trees are blooming, nor for that matter is little else unless you are flaunting annuals and asters.

A new tree for me is the Heptacodium, the seven sons tree. The bark looks as if someone artfully slivered it with a small hatchet in blond and russet tones. The blooms are wonderful, clustered and grape-like in pink or white. There is one opposite the library at the NYBG. It is very cool.

Japanese maples, of course, cannot be left out of the small tree category, and a trip to a good tree nursery to select a good variety will make your head spin. I love the ones that sport small leaves, and I truly appreciate the ones that are green, not red.

Many years ago, I planted a sergeant apple, and to be honest this may be my favorite, as it goes so well with the type of garden I love, which really is in the cottage style. The bark is nicely furrowed and with age it gets a good form, a bit twisted and wonky, which I like. Spring brings its white blossoms tinged with pink that fruit to charming clusters of tiny apples, which decorate the tree, and the birds love them. The leaves turn yellow and burnished orange in the fall. Like all small trees it reaches 25 feet or so, and because my space was not big enough to accommodate that, I kept it at a nice 10 to 12 feet by pruning it.

Last are the dwarf conifers, and there is a wealth of species and varieties from the diminutive Jean’s Dilly to ones that will grow slowly to 12 feet. There are nurseries that specialize in them and books to ponder.

So much for trees. I hope this gives you some ideas. Happy summer!

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

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND



The Circle of Life

The problem with the circle of life is the circle of life. A living thing has got to eat to stay that way, and that means other living things have got to pay the ultimate price. The osprey in Eastchester Bay, for example. Their comeback from the brink warms the heart; they were once considered endangered in New York State, and now they are not—but do they have to be so darn brutal to the fish they catch? Their peregrine falcon cousins aren’t. Unlike an osprey, your typical peregrine will kill its prey first before eating it. It is one of the reasons falconry became the sport of kings. It is also one of the reasons why the lion is called the king of the jungle.

No one can doubt that the circle of life has smiled upon mallards. Their survival instincts are second to none, which is why they are “the most widespread duck species on the planet.” And yet it was with a heavy heart indeed that we bore witness to the destruction of 13 mallard eggs that had been laid in our yard. We don’t know if it was the raccoons or the ravens, but somebody had a very full belly at the expense of 13 developing ducklings. A survival strategy that has served mallards well over time is to lay so many eggs at a time on the chance that at least some will survive.

It did not work out in this instance, but the numbers don’t lie: usually it does work.

Horseshoe crabs employ a similar strategy to ensure the survival of the species. And no one can doubt their success: horseshoe crabs have been on the planet for more than 300 million years! Laying 100,000 eggs in a cycle, as some females will sometimes do over a period of two or three May or June nights, is their not-so-secret secret. It is also no secret that the overproduction of horseshoe crab eggs ensures the survival of other, egg-dependent species. Take the Red Knot, for example. The 10,000-mile migration route of the Red Knot is integrally intertwined with the life cycle of the horseshoe crab. For thousands of years, this medium-sized shorebird has timed its epic migration to coincide with the egg laying that happens on specific beaches along the Delaware and New Jersey coast.

The buffleheads that migrate to and from our area every year are another story. As the food they eat migrates, so do they. That is why we can say with assurance that the bufflehead that has remained behind in the waters between Hunter and Twin Islands will not survive much longer. It is either sick or injured and will either starve or become some other animal’s meal. As we said at the top: the problem with the circle of life is the circle of life.



