

# The Island Current

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## SMSS BASKETBALL KEEPS ON BOUNCING

By KAREN NANI



Photos by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

The Boys Bantam B team had an undefeated regular season finishing with a record of 20 wins and 0 losses. They won the Bantam West Division and made it to the A division playoff semifinals. Shown above are the heroes of this season's most successful St. Mary's team (kneeling, l. to r.) James Shaw, Daniel Vo, Ryan Whelan, Mark Piri, Thomas Forliano, Jack Phillips and Oscar Etzel. Standing: Marco Mazzella, John Russell, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Patrick Livingston, Julian McElroy and Thomas Whelan. Their very proud coaches were Mike Whelan and Pete Russell.

The 2013–2014 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball season kept on rolling despite the closing of St. Mary's elementary school in June 2013. Many Islanders (and former Islanders, see *Letters to the Editor*) were worried about the future of the 80-year-old program when the archdiocese closed the K-through-8 school. But fulfilling a commitment from the archdiocese and Fr. Michael Challinor, the program continued and once again enjoyed a winning season.

The Boys Bantam team finished the regular season undefeated and just missed winning the Bronx/Manhattan championship game. The rest of St. Mary's teams also went deep into the Bronx Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) championship playoffs and played their best before being eliminated.

Much credit goes to the program director, Islander Anna Marie Whelan, who completed her seventh year as coordinator. As always, she praised all the coaches, players and parents for a season of particular dedication, especially in light of the school's closing. "The gym remained in great shape, and we hosted many divisional games as if it was business as usual," she told *The Current*.

"The coaching staff gave countless hours of their time to insure our children's success. I would like to thank Peter Russell, James Goonan, Mike Whelan, Mike Rivera, Mark Amos, Jimmy Mantzaris, Frank Cebek, Bill Whelan and Lorraine Watson. Their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated."

Ms. Whelan also gave a shout-out to all

the parents who volunteered at the concession stand and the admission table. She gave a special thanks to Fr. Michael for letting the program continue in the gym after the school closed.

However, the future of the St. Mary's basketball remains shaky. She told *The Current* that "the basketball program is at risk of ending if we do not have a place to play. The cost of utilities and maintenance is steadily rising, and we need help from our community. If anyone would like to donate or get involved in fundraising events, please send me an email at [whelan19@yahoo.com](mailto:whelan19@yahoo.com)."

Ms. Whelan remains optimistic that the City Island community will step up and she hopes to see everyone who wants to play once again scoring baskets next year.

A summary of each team's season follows.

### Boys Bantam B

The 2013–2014 Boy's Bantam B team had a spectacular regular season. The team finished with a record of 20 wins and 0 losses and won the Bantam West Division. They faced talented opponents throughout the playoffs and made it to the semifinals of the A division, where they were defeated by a tough Santa Maria team. All players contributed to the team's success, and more importantly they learned valuable lessons about teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. Coaches Mike Whelan and Pete Russell extend their thanks and appreciation to all of the parents who committed their time by volunteering at games and supporting their children throughout the season.

Congratulations to all the players on a perfect regular season: James Shaw, Daniel Vo, Ryan Whelan, Mark Piri, Thomas Forliano, Jack Phillips, Oscar Etzel, Marco Mazzella, John Russell, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Patrick Livingston, Julian McElroy and Thomas Whelan.

### Boys JV

The Boys JV basketball team had a very good year. They won a total of 17 games and made it to the division championship game where they lost a very close contest.

The team all-stars were Stephen Rice,

*Continued on page 5*



Coaches Lorraine Watson and Bill Whelan proudly present the Girls JV team (standing, l. to r.): Jadyn Watson, Kaltrina Rugova and Alexa Gjonaj. