

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## AMID CONTROVERSY, MIGRANT SHELTER WENT UP AND THEN CAME DOWN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photos by JAMES BREEN, BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI

Construction of a temporary shelter in the Orchard Beach parking lot began in Sept. 2022 in response to thousands of migrants arriving in New York City from Florida and Texas. Large tents began appearing in the north end of the parking lot (top photo, left). Islander concerns about flooding and safety were raised at a Civic Association meeting on Sept. 27 (top right). The remnants of Hurricane Ian led to heavy rains, large puddles and the deconstruction of the tents (bottom photos), which were relocated to Randall's Island.

On Sept. 22, 2022, Mayor Eric Adams announced the construction of a temporary shelter in the Orchard Beach parking lot in response to the “humanitarian crisis” of thousands of migrants being bused to New York City from Florida and Texas. The emergency center proposal was immediately met with numerous concerns, objections and protests from City Island and other nearby neighborhoods. In the end, it was the remnants of Hurricane Ian that led to the demise of the project and the relocation of the shelter.

Construction of large tents began quickly after the mayor’s announcement in the north end of the Orchard Beach parking lot (see aerial view). Islanders who regularly walk to and around Orchard Beach were surprised at the size and scope of the project, as were Parks Department employees, who were not consulted about the placement of the shelter.

“This doesn’t make sense,” resident Rose Kolb observed on one of her regular walks to the beautiful beach known historically as ‘the Bronx Riviera.’ “What about storms and flooding? I think a sturdy structure such as an armory would be more appropriate. That way they wouldn’t have to spend taxpayer money to put up all these tents, and the residents would be safer and

warm.”

By the time the Civic Association held its September meeting on Sept. 27, the tents were well on their way to completion. The tents were intended to provide shelter for more than 1,000 single asylum seekers, all men, on a temporary basis of up to four days. Cots would be lined up in rows, and services such as showers, medical support and legal information would be made available, according to statements from the Mayor’s office. Islanders were angry that no one representing the neighborhood was consulted about the plan, including the Civic Association, Community Board 10 and elected representatives, several of whom—including Borough President Vanessa Gibson, U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi and City Council member Marjorie Velázquez—spoke out to local media voicing their resistance to the plan.

Concerned residents at the Civic meeting posed many questions to Zach Ischol, Commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He had been planning to attend the meeting as a favor to City Council member Marjorie Velázquez. Unfortunately, he was unable to answer a number of questions, and he frustrated attendees by frequently saying “that’s

beyond my pay grade.”

Some of the questions asked by those at the meeting, which attracted well over 150 members of the community and several reporters for local television stations, included concerns about safety. “Will my daughter be safe walking home from school with undocumented adults coming to City Island unsupervised?” “How do we know that these asylum seekers aren’t the ones released from prisons in Venezuela by the president, Nicolás Maduro Moros?” “Will we be allowed access to the park while the tents are occupied?”

Commissioner Ischol was able to confirm that special transportation for the migrants would be made available, rather than public transportation, and that National Guardsmen would be on duty. He did note, however, that the asylum seekers would be free to walk away from the park without supervision.

One longtime resident attended the Civic meeting and was interviewed the next day by Bronx 12 News during a walk over to Orchard Beach. She looked at the sizeable construction site and said this: “It’s hurricane season and the beach parking lot floods. We understand there need to be emergency shelters, but I am not sure how warm the people would be in ‘climate controlled’ tents. We also need to know that everyone is going to be safe if it is built at Orchard Beach. Will the people staying there be safe if there are storms? Will residents of City Island be safe who like to walk over to Orchard Beach? And who will be supervising the whole operation to make sure it is secure? There was a lack of information from the OEM commissioner at the meeting.”

At a City Council hearing on Friday,

Oct. 2, Council members voiced their concerns about the selection of Orchard Beach to the OEM Commissioner, and the following day, a protest against the project was hastily organized at Orchard Beach, where several Islanders voiced their concerns. Some residents expressed their sympathy for the asylum seekers by collecting donated clothing and other items that might be needed while they were living in the tents.

However, the overwhelming concern for both Islanders and elected officials was the fact that Orchard Beach was not a good choice for such an encampment largely because it is isolated from public transportation and the parking lot frequently floods, even in minor rainstorms. Jimmy McGowan summed up what many residents felt. “All they had to do was ask three longtime Islanders, who would have told them that the Orchard Beach parking lot frequently floods during rainstorms and nor’easters.” In fact, there were already large puddles visible during the tent construction left over from the rains late in September.

One reason for the flooding is, of course, the fact that the parking lot has only two drains, one of which does not have a check valve so that the rain has nowhere to go but fill up the lot. And during excessively high tides and winds, salt water can come from Long Island Sound. One Islander pointed out to *The Current* that in 2019 an attendant at the parking lot toll booth told her that all of the electrical wiring in the booths had been replaced because of salt-water damage.

The remnants of Hurricane Ian dealt the final blow to the shelter project. Having caused major damage to Florida’s west coast on Sept. 28 as a Category 4 storm, it

*Continued on page 3*

**BRIEFLY...**

**DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM,** sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, will provide a New York State Insurance Reduction Program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips, and those who complete the course will receive a reduction of about 10 percent off the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years. The course will be held at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway. The cost is \$30. To register, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

**THE MANOR CLUB OF PELHAM** is holding its 2022 Holiday Boutique, three great days of holiday shopping, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jewelry, knife-sharpening service, clothing, gift items, wine accessories and much more. The club is located at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham. Admission is \$5, good for three days of shopping. Free parking. Don't miss it!

**112<sup>TH</sup> CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS DINNER DANCE** will be held at the Harlem Yacht Club on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 7 to 11 p.m., honoring Jerry Landi, Sue Kawczynski, the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156, the Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir, and A Taste of Italy. Tickets are \$85 per person; for reservations, call 718-885-9100.

**CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING ON CITY ISLAND.** A community Thanksgiving service for the religious congregations of City Island will be held on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. And on Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at Trinity United Methodist Church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Then kick off the holiday season with the lighting of the tree in Hawkins Park at 7:30 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY, NOV. 8:** Be sure to vote on Election Day at P.S. 175 at 200 City Island Avenue. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and the P.T.A. will hold an election day sale, including coffee, muffins and bagels, and featuring raffles, a 50/50 drawing and school merchandise for sale. The school will be closed to students on Nov. 8.

**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September and October 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 3 – ASSAULT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – MISSING PERSON
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Sept. 16 to Oct. 13, 2022.

9/28/22 – Police received a report of harassment at 11:30 a.m. on Cross Street. An off-Island male, 65, told police that the long-term partner of his recently deceased brother made verbal threats to cause bodily harm to complainant, causing fear and annoyance.

10/1/22 – On Earley Street at 10 p.m., an off-Island male parked his vehicle and upon return found that it had been hit by a vehicle that caused damage to his vehicle. The driver of the minivan had left the location on foot, leaving his minivan unattended.

10/3/22 – At 8 p.m. on Bay Street, an Island male, 35, returned to his vehicle and found that property had been removed by unknown person in an act of petit larceny.

10/3/22 – An incident of grand larceny was reported at 8:30 p.m. on Ditmars Street. A male Islander told police that, through video surveillance, he saw two unknown males take an e-bike without permission or authority to do so. Both perpetrators fled the scene.

10/4/22 – At 7:30 p.m. on Deepwater Way, an Island female reported that items were taken by two unknown perpetrators. Complainant states video footage shows defendants removing items and leaving the location without permission or authority to do so in an act of petit larceny.

10/5/22 – On Bowne Street at 6:22 p.m., an Island female reported an incident

of harassment. Complainant states that the defendant said "give me back my stuff," which caused the complainant to be annoyed and alarmed since she had not seen the defendant in over three years.

10/8/22 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 61, at 10:11 p.m. on Paulis Place and charged him with assault. An Island male, 14, stated he was playing hide and seek when the defendant yelled at him because he was sitting next to his vehicle, which was in the driveway. Defendant chased complainant and punched him in the nose, causing nosebleed.

10/10/22 – At 7:30 a.m. on Pilot Street, an Island male, 75, was reported missing. Reporter states that the missing male, who suffers from dementia, left home and did not return. He has difficulty walking and has a blue walker. The male was found at St. Barnabas Hospital on 10/11/22.

10/10/22 – Police arrested two Island males, ages 31 and 60, at 4:57 p.m. on Minneford Avenue and charged both with assault. The first complainant states that while he was walking to his residence, the defendant's dog attacked him, making the complainant push the dog away and film incident. Complainant further states defendant then came out and pushed complainant up against a wall and began punching him in the face. The second complainant said that he approached the defendant who was filming his dog. Defendant became irate when complainant questioned him about the video recording and pushed complainant against wall and punched him on his body. He sustained visible marks and complained of pain.

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Photos by RUSSELL HEATH and KAREN NANI

After the shelter tents went up in Orchard Beach parking lot in September (top photo), they were dismantled the next month and all that remained by Oct. 11 were the skeletons of the tents and the puddles from the remnants of Hurricane Ian (bottom photo).

### OB Migrant Shelters

Continued from page 1

made landfall again in South Carolina on Sept. 30 as a Category 1 storm. After that it weakened, and gale-force wind and flood warnings went up for states along the East Coast, including New York. Leftover rain and wind began on Saturday, Oct. 2, in City Island and increased over the weekend. By the time the rains subsided, there were giant puddles in the Orchard Beach parking lot all around the shelter tents.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the mayor's office finally realized what many City Islanders had predicted. Orchard Beach was not safe or appropriate for the shelter. In a statement, the Mayor said, "Following the weekend storms, New York City Emergency Management determined that, while we would be able to put in place the necessary ponding mitigation measures, relocating the Orchard Beach humanitarian relief center to Randall's Island is the most efficient and

effective path forward, and work is underway to make this move."

So what went up came down, as the tents were dismantled on Oct. 5 and 6, as workers rushed to undo the massive worksite, although it is not clear whether or not the same tents will be used on Randall's Island. The Mayor gave the following reasons for the change: "This new location is less prone to flooding, is closer to public transportation, and will provide temporary respite to 500 asylum seekers. We expect this site to open in approximately the same timeframe as the originally planned location, and we continue to build out our options and explore additional sites as we handle this humanitarian crisis created by human hands."

So, for the moment, another strange chapter in City Island and Orchard Beach history closes. Robert Moses evicted one tent city in 1935, and in 2022, Mayor Adams evicted another. Or, as philosopher George Santayana put it, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

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Photo by RICK DEWITT

A fire broke out at this house on Schofield Street late Sunday night, Oct. 9, 2022. Firefighters reported the fire under control by 12:38 a.m. Everyone safely evacuated the building, although five firefighters were slightly injured and one of the family dogs ran off and has not been found, in spite of a widespread community search.



Photos by ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS

Saturday, Oct. 22, was bright and sunny, as the City Island Oyster Reef welcomed more than 30 organizations to display their goals and achievements at the second annual Viva la Sound environmental festival, held in Ambrosini Park next to P.S. 175. More than 475 people enjoyed live music, food donated by City Island restaurants, murals created at local schools and by artists on site, demonstrations by the NYC Fire Department and Captain Mike's Diving, and more, as they learned about the efforts being made by organizations dedicated to protecting the environment and combatting climate change.

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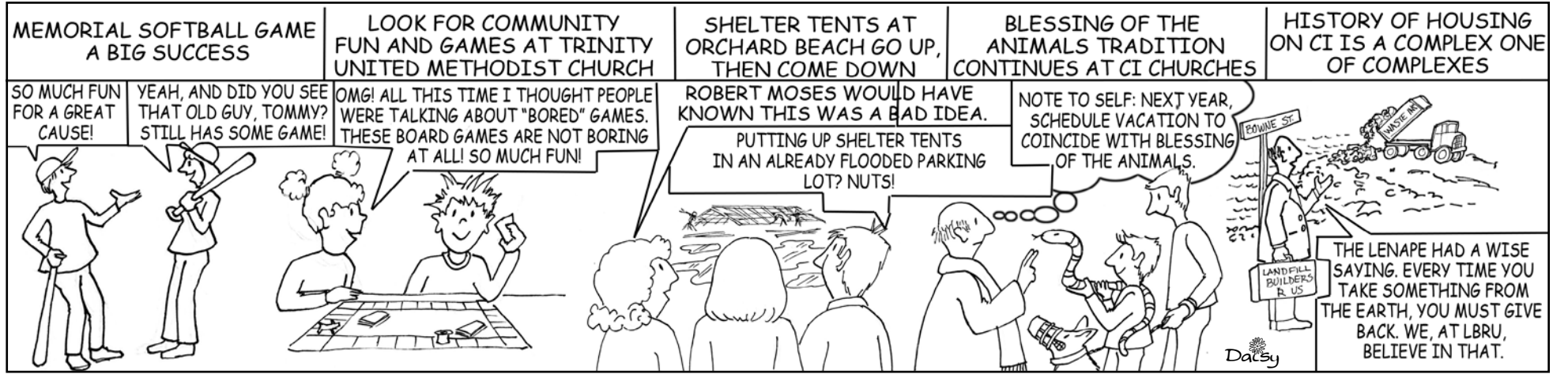
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**Changing Times on CI**

To the Editor:

I saw the article called "Tables for Two" in the August 22, 2022, of The New Yorker magazine, but not until yesterday had I stopped in to check out Seafood KingZ at 634 City Island Avenue. The proprietor, Daryl, is a wealth of information about food. He is gracious and so easy to speak to.

The New Yorker reviewer raved about the food. She came in with another and ordered all those dishes she mentions. Bliss! I want to be a restaurant reviewer when I grow up.

It was also interesting what Daryl said about being a black visitor to City Island in the 1980s. I recall that in the 1970s and 1980s we were not all that welcoming to people of color. Consider the number of families now, namely three households on Centre Street alone, whereas until about two years ago, there was not one.

Two of the little boys from these families are enrolled at P.S. 175. Their mom says they love it. In the early '70s, a black friend's daughter started kindergarten at P.S. 17 but was pulled out because she would come home crying, because she was teased constantly about her color. I think times have changed.

Meanwhile, *The Current* continues to do a wonderful job.

**Yvette Shandel**

*Editor's note:* Yvette Shandel wrote more than 70 cooking columns for *The Island Current*, starting in 1972.

**Thanks to The Current**

To the Editor:

Thank you for the sensitive obituaries in the October 2022 issue of *The Current*. Also, Barbara Dolensek's series on City Island housing helps me answer questions from visitors to the Island. Special thanks to the organizations that featured Spanish language and culture in their columns this past month.

**Gail Hitt**

**Fond Memories of CI**

To the Editor:

As a former City Islander now living in upstate New York, I look forward to receiving my monthly copy of *The Island Current*. I was especially happy with the September issue regarding "City Island Speaks Up" featuring Louie the Barber. He gave my son Raymond his very first hair cut 56 years ago. I still have one of his blond curls.

I would like to know if the City Island Theater Group is a spinoff of the old Patchwork Players group. I was happy to be in some of their plays.

On my next visit to the Island, I hope to visit the museum to watch the videos, especially the ship building parts, as my late father-in-law worked in one of the shipyards that built one of the America's Cup sailboats.

I still have a connection to the Island through my son and daughter-in-law, David and Kim, and my granddaughter, Mary Catherine.

Thank you for bringing back some very pleasant reminders.

**Mary Savarese**

*Editor's note:* Island Patchwork began in 1976 but disappeared by 1995. The City Island Theater Group was a separate group that held its first production, "Play On," in 2000, at Grace Episcopal Church, whereas Patchwork had performed at Trinity United Methodist Church.

**Relief Center at Orchard Beach**

*A copy of the following letter was received by The Current:*

To the Editor:

Moving the Humanitarian Relief Center (HERC) out of Orchard Beach to a location that better fits the needs of asylum seekers and the agencies that serve them is a direct result of teamwork and compassion on all levels. When the Orchard Beach location was brought to my attention, I immediately voiced my concerns to Mayor Adams and my colleagues; we took the time to have healthy discussions and find a solution that works for all parties.

I would like to thank the administration and the Office of Emergency Management for their partnership and for working with me to find a better HERC location. I hope this serves as a blueprint as to why it's important to have healthy conversations and partnerships, and what they can lead to in the future.

**Marjorie Velázquez, City Council Member, Bronx District 13**

## A Current Review

# Jordon Kelly: Digital Art on City Island

By JAMES McSHERRY



Photo by DON KELLY

The work of City Island resident artist Jordon Kelly was on exhibition this past summer at the City Island Gallery on the corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue.

City Island resident Jordon Kelly took center stage at the City Island Gallery this past summer with an exhibition that attracted a great deal of attention.

He is a digital artist who sees things differently than the rest of us, and this 22-year-old phenom is poised to take the art world by storm. His work is driven by the visual mysteries that haunt him—and, by extension, the rest of us. His artwork is archetypal and contemporary all at once.

Jordon is predominantly indigenous Mayan mixed with Spanish and Sub-Saharan African, and his work reflects those influences, as he examines the fractured urban culture of American youth.

Whether one views his iconic “Self-portrait” with a color palette and composition reminiscent of the neo-expressionist artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, or studies his dissected portrait of Kanye West, entitled “Split Personality,” one cannot escape the gravitational pull of what’s beneath the surface of these works. Jordon’s talent, much like Andy Warhol’s, enables the viewer to see pop culture, fame and the cult of personality through a unique lens. Although the viewer is tempted to make associations with other artists, Jor-

don is not derivative in his approach, and his style is definitely unique. The more one studies his art, the more profound it becomes.