Island Current					June 2024		Tide Calendar	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
MAY H 12:58A L 7:44A H 1:38P L 7:46P	MAY H 1:46A L 8:29A H 2:26P L 8:36P	MAY H 2:37A L 9:20A H 3:19P L 9:33P	MAY H 3:33A L 10:18A H 4:17P L 10:40P	MAY H 4:35A L 11:20A H 5:20P L 11:20A	MAY L 12:00A H 5:42A L 12:26P H 6:27P	L 1:25A H 6:58A L 1:34P H 7:38P		
L 2:35A H 8:16A L 2:39P H 8:41P	L 3:35A H 9:20A L 3:37P H 9:36P	L 4:30A H 10:15A L 4:32P H 10:26P	L 5:23A H 11:07A L 5:24P H 11:15P	L 6:13A H 11:57A L 6:15P	H 12:03A L 7:01A H 12:47P L 7:03P	H 12:51A L 7:47A H 1:35P L 7:48P		
H 1:37A L 8:33A H 2:23P L 8:32P	H 2:24A L 9:19A H 3:12P L 9:19P	H 3:13A L 10:05A H 4:02P L 10:14P	H 4:05A L 10:50A H 4:51P L 11:12P	H 5:01A L 11:32A H 5:40P	L 12:09A H 5:59A L 12:09P H 6:29P	L 1:07A H 7:00A L 12:45P H 7:20P		
L 2:02A H 8:02A L 1:31P H 8:10P	L 2:54A H 8:55A L 2:22P H 8:52P	L 3:41A H 9:41A L 3:08P H 9:25P	L 4:23A H 10:19A L 3:51P H 9:56P	L 5:03A H 10:52A L 4:33P H 10:31P	L 5:41A H 11:23A L 5:17P H 11:12P	L 6:19A H 11:59A L 6:03P H 11:57P		
L 6:58A H 12:41P L 6:50P	H 12:45A L 7:39A H 1:27P L 7:39P	H 1:35A L 8:23A H 2:16P L 8:32P	H 2:28A L 9:11A H 3:09P L 9:32P	H 3:24A L 10:04A H 4:05P L 10:44P	H 4:25A L 11:01A H 5:05P	L 12:01A H 5:32A L 12:02P H 6:09P		
L 23	L 24	L 25	L 26	L 27	L 28	L 29		
Tide Calendar								
July 2024								
Island Current								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
JUNE L 1:14A H 6:46A L 1:11P H 7:18P	L 2:21A H 8:03A L 2:21P H 8:26P	L 3:21A H 9:09A L 3:25P H 9:25P	L 4:17A H 10:05A L 4:22P H 10:19P	L 5:09A H 10:57A L 5:16P H 11:09P	L 5:59A H 11:46A L 6:06P H 11:57P	L 6:46A H 12:34P L 6:52P		
H 12:42A L 7:29A H 1:18P L 7:34P	H 1:24A L 8:09A H 2:00P L 8:11P	H 2:03A L 8:44A H 2:39P L 8:44P	H 2:39A L 9:09A H 3:16P L 9:13P	H 3:14A L 9:23A H 3:49P L 9:50P	H 3:53A L 9:54A H 4:22P L 10:35P	H 4:36A L 10:35A H 4:59P L 11:26P		
L 5:24A L 11:21A H 5:42P	L 12:22A H 6:20A L 12:11P H 6:30P	L 1:34A H 7:33A L 1:07P H 7:26P	L 2:49A H 8:48A L 2:08P H 8:25P	L 3:44A H 9:37A L 3:09P H 9:19P	L 4:33A H 10:18A L 4:06P H 10:07P	L 5:19A H 10:58A L 5:00P H 10:55P		
L 14	L 15	L 16	L 17	L 18	L 19	L 20		
L 6:02A H 11:40A L 5:52P H 11:44P	L 6:44A H 12:26P L 6:43P	H 12:34A L 7:25A H 1:13P L 7:34P	H 1:25A L 8:07A H 2:01P L 8:28P	H 2:18A L 8:52A H 2:52P L 9:29P	H 3:13A L 9:41A H 3:46P L 10:39P	H 4:14A L 10:38A H 4:45P L 11:50P		
L 21	L 22	L 23	L 24	L 25	L 26	L 27		
H 5:21A L 11:43A H 5:50P	L 12:59A H 6:37A L 12:58P H 7:03P	L 2:05A H 7:53A L 2:11P H 8:16P	L 3:06A H 8:59A L 3:16P H 9:19P	L = Low Tide H = High Tide	Tide Calendar by Tom Smith Yellow = optimal swimming time			
L 28	L 29	L 30	L 31					

Island Current				August 2024				Tide Calendar			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
<div><div>SUMMER</div><div></div></div>											
L 6:25A H 12:15P L 6:36P	H 12:28A L 7:05A H 12:55P L 7:14P	H 1:05A L 7:38A H 1:30P L 7:46P	H 1:37A L 8:01A H 1:59P L 8:07P	H 2:02A L 8:08A H 2:22P L 8:27P	H 2:30A L 8:31A H 2:48P L 9:01P	H 3:04A L 9:07A H 3:22P L 9:42P					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
H 3:45A L 9:49A H 4:02P L 10:29P	H 4:32A L 10:37A H 4:48P L 11:22P	H 5:23A L 11:29A H 5:39P	L 12:21A H 6:22A L 12:26P H 6:37P	L 1:38A H 7:35A L 1:30P H 7:43P	L 3:06A H 8:53A L 2:41P H 8:51P	L 4:03A H 9:47A L 3:48P H 9:49P					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
L 4:52A H 10:33A L 4:47P H 10:40P	L 5:37A H 11:18A L 5:41P H 11:31P	L 6:19A H 12:04P L 6:34P	H 12:21A L 7:01A H 12:51P L 7:25P	H 1:12A L 7:42A H 1:39P L 8:18P	H 2:03A L 8:26A H 2:28P L 9:17P	H 2:58A L 9:16A H 3:22P L 10:24P					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
H 4:00A L 10:16A H 4:23P L 11:34P	H 5:11A L 11:32A H 5:34P	L 12:42A H 6:27A L 12:50P H 6:53P	L 1:47A H 7:40A L 2:01P H 8:07P	L 2:48A H 8:45A L 3:03P H 9:09P	L 3:43A H 9:40A L 3:58P H 10:01P	L 4:32A H 10:28A L 4:48P H 10:48P					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
Tide Calendar											
September 2024											
Island Current											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
L 5:18A H 11:11A L 5:33P H 11:29P	L 5:59A H 11:51A L 6:14P	H 12:08A L 6:34A H 12:26P L 6:50P	H 12:41A L 7:02A H 12:55P L 7:18P	H 1:07A L 7:13A H 1:14P L 7:32P	H 1:27A L 7:24A H 1:33P L 7:52P	H 1:52A L 7:53A H 2:02P L 8:24P					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
H 2:26A L 8:30A H 2:38P L 9:03P	H 3:07A L 9:13A H 3:20P L 9:50P	H 3:54A L 10:02A H 4:08P L 10:44P	H 4:47A L 10:56A H 5:03P L 11:45P	H 5:46A L 11:57A H 6:04P	L 12:59A H 6:56A L 1:05P H 7:13P	L 2:31A H 8:17A L 2:23P H 8:28P					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14					
L 3:32A H 9:19A L 3:36P H 9:31P	L 4:21A H 10:08A L 4:35P H 10:24P	L 5:06A H 10:53A L 5:29P H 11:14P	L 5:49A H 11:39A L 6:21P	H 12:04A L 6:32A H 12:26P L 7:12P	H 12:55A L 7:16A H 1:13P L 8:04P	H 1:47A L 8:01A H 2:03P L 9:01P					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
H 2:42A L 8:52A H 2:57P L 10:06P	H 3:46A L 9:58A H 4:01P	H 4:59A L 11:22A H 5:20P	L 12:22A H 6:12A L 12:37P H 6:39P	L 1:25A H 7:22A L 1:44P H 7:50P	L 2:24A H 8:24A L 2:44P H 8:50P	L 3:18A H 9:17A L 3:37P H 9:41P					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28					
L 4:05A H 10:03A L 4:25P H 10:25P	L 4:48A H 10:44A L 5:08P H 11:05P	Welcome Fall!									
29	30	Yellow = optimal swimming time									



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Judy McCormick at the Spring Fair held by the American Legion Auxiliary on April 27, 2024.

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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.



Eighth-grader Tabitha Del Pozzo will graduate from P.S. 175 in June 2024.

Very special happy 70th birthday wishes on June 23 to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families. We hope you enjoy your big day!

Congratulations to Tabitha Del Pozzo on your eighth-grade graduation from P.S. 175! We are so very proud of you. On to the next chapter! Love, Mom, Dad and Winston.