It speaks to his prodigious talent that he sold out most of his paintings on the first day of the exhibition at the Gallery. A couple from Brooklyn wandered in and asked how a Basquiat painting could be hanging on a wall in a quaint gallery on City Island.

While he was being interviewed by a local television station, Jordon said that he had put his passion for music temporarily aside when he discovered his love of graphic art, freeing himself to explore his other talents. In fact, that was his advice to other young artists: “Just be yourself, dress how you like, do what makes you happy and don’t worry so much about what other people think. Just create.” Like all great art, Jordon Kelly’s creations leave the viewer with more questions than answers.

This is Jordon Kelly’s world. Keep an eye out for his next show. The City Island Gallery, owned and curated by Egypt Blanco, is located at 236 City Island Avenue.

# The Family Tree

By KAREN NANI



Photo courtesy of THE OWENS FAMILY

Owens Tree Service, which specializes in pruning, trimming and tree removal, was founded in 1959 by Robert Owens. The business is now run by his sons, Steven and Dennis, shown above with their father (left) in 1983.

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

The Owens brothers on City Island give new meaning to charting the family tree. Dennis and Steven have continued the business started by their father, Robert, in 1959: Owens Tree Service, which specializes in pruning, trimming and tree removal.

The founder, who passed away in 2016, always loved forestry and trees. “My father worked for the Forestry Division of the New York City Parks Department. He started Owens Tree Service on Schofield Street and eventually made it the largest tree service in New York City,” Dennis told *The Current*.

The local company was awarded contracts with New York City and, with an expanded staff of 25, pruned almost 4,000 trees in Staten Island and 2,700 in the Bronx each year. During the 1980s, many Island friends of the Owens family worked for the business, which continued to be based on City Island.

Times changed and so did Owens Tree Service. Beginning about 20 years ago, Dennis and his brother moved the business toward the private sector and trimmed the staff to the current size, nine employees operating ten trucks. The company now focuses on serving the Bronx and Manhattan.

This presents new challenges to the 63-year-old family-owned and family-run business. “In Manhattan, there is no access to many of the trees, so we have to work in tight situations,” Dennis explained. They can’t get the cherry picker trucks near many of the tree sites, so a lot of the trimming has to be done manually from ladders.

Dennis was asked about the sad state of many City Island street trees and “the

ridiculous-looking results of some of the tree trimming” to accommodate the numerous power, cable TV and internet lines (see Sights and Sounds in the September 2022 issue of *The Current*). Owens Tree Service no longer has the contract with New York City, and he wondered why the current contractor would “butcher the center of a tree and not prune the sides.”

Meanwhile, Dennis is involved in a number of charitable projects on City Island. “I believe in unity in community. Because we are a small Island, we have to stick together.” This includes advertising in *The Island Current*, which Owens Tree Service has done for more than 30 years.

He is on the board of Trinity United Methodist Church, but he has also answered calls made by several clergy from different houses of worship over the years. “We helped Fr. Challinor from St. Mary, Star of the Sea with repair of the steeple and waterproofing the church. My brother Steven was married at St. Mary’s in 2007.” With help from a donation in memory of Richie DePierro, Dennis will help build a new kitchen at Trinity.

He is also active at the Morris Yacht Club, which he calls “the hidden jewel of City Island for 90 years” and has helped out the City Island Community Center.

Over the years, Owens Tree Service became a local household name. “We were often called ‘the tree guys from City Island, the father and two sons!’” Dennis is proud to be associated with the family brand, and he and his brother plan to keep it going. Steven’s son is now working in the business so the next branch of the family tree is already taking root.

If your trees need pruning or removal, give Dennis or Steven a call at 718-885-0914 or check out their website at [www.OwensTrees.com](http://www.OwensTrees.com).

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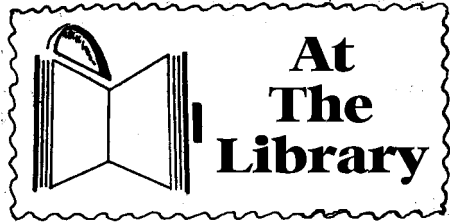
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Photo by MATT PANZA

The restoration of the 9/11 mural on Carroll Street was completed in October 2022, 21 years after the original was painted (see story in October 2022 issue of *The Current*).



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**NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**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.

**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.

**Books and Bites:** Every week, come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! Our current book is "Before the Ever After" by Jacqueline Woodson. Ages 10 to 14. Mondays from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

**Spanish Storytime:** It is Spanish story time! Gather your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun! / ¡Tiempo de Lectura para niñxs! ¡Media hora de cuentos cortos, rimas, música, y diversión! First come, first served. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

**Saturday Storytime:** Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite

read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Ages: birth to 4. Saturday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m.

**NOVEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Twisted Stitches:** A teen/tween knitting, crochet and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Thursday, Nov. 10 and 17, at 3 p.m.

**Start Up:** Getting into the workforce? Stop by to learn about resumé preparation, how to hunt for jobs and how to think about what type of job sounds like the right fit for you. For ages 16 to 24. Saturday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m.

**Teen Unwind:** Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m.

**College Essays:** Nov. 4.

**Lenape Creation Myth:** Learn about and create art based off of the creation myths of the Lenape Tribe! Nov. 18.

**Unplug & Relax:** Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles, coloring pages and anything else without a screen. Nov. 25.

**NOVEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Introduction to Computers:** Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, Nov. 3 and 17, at 11 a.m.

**Adult Coloring:** Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m.

**Spanish Café: Online Advanced Spanish Conversation Hour:** This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and other exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself.

Coffee or tea encouraged! Every Wednesday at 4 p.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 next. Monday, Nov. 7 and 21, 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.

**Writing Workshops with Orlando Ferrand: In the Eye of the Story:** The City Island Library is delighted to join forces with New York Writers Workshop to present a series of in-person writing workshops for this year's National Novel Writing Month! Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. Please note there will be no class on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

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 VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

It was beautiful weather for the annual Legion Pumpkin Sale from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2022. Volunteers made sure everyone left with gorgeous gourds and a smile (top photo, l. to r.): John Ulmer Jr., John Ulmer Sr., Bob Hamje, Joe Goonan, Betty Proietti, Carol Mennona, Peggy Shipp, Keith Shipp and Betty Jordan.

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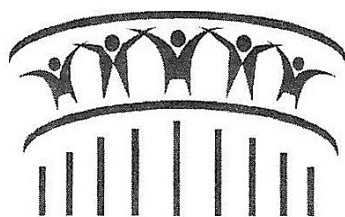
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# Coops and Condos and Complexes, Oh My!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

These photographs show waterfront sites on City Island that were once devoted to ship building and sail making. The picture at the upper right shows United Boatyard, now the location of the Boatyard condominiums, and the one below shows the Ratsey and Laphorn sail loft before it became the Sallmaker Condominium. The scene above shows the east end of Marine Street, which was once the B.F. Wood boatyard and later Triboro Marine but is now an empty lot. Seabreeze Estates planned a condominium development for many years, most recently as 41 degrees north, and though zoning permits were obtained, nothing has been constructed.

During World War II, the number of workers in the boatyards that constructed military vessels increased greatly, and many of them chose to live on City Island, even when the boat business declined after the war. But the small-town character of the Island began to attract residents from the inner city, including police, firefighters and teachers, as well as those who wanted to live on the water and commute off the Island to work. By the 1960s, the demand for new housing led to a number of building projects that were dramatically different from what City Island had ever anticipated. Residents, clam diggers and mussel suckers alike, who appreciated the village became concerned that the very qualities that made the Island unique would become lost, and in January 1977, the Department of City Planning responded by establishing a Special City Island District that limited building heights to 35 feet/three stories in residential zones. The following history of City Island housing development reveals what led up to this.

## Apartment Complexes

City Island saw the construction of a few low-rise apartment buildings before World War II, such as the brick buildings across the street from P.S. 175 that likely housed workers at the Nevins Yacht Yard when it was in that location. However, the Island's first large apartment complex was Pickwick Terrace, a seven-story building constructed in the early 1960s on the waterfront at the west end of Pilot Street. A reporter for the New York Times suggested that the building was originally intended to appeal to boating enthusiasts but concluded that even if the building did not bring about sudden change, it was possible that the "pace and tone" of the Island could change. In 1975, tenants briefly discussed the possibility of converting the building to a cooperative but nothing came of that idea, and it remains a building of 79 rental units, owned by Kramluap, a real estate company cleverly named for its principals, Paul and Mark Gjonaj.

In 1955, the Mitchell-Lama program was signed into law to offer incentives for private developers to invest in affordable housing, and within a decade, a plan was developed to construct Co-op City in the marshland north of City Island. This brought a new kind of housing to the Bronx, and to this day it remains the largest cooperative development in the world, with about 50,000 residents living in more than 15,000 apartments in 35 high-rise buildings and 7 town-house clusters.