Happy birthday on June 18 to Robert Ruggiero, with love from your family.

God bless our son, Michael Dean DeCicco, who made his Confirmation in April. And best wishes to his brother, Daniel DeCicco, on his eighth-grade graduation. He will be attending Iona Prep in the fall. Love, Mom and Dad.

A big shout-out to Joe and Jake Penny, who both won "Pitcher of the Year" awards in baseball at Fordham Prep. Joe is in 10th grade and Jake is in 9th grade. Congratulations from your entire extended family. Good job!

Congratulations to Emma Riordan on your eighth-grade graduation. We are so proud of you and all your achievements. Love always, Mom, Dad, Thomas and Grace.

Wishing God's blessings on the nine children who received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. May this be the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

Bob Berent, former president of Temple Beth-El on City Island, received the Julien Y. Bernstein Distinguished Ser-



Photo by AGGIE PHOTOGRAPHY  
Islander Bob Berent received the Julien Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award on May 7, 2024.



Photo by SILVERFOX STUDIOS  
Islanders Vernon Baluyut and Christina Laponese were married on May 17, 2024.

vice Award from Julie Rockowitz of the Westchester Jewish Council on May 7. Bob was one of 22 honorees at the 29th annual event.

God's blessings on the 36 students from the OLA/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at OLA Church at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Espallat. May the Holy Spirit always be your guide.

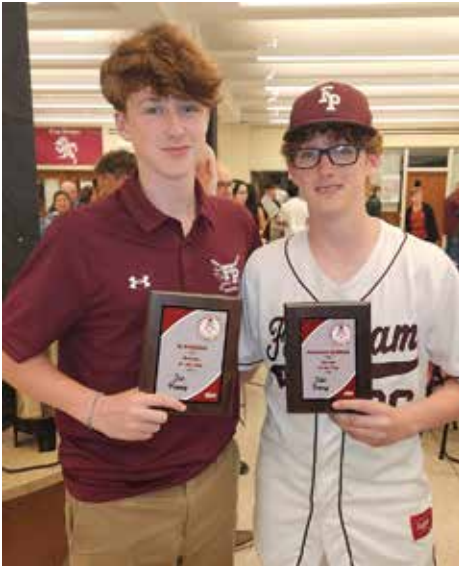
A very happy birthday on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld. Enjoy your special day!

Special birthday wishes to *The Island Current's* hardworking staffers, Ginger Dannegger and Rose Kolb, who celebrate on June 4 and Karen Nani and Margaret Lenz, who share a birthday on June 7.

Happy June 29 birthday greetings to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth with love from her family and friends. We hope you have a wonderful day!



Natalie Sophie Nani was baptized on May 19, 2024, at Grace Church and is shown above with her parents and godparents (l. to r.) Ann-Marie Lizarazo, Lorena and Mark Nani, and Roger Nani.



Congratulations to Joe and Jake Penny, who both won Pitcher of the Year awards at Fordham Prep.



Angelina Rose McCormick was born on March 15, 2024.



Congratulations to Daniel DeCicco on his graduation from P.S. 175.



Congratulations to Michael DeCicco on his confirmation in April.

Happy June birthdays to Judy Rauh and her brother, John Wright.

Happy first wedding anniversary in June to Alex and Ali Cebek. And happy 30th June birthday to Ali Cebek. We can't wait for the luau celebration. And happy second birthday to our beautiful Siena Cebek. With love from your family.

Welcome to the world Angelina Rose McCormick, who was born on March 15. Proud parents are Gerry and Roseanne McCormick and thrilled grandparents are Judy and Gerry McCormick and Roseanna and Bob Micelli.

Wedding bells rang for long-time Islanders Christina Laponese and Vernon Baluyut, who were married on May 17, 2024, at Jericho Terrace. Many City Islanders were in attendance to toast the happy bride and groom.

Blessings to Natalie Sophie Nani, who was baptized at Grace Church on May 19, 2024. Proud parents are Lorena and Mark Nani, and very proud older brother is Christopher Nani. Natalie's godparents are Roger Nani and Ann-Marie Lizarazo.

Maria Swieciki

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