In 1974, shortly after Co-op City was completed, a representative of Starrett City, a major housing project in Brooklyn funded through Mitchell-Lama, came to City Island to propose the construction of a middle-income development in the Muhlfeld property between Tier and Ditmars Streets (known locally as the Tier Street Lot). The proposal was to construct eight buildings as high as four stories containing 166 units, but

the project was dropped when the developer could not obtain Mitchell-Lama funding.

Although the landmark building at 190 Fordham Street was a school from 1898 to 1975, it became an apartment building in 1988 when Haim Joseph purchased the building from the city and converted old classrooms into 16 apartment units. The terms of the sale required that the owner give 99-year leases to the City Island Nautical Museum and the Community Center, and in 2000, the building was converted to a condominium called Nautical Winds.

In 1990, Islanders noticed that east Cross Street was being lengthened by several hundred feet, thanks to landfill, much of it allegedly occurring late at night, and in 1993 several apartments were constructed on the new peninsula by developer and real estate broker Les Lerner, as The Moorings on City Island, Inc. Some residents of the development have purchased their apartments, but the Moorings continues to own a number as rental properties.

## Condominiums

Although the concept of condominium, a building divided into units that are separately owned and surrounded by jointly owned common areas, originated as early as the first century B.C., the first condominium on City Island wasn't proposed until 1979. A zoning change had been requested that year by the owner of Clipper Marina (formerly United Boatyard) so she could sell the property at the east end of Carroll Street for the construction of a new housing development. In 1979, the two developers, Artemas Crimmins and William Barnum of Greenwich, CT, presented to the City Island Civic Association their plan for a corporation called The Boatyard, which would involve the construction of 70 condominium apartments, along with a tennis court and a marina.

The project required demapping the east end of Carroll and Schofield Streets and part of Fordham Place, plus rezoning from manufacturing to commercial, and the developers had to jump through many bureaucratic hoops to get the development under way. City Islanders were divided in their response to the proposal, although an unofficial survey conducted by *The Island Current* in 1980 indicated that residents were in favor, largely because the site was a mess and because they feared unappealing future developments as boatyards went out of business. As one respondent put it, "The Island has already begun to be 'discovered.' The Island will be developed, no doubt about it. All the energy that might be used up in trying to slow up development should be mobilized and used to direct the development—rather than thwart it."

All of the Boatyard units were finally sold in 1986, after years of negotiations, controversy and repairs to the original structures, and for the most part the first condominium development on City Island can be considered a success. This has led to the



sale of a number of properties on the Island to builders who succeeded in changing the zoning or obtaining permits in order to construct large condominium developments, often in defiance of the community. One example is the condominium on east Bowne Street built in 2000 on landfill in spite of community resistance.

In 1984, the Muhlfeld property between Tier and Ditmars was sold to an Island resident named Robert Hopkins, who proposed building a condominium complex called Gull's Landing between Ditmars and Tier Streets. Perhaps because Islanders understood what a mess gulls make when they land, the project was not a popular one, and it came to naught, not because of the gulls but because Mr. Hopkins, who owned two million-dollar condominiums in Trump Tower, was charged in 1986 with murder and promoting a policy-numbers operation that earned \$500,000 a week in New York City. To pay his legal bills and fines, he sold his City Island properties, and the Tier Street lot was eventually sold at auction to developer Haim Joseph, who still owns the property, on which he has constructed one two-family house and plans to build four more. After much pressure from neighbors, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation declared part of the property tidal wetlands, which restricts the owner's ability to build near the water.

The Sailmaker Condominium at the east end of Schofield Street, in the building that originally housed Ratsey & Laphorn Sailmakers, has also had its share of controversy. In 1981, the building was bought by Steve Colgate of the Offshore Sailing School, and he sold it in 1988 to developer John De Rosa, who planned to replace the deteriorating dock with 50 boat slips, to be sold or rented as dockominiums or "boatels," and to offer apartments in the building for the temporary use of people using the slips. The property was zoned M-1 for manufacturing, which does not allow housing but does allow transient occupancy, and when The Sailmaker decided to convert to year-round permanent residences, it did not request a zoning change but a variance that many in the community thought would set a dangerous precedent. Controversy about the legality of such a development went on for some years, and eventually the property was converted to a commercial zone and the residence became legal.

Several condominiums, like 190 Fordham, began as rental housing. The Laurels

on Tier Street, for example, was built in the 1980s by Bob Borchers, owner of Thwaites Restaurant. He sold the property to the New York Zoological Society, which resold it to Haim Joseph, who resold it to a developer, who converted it to a condominium complex in 2019. Mr. Borchers, who was president of the Chamber of Commerce when Special District Zoning was put into effect in the 1970s, cleverly arranged to have a large piece of property opposite Thwaites designated residential so that he could build housing there. In spite of the fact that subsequent owners—Beechwood Homes, run by Cross Street's Les Lerner, and Haim Joseph—have obtained permits to construct up to 22 two-family houses on the site, dubbed Harbor Pointe, the property has served as a marina for the last half century with no end in sight. Mr. Joseph recently told *The Current* that he still plans to move ahead with the development once he has rebuilt the seawall, which has been in need of repair for several years.

Another non-starter is located at the east end of Marine Street, where a four-acre lot was purchased in 1988 by Sea Breeze Estates, which successfully managed to demap the street and obtain permits to build a condominium complex with 72 units. Although the number of units has diminished over the years, most recently offering 32 apartments in two large buildings, no construction has begun and the entire lot is now listed for sale at \$4.5 million.

When International Underwater Contractors at the east end of Fordham Street on the old site of the Hawkins shipyard closed up shop in 2001, a developer named Tony Errico purchased the property, where, as City Island Estates, he planned to build 38 buildings with 76 condominium units. A few years later, working with Pulte Homes, the number of buildings was reduced to 44 units in 22 buildings. The application for a zoning change from manufacturing to commercial was submitted in 2006, but Pulte withdrew from the project. Two years later, Mr. Errico obtained permits to build 23 buildings but the project was put on hold until 2011 when he sold a share of his holdings to Greystone, a real estate development group, which built 43 units in 34 redesigned buildings and named the project On the Sound, built 43 units in 34 buildings, all of which have sold.

## Cooperatives

Much earlier in this article, we learned about the largest cooperative residential development in the world—Co-op City—but

*Continued on page 11*

## 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.

### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 6, at 12 noon. Dues for the 2023 year are \$55; please mail them in as soon as possible or drop them off at the Post. Make sure your name is on the envelope.

The hall is available for your next event. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

Please visit the *Leonardhawkins-post156.com* website to find the latest community information and downloadable flyers of veteran events.

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

Please note the following dates and upcoming events:

Nov. 6: Regular Post Meeting at 12 noon

Nov. 8: Election Day, Get-Out-The-Vote!

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

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

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

Nov. 13: Bronx Veterans Day Parade forms up at East Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Avenue at 12 noon. We will step off under the Bronx County banner.

Nov. 24: Happy Thanksgiving to all.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

### AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Our holiday dinner will be at the Lobster House on Wednesday, Dec. 7; payment of \$55 is due at our Nov. 10 meeting. We will not be having a December meeting. The next meeting after the new year will be on Jan. 12, 2023.

Joyce Kennedy

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street.

New to Grace: We have the pleasure of announcing that a new Priest, Father Kevin Moroney, is now presiding over our worship services. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m., and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: The religious congregations of City Island will join together on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m.

at Grace Episcopal Church for a Community Thanksgiving Service. Everyone is invited to attend!

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, we will be skipping November and having our next meeting on Sunday, Dec. 11. All are welcome.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School are preparing for special services, such as the Christmas Pageant to be held on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve). We will also begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrnl@optonline.net](mailto:karenrnl@optonline.net).

The GraceTones are in rehearsal for upcoming shows at The Artist and the Harlem Yacht Club. We are seeking male tenor and bass singers. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com) or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

### City Island Republicans

This is a big election, and we have a full slate of candidates. Please get out and vote. Polls are open on Election Day from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. at P.S. 175. Besides the national and statewide candidates, John Greaney is running an active campaign for New York State Assembly, and Samantha Zherka is actively pursuing the State Senate seat. Lucy Locorotondo is once again running for Bronx Civil Court.

Fred Ramftl

### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity has been blessed for more than a century in being able to host innumerable community programs, events and celebrations. From Scouts to Seniors; 12-Step Programs and Blood Drives; Picnics, Youth Programs, and the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner—the list of groups and individuals who have been welcomed to Trinity's facilities is long and joyful.

And these same groups and individuals—the entire City Island community—have always given Trinity the generous support that allowed us to provide a community home for everyone.

Unfortunately, for several months we have been unable to fully offer the facilities needed. Due to conditions that presented a possible danger, we had to remove the kitchen stove, and at this point the 50-plus-year-old kitchen is in real need of modernization.

We are asking the community to once again help Trinity continue our role as partner in the life of City Island. With your financial assistance, we will be able to implement badly needed renovations—so please help us “close” the kitchen (for approximately 1 month) so we can then re-open it fully, going forward in service and ministry.

Donations by mail: Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464. Electronic giving through “Givebut-ter” <https://givebutter.com/trinity>.

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, Our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.), and our



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Longtime Legionnaire and veteran Joseph Goonan was presented with a Quilt of Valor on Oct. 16, 2022. The quilt was designed by the Quilters by the Sea, shown above with Joe, who meet regularly at the Hawkins Post 156. It is registered with the national QOV organization and is the 300,000th quilt presented to veterans across the country.

Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for all.

The greater focus of the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) is on how each of us is being gifted by God's Spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If

you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Dave and Trinity United Methodist Church

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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.

Hello Islanders. We hope everyone is enjoying the autumn weather. We have begun our annual membership drive and hope that our existing members will renew their membership. We also look forward to new members joining us for the year. Look out for membership forms coming your way.

Below please find our Fall 2022 programming schedule:

**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 a.m. to 12 noon. 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.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga & Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Angela Taylor at 914-484-2527.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Troop leader is Melissa Rosado-Taveras; 347-739-2076.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Happy November,

**Cheryl Riordan**

### 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 at Vigil Saturday evening at 5:15 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

We begin the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts: the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) and the Commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2).

**Religious Education Program:** During the week of Thanksgiving the Religious

Education banners will be hung in the church. We are very grateful and thankful for everyone's commitment to the program.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come take a look around.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Nov. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Let us give thanks together as a community of faith for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. All are invited to attend.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop. Come take a look. You will be sure to find great gifts.

**Rosette Dietz**

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 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. During this Covid period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only; however, some are taking 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 we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. Proof of vaccination is required for all in-person events. A schedule can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for November 2022:

**GALA FUNDRAISER JUBILEE,** Sunday, Nov. 13, 1 to 5 p.m. Honoring Jodie Sadovsky and Phyllis Maucieri; TBE Band and Lay Leaders Bob Berent, Shari Berkowitz, Jim Colbert, Stu Goldstein, Leslie Lichtman-Berland and Monty Renov at Split Rock Golf Club, 870 Shore Road. Champagne Brunch, DJ, Silent Auction (Please check our website, [yourshulbythesea.org](http://yourshulbythesea.org), for registration and to enter a journal ad to support your business and/or the honorees.)

**Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services:** (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Nov. 4, with Stu and guests (online only)

Nov. 11, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online) Special session: Israel report

Nov. 18, with Shari and Monty (online only)

Nov. 25, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

**Saturday Morning SoulSpa:** Spiritual Learning of Torah with Kabbalah: (10 a.m. start, online), with Rabbi David. No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

**Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy(ish) Way:** (Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., beginning Nov. 8, online)

Take a deep dive into the foundation of the siddur (Jewish prayerbook). Very basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet required. Check our website to register and for instructions on required reading. Class will run through January, with some breaks.

**Tuesday Morning Meditation:** (10 to 10:30 a.m., online). A calming way to start the day. With Tenzin

**Multi-Faith Thanksgiving and Food Drive:** (Sunday, Nov. 20, at the Parish Hall of Grace Episcopal Church. Join Rabbi

David and all City Island houses of worship (Father John, Pastor Dave, Rev. Kevin) for a gathering of gratitude, music, worship and fellowship. Funds to support Trinity's Food Pantry.

**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, Acting President; Shari Berkowitz, Acting Vice-President**

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Watch for our half price and bag sales. Our Christmas Fair will be on Dec. 3 and 4 in both the Thrift Shop and the school gym from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hope to see you soon.

**Arlene Byrne**

### PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island Center is fully open so why not stop by the center at Grace Church parish hall on City Island Avenue near Pilot Street and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Health Department which means a face covering is mandatory.

Good news! We have a new technology instructor—Julio Melo-Ramos. He will be at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and a formal tablet training class in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Sign up for the next training class which starts on Monday, Nov. 7. This class will focus both on tablets and iPhones. 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 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could possibly benefit from this program.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates.

### Special Events in November

Starting, Friday, Nov. 11, Napat returns to the Center to lead the Singing Group

Thursday, Nov. 10, 12:30 p.m.: Representative from NYC Dept. Of Consumer & Worker Protection presenting on Consumer Scams.

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

### The Current Schedule

#### Monday

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

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays  
1 to 2:30 p.m. Tablet Training Course (must be pre-registered)

#### Tuesday

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

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote

and in person)

11 a.m. Board Games

1:15 p.m. Bingo Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

#### Wednesday

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

10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Fiftiesville Cars, Celebrities and their Cars or European Castles

#### Thursday

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

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays and/or Music with Don

#### Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Danny Durr (in person and remote)

10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction with staff

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 Singing Group with Napat returns Nov. 11

NOTE: The Center is open on both Election Day and Veterans Day. Be sure to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8. PSS City Island Center wishes to thank our veterans for their time, bravery and sacrifice for this country!

The Center is closed two days in November—Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for Thanksgiving. We wish everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Face masks are to be worn at all times and the windows will remain open to circulate air.

Stay safe and healthy.

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

### Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club is planning to remove the plants from our containers on City Island Avenue and replace them with winter greenery at the end of November. We have also put in an order for wreaths to distribute to our public spaces in December.

Our October meeting featured the second in a series of presentations by New York Botanical Garden instructor Jennifer Cappello-Ruggerio. This series of talks comes from the NYBG Fundamentals of Gardening course. The October presentation focused on what we can do for our gardens in the fall. She reminded us to keep the fall leaves in our gardens as mulch as we do the fall clean-up in order to reduce temperature swings in the ground and protect the plant roots as they go dormant. The leaves will break down and provide nutrients to the soil; they can also be mulched in the lawn by running over them with a lawn mower.

She advised that we not rush to remove dead flowers, which can provide winter interest and food for birds. Fall can also be a good time to divide plants and install new ones, and of course is the perfect time to plant bulbs for flowers next spring and summer. Adding a layer of compost in the fall is a great idea; it can go over the mulch and will seep into the soil with winter rain and snow. Don't forget to remove any weeds, especially flowering ones to make weeding easier in the spring.

Jennifer's next presentation will be at our December meeting. These presentations are open to the public. All are welcome!

We thank all of you who contribute to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. 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 or being a Helping Hand for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, and we will have a flower-arranging demonstration by Nancy White of the Flower Bar in Larchmont.

**Judy Judson**

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### Denzel's Best: Part 2 (2000 to the present)

**Remember the Titans** (2000) is an exhilarating and moving film with outstanding acting about a high school in Alexandria, VA, that was integrated for the first time in 1971, including the football team. Both coach Boone (Denzel Washington) and coach Yoast (Will Patton) are challenged to get the white and black players to work together. A young Ryan Gosling appears as one of the players on the team.

Denzel Washington won his one Best Actor Oscar for his role in **Training Day** (2001) as the corrupt and brutal LAPD Narcotics Detective Alonzo Harris, who spends a day evaluating rookie Jake Hoyt (Ethan Hawke, nominated for Supporting Actor) on the streets of the urban jungle of Los Angeles. Harris keeps us constantly uncertain as to his true intentions: Is he simply teaching Jake how to survive on the streets? Does he have something more nefarious in mind? That sense of never knowing where we stand with this character makes this a riveting, high-wire act of a performance. I saw the film when it was first released, and I watched it again for this review. Although Denzel gives an absolutely stellar performance and truly deserved the Oscar win, I disliked the character so vehemently that I can't really recommend the film.

The story of the making of **Antwone Fisher** (2002) is almost as interesting as the film itself, because the real Fisher wanted the film made from the screenplay he himself wrote based on his autobiography "Finding Fish." Newcomer Derek Luke is outstanding in the title role of a young Navy man whose terrible bouts of temper have him sent to the base psychiatrist, Dr. Jerome Davenport (Denzel). The screenplay by the real Antwone Fisher about his history of abuse so impressed Denzel that he chose it for his directorial debut. Also on hand is Joy Bryant as Cheryl, another sailor and Antwone's love interest, who helps him learn what normalcy can be. This is an extremely moving film of a man whose triumphant spirit is a true inspiration.

In **Man on Fire** (2004), Denzel plays John Creasy, a despondent, alcoholic former CIA SAD/SOG officer (and U.S. Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance captain) who is convinced by his friend Paul Rayburn (Christopher Walken) to take the job as a bodyguard for nine-year-old Lupita "Pita" Ramos (Dakota Fanning) in Mexico City. Pita's parents Lisa (Rahdah Mitchell) and Samuel (Marc Anthony), must hire a bodyguard for kidnapping insurance to take effect. When the inevitable happens, Creasy goes over the top in his quest for vengeance, but in a way that is riveting for the audience.

The updated version of **The Manchurian Candidate** (2004), which I liked better than the 1962 original, is the story of Raymond Shaw (Liev Schreiber), the son of Senator Eleanor Shaw (Meryl Streep), who pushes her son into running for Vice President of the United States. Brainwashing has taken place in the first Persian Gulf War, and high-tech computer chips have been implanted as well to will allow control over Raymond's actions. Major Ben Marco (Denzel) is also a victim of the conspiracy, and it is interesting to see the strong Denzel portraying a tormented, seemingly paranoid military man. When Raymond replaces liberal Senator Jordan (Jon Voight) as the vice presidential candidate, Marco turns to Raymond for help in dealing with his postwar syndrome. The danger in this film is not from foreign enemies, rather from domestic fanatics and the sinister power of corporate America.

Based on a true story, **American Gangster** (2007) is a sprawling crime drama in which Denzel stars as the notorious Harlem drug kingpin Frank Lucas, who rises to

power in corrupt 1970s New York, equaling and surpassing the supremacy of notorious Mafia families. On the other side of the law, honest cop-turned-lawyer Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe) dedicates himself to taking Lucas down. Lucas's secret source of heroin is smuggling it into the United States in the coffins of American soldiers killed in Vietnam. An extra feature on a DVD I got from my library shows that Roberts and Lucas, almost inexplicably, became lifelong friends after Lucas turned on every person who ever aided him in his criminal activity.

Also based on a true story, **The Great Debaters** (2007) is an inspirational Depression-era drama. Denzel, who also directed the film, stars as poet and professor Melvin B. Tolson, who teaches at the predominantly black Wiley College in 1935 Texas. He decides to start a debate team, something almost unheard of at a black college. Although at first he butts heads with the influential father (Forest Whitaker) of one of his best debaters, eventually he is able to form a team of strong-minded, intelligent young students, and they become the first black debate team to challenge Harvard's prestigious debate champions. Interestingly, Denzel's philanthropy includes a million-dollar donation to this college.

Denzel had two consecutive starring roles in film about trains, teaming both times with his longtime director Tony Scott. In the remake of **The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3** (2009), a 1974 New York subway-hostage classic, Denzel plays transit dispatcher Walter Garber, who has been demoted because of a bribery scandal but redeems himself by being a key player in bringing down flamboyant ex-cop Ryder (John Travolta) and a team of criminals who have taken over a subway train.

In **Unstoppable** (2010), Denzel plays veteran train engineer Frank Barnes, who is saddled with newbie Will Colson (Chris Pine) as they struggle to stop an out-of-control freight train loaded with hazardous chemicals. This is an example of the usual late-period Denzel formula—the solid pro who has been at this job for too long, and who has to teach a younger counterpart whom he initially distrusts. However, as one critic commented, the film is ridiculously exciting.

**Flight** (2012) is the story of commercial airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Denzel in his Oscar-nominated role) who has a problem with drugs and alcohol. Although so far he has managed to complete his flights safely, his luck runs out when a disastrous mechanical malfunction sends his plane hurtling toward the ground. Whip pulls off a miraculous crash-landing by flying the plane upside down in order to slow the speed when the hydraulics give out. His stunning flying resulted in the loss of six souls out of 106. Shaken to the core, Whip vows to get sober—but an investigation of the crash threatens to expose his addiction. The supporting cast includes John Goodman as

the outrageous drug supplier Harling Mays, Bruce Greenwood as Whip's friend Charlie Anderson, Kelly Reilly as Nicole, who tries to help Whip in recovery, and Don Cheadle as brilliant attorney Hugh Lang, who works to keep Whip out of prison.

When it came time to bring **Fences** (2016), August Wilson's Pulitzer-prizewinning play about black life in the 1950s, to the silver screen, Denzel had already won a Tony for this role on Broadway in 2010. In the movie, he wound up doing double duty as an actor (Oscar-nominated) and a director as well. In 1950s Pittsburgh, Troy Maxson lives with his wife, Rose (Oscar winner Viola Davis), and their son, Cory (Jovan Adepo), and he works as a garbage collector alongside his best friend, Jim Bono (Stephen McKinley Henderson). Troy once dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player, but he was deemed too old when the major leagues began admitting black athletes. Bitter over his missed opportunity, Troy creates further tension in his family when he quashes his son's chance to meet a college football recruiter. He is spiritually broken, suffering from a difficult past, personal insecurities and the slings and arrows of being a black man in Eisenhower's America. This powerful film depicts the generational impact of racism, rage and bitterness.

In **The Equalizer** (2014) and **The Equalizer 2** (2018), Denzel is Robert McCall, a mysterious superhero without a cape. He is a vigilante justice dispenser always ready to right a wrong with impeccable skills. In the first film, although he has tried to put the past behind him and create a quiet new life, he simply cannot walk away when he meets Teri (Chloë Grace Moretz), a teenager who has been manhandled by violent Russian mobsters. He comes out of self-imposed retirement and emerges as an avenging angel, ready to take down anyone who brutalizes the helpless. In the second film, McCall takes on a group of highly trained assassins. Pedro Casal appears as former colleague Dave York, and Ashton Sanders is Miles Whitaker, a talented black teen McCall takes under his wing to help

him stay away from gangs and drugs. Both films co-star Melissa Leo as Susan Plummer, his best friend and colleague, who is married to Brian (Bill Pullman). These action-packed films are intriguing, powerfully acted, and filled with violence, although they acknowledge the value of goodness, virtue and doing the right thing. Plans are in the works for a third film in this franchise. There is also a TV series with Queen Latifah in the starring role.

**Roman J. Israel Esq.** (2018) stars Denzel in the title role of a very odd legal savant with a talent for alienating potential allies. His attire of ill-fitting maroon suits is as outdated as his righteous progressiveness. He is appalled by the mercenary legal system and uncaring society. An idealistic defense lawyer, Israel has spent his career working behind the scenes in the law office of a legendary civil rights attorney. Israel's life is upended when his boss and mentor dies unexpectedly. George Pierce (Colin Farrell), an ambitious lawyer who was one of the late attorney's former students, has been charged with taking on his cases and recruits Israel. However, Israel views Pierce as a corporate firm devil in contrast to legal aid advocate Maya Alstrom (Carmen Ejogo), with whom Israel develops a relationship. A complete opposite of his usual alpha male persona, this role is unlike any Denzel has previously undertaken, and it earned him another Oscar nomination.

**The Tragedy of Macbeth** (2021) is Denzel's second foray into Shakespeare. This time he assumes the title role as a Scottish lord who becomes convinced by a trio of witches that he will become the next king of Scotland. His ambitious wife (Frances McDormand) will do anything to support him in his plans to seize power. The production design is original and fascinating, shot in black and white, and entirely on sound stages to give the film a look "untethered from reality." Written, directed and produced by Joel Coen (McDormand's husband of 38 years), this was the first film he made without his brother Ethan.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the 1980s, two off-Island developers landfilled peninsulas off the east coast of City Island, one at Cross Street (above) and one at Bowne Street, on which they constructed attached houses that were later sold as condominiums or rented as apartments.

## CI Housing

*Continued from page 7*

here on City Island, there are only a handful of co-ops, all of which are very small by comparison. Whereas condominium dwellers own their spaces, coop owners own shares in the corporation that owns the property, and the cost of living in units is based on the amount of space they occupy. Each cooperative has its own rules, such as requirements that residents adhere to the decisions made by a board of directors whom they vote into office.

Like condominiums, cooperative developments are relatively recent here on City Island, but at least three of them are on properties that existed well before World War II. A collection of houses on west Carroll Street, several of which had been brought to City Island in the mid 1930s when Robert Moses evicted Tent City from Orchard Beach, was converted to a cooperative in 1978. And at 33 Tier Street, the

main house, which was built around 1900, was remodeled during the late 1970s, and the decrepit summer bungalows behind it were converted into year-round houses. A row of facing cottages on Fordham Street, behind the building that used to be the New WayMarket, was built during the 1920s by the owner of the market at that time to house his family and employees. The houses were then taken over by the 104 Fordham Street Corporation, which in 2006 became a cooperative.

*Note: City Island once boasted several hotels, inns, bed-and-breakfasts, live-aboard boats and beaches where one could pay admission for a swim, but they have all disappeared, except for the occasional Airbnb. Stay tuned for a history of City Island transient housing!*

# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNETH SELESKY

The Culinary Club met on Oct. 10, Columbus Day, for a celebration of Italian dishes. We feasted on chicken parmesan, pasta fagioli soup, pasta salad and pasta con le sarde, which is the national dish of Sicily and was prepared by Rocco Patto. A great time was had by all.

### Pasta con le Sarde

Serves 4

#### Ingredients:

- ½ cup currants
- ¼ teaspoon red-pepper flakes
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ cup unseasoned dry bread crumbs
- ½ cup plus 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 small cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound fennel, bulb finely chopped, fronds chopped and reserved
- Salt
- 2 pounds fresh sardines (trimmed and deboned, yielding 1¼ pounds) or 1 pound canned
- 1 pound bucatini pasta
- ½ cup pine nuts, toasted
- ¼ cup capers, rinsed
- Freshly ground black pepper

#### Preparation:

**Step 1:** Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Combine the currants, red-pepper flakes and wine in a bowl; set aside. Melt the butter in a small sauté pan. Add the bread crumbs and cook, stirring, until golden brown. Transfer to a bowl, stir in 2

tablespoons of the olive oil and set aside.

**Step 2:** In a heavy skillet, heat ½ cup olive oil over medium-low heat. When it is hot, add the onion, garlic, fennel bulb and fennel seeds. Season with salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the fennel is tender, about 25 minutes.

**Step 3:** Add the wine mixture and the sardines, breaking them into pieces with a fork. Bring to a boil and gently simmer for 10 minutes.

**Step 4:** Add enough salt to the boiling water so that it tastes salty. Boil the bucatini until al dente, 6 to 8 minutes; strain. Return the pasta to the pasta pot and set over low heat. Fold in the fennel-sardine mixture. Toss in the remaining 4 tablespoons olive oil. Add ¾ of the fennel fronds, the pine nuts, the capers and a quarter of the bread crumbs. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

**Step 5:** Divide the pasta among the dinner plates and sprinkle the remaining bread crumbs and fennel fronds over each. Serve immediately.

In November we will explore low carb side dishes for the upcoming holidays, and for December our annual cookie exchange is always a sweet holiday treat. We always welcome new members, so please feel free to come join us. We meet twice a month on Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, at 190 Fordham Street, where recipes based on a monthly theme are shared and discussed. In addition to cooking and sharing recipes, the group also supports the City Island community whenever needed by baking or cooking for events and sales.



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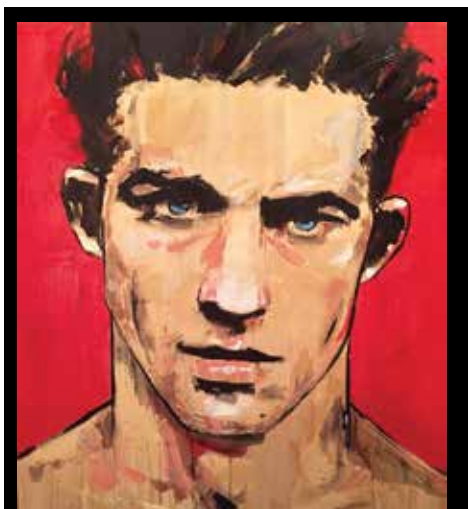


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# An Attitude of Gratitude: Helping Our Children Use Our Privilege for the Common Good

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

The weather challenges of Hurricane Ian remind me of an old meditation device I have used since 9/11 when helping families deal with the uncertainty of tragedy and loss: What do I know?

- I know I have people who love me and whom I love;
- I know I have my basic needs met on a daily basis: food, shelter, health care, companionship, income;
- I know I can do my part to make the world a better place;
- I know I am privileged in many ways.

We all know the joke about the spoiled rich person who was “born on third base and thinks they hit a triple.” We also know that children who do not have the opportunity to work for some of their comforts (doing chores, taking responsibility in the family for a pet or a sibling, helping elders and others) grow up to be spoiled adults who think (as my mother would say) “the world owes them a living.” How do we proceed as parents?

• Acknowledge our privileges and be sure our children know they are privileged.

• Practice simple acts of thankfulness every day (a gratitude list, saying grace before meals, thanking each family member for their contributions to our well-being, and the like).

• Use our privilege to help others: take time to be of service to a neighbor; contribute to local organizations that provide basic needs for others; help others maintain their health by joining them in healthy pursuits; and any other ideas you can come up with.

I once worked with an American nun—Sister Peggy—in El Salvador. She lived through the civil war there in the 1980s and established a center for the arts for the children of her village of Suchitoto. When I took students down there to do service, students who were well-fed and well-educated, she told them, “Don’t apologize for your privilege, use it to help others.” Amen.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving holiday . . .



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	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	
01 Tue	0001	0.67	0552	6.72	1220	1.34	1809	7.11	Tue 01
02 Wed	0119	0.64	0723	6.98	1346	1.03	1950	7.20	Wed 02
03 Thu	0224	0.43	0828	7.40	1453	0.51	2056	7.43	Thu 03
04 Fri	0321	0.17	0923	7.81	1550	-0.04	2152	7.63	Fri 04
05 Sat	0413	-0.07	1013	8.14	1642	-0.49	2242	7.75	Sat 05
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 6									
06 Sun	0400	-0.20	0959	8.34	1630	-0.78	2228	7.74	Sun 06
07 Mon	0444	-0.21	1041	8.39	1716	-0.86	2311	7.64	Mon 07
08 Tue	0525	-0.08	1121	8.30	1758	-0.75	2352	7.45	Tue 08
09 Wed	0601	0.16	1157	8.12	1838	-0.48			Wed 09
10 Thu	0031	7.23	0631	0.46	1229	7.88	1915	-0.11	Thu 10
11 Fri	0108	7.00	0651	0.77	1257	7.62	1947	0.31	Fri 11
12 Sat	0143	6.80	0713	1.05	1326	7.37	2011	0.69	Sat 12
13 Sun	0217	6.65	0748	1.31	1402	7.14	2036	1.00	Sun 13
14 Mon	0255	6.55	0833	1.55	1444	6.92	2115	1.23	Mon 14
15 Tue	0342	6.51	0923	1.73	1534	6.74	2203	1.38	Tue 15
16 Wed	0438	6.55	1020	1.79	1631	6.61	2257	1.41	Wed 16
17 Thu	0538	6.70	1124	1.69	1735	6.59	2354	1.30	Thu 17
18 Fri	0629	6.93	1233	1.39	1838	6.67			Fri 18
19 Sat	0048	1.08	0711	7.24	1336	0.95	1932	6.83	Sat 19
20 Sun	0138	0.78	0751	7.59	1428	0.44	2020	7.01	Sun 20
21 Mon	0225	0.44	0832	7.96	1516	-0.06	2104	7.20	Mon 21
22 Tue	0310	0.14	0915	8.31	1602	-0.48	2149	7.36	Tue 22
23 Wed	0356	-0.09	0959	8.58	1649	-0.78	2235	7.46	Wed 23
24 Thu	0442	-0.21	1044	8.72	1736	-0.90	2323	7.48	Thu 24
25 Fri	0530	-0.18	1132	8.71	1827	-0.85			Fri 25
26 Sat	0013	7.41	0622	-0.02	1223	8.51	1922	-0.64	Sat 26
27 Sun	0108	7.27	0718	0.25	1317	8.16	2024	-0.33	Sun 27
28 Mon	0209	7.10	0824	0.56	1419	7.69	2136	-0.03	Mon 28
29 Tue	0325	6.96	0952	0.78	1537	7.24	2249	0.18	Tue 29
30 Wed	0452	7.00	1119	0.74	1718	7.00	2357	0.25	Wed 30
DECEMBER 2022									
01 Thu	0604	7.20	1231	0.47	1834	7.00			Thu 01
02 Fri	0059	0.20	0705	7.48	1334	0.09	1936	7.07	Fri 02
03 Sat	0156	0.10	0801	7.74	1431	-0.30	2031	7.16	Sat 03
04 Sun	0248	0.01	0851	7.94	1523	-0.60	2122	7.20	Sun 04
05 Mon	0337	-0.03	0938	8.05	1612	-0.77	2209	7.19	Mon 05

# WILDLIFE CONSECRATION



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI

The blessing of all creatures great and small happened at both ends of City Island in 2022. At Grace Episcopal Church on Pilot Street, the new pastor, Fr. Kevin Moroney, blessed a well-behaved group of dogs and cats on Sunday, Oct. 2 (bottom photo). Then Deacon Bill Mueller blessed four-legged and feathery friends in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard on Oct. 9 (top photo). The blessing coincides with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



It never fails! Just when you thought you were becoming quite the birder, someone comes along and throws a monkey wrench into your confidence by asking about the kind of sparrow flitting about in the shrubbery.

"It's a sparrow," you say, gritting your teeth, hoping it will all end there. But it never does.

"Yes, but what kind of sparrow?"

In the world of birders and birds, sparrows are sometimes referred to as LBJs, short for Little Brown Jobs. This moniker alludes to the often very similar appearance of a wide variety of sparrows, especially when sex of the bird, its maturity and the time of year when it is seen are taken into account. For example, in this area, there are house sparrows, song sparrows, chipping sparrows, swamp sparrows, saltmarsh and savannah sparrows, tree and field sparrows, white-throated and white-crowned sparrows, and just last month we spotted our first Nelson's sparrow. To name a few.

There are some excellent videos online that can help with sparrow identification, but nothing beats being out in the field. That is where the subtleties start to sink in. For example, the sparrows most likely to be found in a backyard on City Island, especially one lined with juniper, privet or any other hedge-like plant, are house sparrows. They are the LBJs that move in and out of yards in small groups, making a lot of messy noise in the process. Male and female house sparrows are easy to distinguish, the female being the drabber of the two. But add to the mix some juvenile house sparrows, and there you have your first wrinkle. Is it a young male or young female? Is it even a juvenile, since juvenile house sparrows at first glance look like

female house sparrows?

The best birders use their ears as well as their eyes. Often it is these auditory clues that alert you to changes in the nearby sparrow population. For example, in our yard, song sparrows sometimes like to mix with the resident house sparrows. As their name would suggest, these sparrows make music when they call, a soft, gentle sound utterly unlike the chaotic chatter of house sparrows. It is how we usually know when one has arrived. Something else to distinguish the song sparrow is its streaked breast. House sparrows don't have streaks.

Of course, song sparrows are not the only sparrows with streaked breasts. That would be too easy! Savannah sparrows have them, too. Since both birds are also about the same size, you can tell them apart by the yellowish color often found near the Savannah's eyes. Another clue is in the streaks themselves. A careful look at the streaks on a song sparrow's breast usually reveals a dark splotch near the middle of the breast where the streaks would seem to meet. The Savannah's streaks have no such splotch.

Some sparrows, like the house sparrow, have neither streaks nor splotches. The tree and field sparrow are two of these. The swamp sparrow has a faint streaking to the breast that make it appear plain, especially when the look is fleeting. The Nelson's sparrow that we got our first look at last month was finely streaked on the upper half of its breast and plain Jane white on the lower half.

And now you have an idea why birders are tempted to defer to LBJ for each and every sparrow that comes their way. But it is a temptation that should be resisted. After all, if identifying sparrows (or any kind of bird for that matter) were easy, it probably wouldn't be as much fun.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

## White Mount Everest Allium and Purple Sensation Allium

### Bulb Planting in Autumn

We need no calendar; the trees know the Autumn comes softly. The maples blush in fiery tones. Tomato canning is in full swing, and I imagine the bees are making the last of their honey from goldenrods and sedum. Migration begins south. The birds can be seen in great masses sweeping the sky as a chorus of frogs and peepers die down to a whisper. The garden shimmers blue with asters and begins its ragtag descent, but the gardener is busy planting bulbs, clearing debris and moving shrubs or digging in new ones.

Bulb planting is really all about spring, and this year I will be planting alliums. After the tulips have faded, the alliums dramatically dot the garden in May with their beautiful spherical heads. They are part of the onion family, and as long as you have free-draining soil in full sun they will provide bright color and decorative interest throughout the gardening year. They dry perfectly and are a great ornament in the border or in a vase.

Plant them in drifts, as the wind might scatter them or in curvilinear lines snaking through the garden. They look great with the annual grass *stipa tenuissima* or poking out between the fresh clumps of perennial flowers to come, mixing well with Mediterranean plants like lavender, artemisia and sage. Iris and oriental poppies also bloom at the same time, making great companions.

Allium *cristophii* are huge with globular heads made up of metallic lilac purple stars.

Allium *atropurpureum* is the darkest of all being dense black purple on three foot stems.

Allium *hollandicum* 'purple sensation,' the best known, is three feet tall with rich purple heads, and I can't have enough of them.

Allium *Karataviense* are shorter with pinky beige flowers the size of tennis balls.

Allium *sphaerocephalon* come later on tall lean stems that carry wine-red, slightly

tipped balls that can enhance a wild planting scheme. Plant at least 100 with three or five together in drifts.

Another bulb that some people are simply mad for are snow drops. Of course, that is because they appear first on the scene, beginning in late February and early March. Despite the ferocious cold weather, they look so delicate with unusual green markings. There are many rare jewels in this family to collect, yet I favor *Galanthus nivalis*, which self sows, and *G. elwesii*, which happens to be the least expensive. Plant them beneath deciduous shrubs and around trees in part sun or shade. When they arrive by post, plant them immediately as they do not fare well otherwise.

Do you have tulip mania? The viridiflora tulips look elegantly painted, and the parrots are sumptuous and fringed. Ballerina looks good with everything, delicate pointed buds at 18 inches high and colored with a tangerine orange that looks great with violet shades. Daffodils should be planted among daylilies, and at the New York Botanical Garden, that border is marked later with alliums, all happy companions coexisting in a perfect world.

I like the Brent and Becky's bulb catalog, or you can shop online for fresh, nice-sized bulbs. There is still time.

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.



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# Fun and Games at Trinity Church

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As many City Islanders know, Trinity United Methodist Church has always been a welcoming place for the community—from Thanksgiving dinners to scout meetings to theatrical performances to food pantries—and Pastor David Jolly is determined to carry on that tradition with a new program that he hopes will attract a good deal of community support.

Many youngsters in this day and age spend a great deal of time on their computers and phones to play games and communicate with each other. Pastor Dave's idea is to create a space where kids from 5 to 12 can meet in person to play with actual Legos, with actual board games, with actual playing cards, with actual jigsaw puzzles, with actual crayons. Parents

or guardians or older siblings will be expected to join the young ones to explain the rules and help them enjoy Monopoly, Go Fish, Parcheesi, Legoland, you name it.

In order to make plans for these fun and games, Pastor Dave will need people who still own sets and decks to offer them to the church. However, he made it very clear to *The Current* that these items won't be owned by the church but will be considered community property. All of the sets should be complete and in good condition, of course, and will be handled with great care.

For more information, please call Pastor Dave at 845-532-3378 or e-mail David. [jolly@nyac-umc.com](mailto:jolly@nyac-umc.com).



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

On Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish held its annual evening outdoor Mass in St. Mary's schoolyard under clear skies as usual. After the Mass, there was a Catechist Commissioning ceremony asking God's blessing on those who teach in the OLA/SMSS religious education program. Refreshments and fellowship followed the celebration.



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

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Photos by CATHY CEBEK

The City Island Civic Association showed appreciation in September to the FDNY and NYPD with lunches at the City Island firehouse on Schofield Street (top photo) and at the 45th Precinct on Barkley Avenue in the Bronx.

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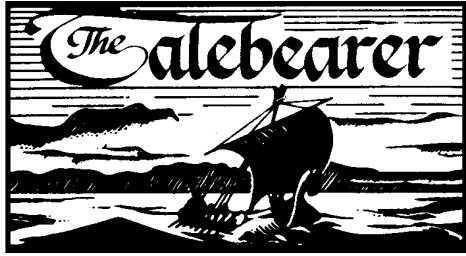
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Belated happy anniversaries to Judy and Mike Rauh, John and Linda Wright and Mike and Roseann Bunyan.

Time flies! Happy first birthday to Christopher Nani on Nov. 3. The Horton Street cutie will celebrate with his family and friends at a party held in Grace Church's parish hall with DJ Ray Weis leading the fun and games. On Nov. 15, Christopher will help Grandpa Paul Nani blow out the many candles on his cake. Birthday blessings to both of the Nani men.

Happy 84th birthday to our beautiful mom, Betty Grimaldi, on Nov. 9. Thanks for taking such good care of our family. We wish you all the best in the year ahead. We love you so much!

Long-distance Happy Birthday wishes on Nov. 12 to our "Coastie" Bobby Swieciki, who is stationed in Southern California. It was great visiting last month, and we hope to see you and your family again in the not-too-distant future! Miss and love you!

Happy Birthday on Nov. 23 to one of City Island's busiest seniors, Ethel Lott, with love from her family, neighbors and friends.

Artist Magazine and American Artist Magazine jointly sponsored an international competition for artists working in acrylics. There were more than 2,200



Photo by MARK NANI  
Christopher Nani will celebrate his first birthday on Nov. 3.

entries from all over the world, and 100 pieces were chosen to be featured in a special edition magazine called "The Best of Acrylic," which hit magazine stands in mid-September. Clam digger Marguerite Chadwick-Juner was elated to have received one of 10 honorable mentions for her Painting "Reef Music—The Violinist." She told *The Current*: "I feel so honored to be singled out as one of the best of the best."

Congratulations to Sarah Pryor, Paul Saulnier, Tim Byrnes, Megan Hayes and Tommy Vivolo, organizers of the City Island Memorial Softball Tournament held on Oct. 15, 2022, at Ambrosini Field, in memory of Dan Barry and Rob Vivolo. The event was a great success, and more than \$3,000 was raised for the City Island Little League.

Wishing our readers, neighbors, friends and family a blessed, healthy and peaceful Thanksgiving!

Maria Swieciki



Photos by RON TERNER  
The City Island Memorial Softball tournament was held on Oct. 15, 2022, at Ambrosini Field, in memory of Dan Barry and Rob Vivolo. The Forest Green team won this year's tournament, but every one of the 100 attendees who played or cheered considered the event a "win." Over \$3,000 was raised for City Island Little League, which serves the youth of the community.

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Photo by PETER JUNER  
Marguerite Chadwick-Juner showing her award-winning painting in *The Best of Acrylic* special edition magazine.

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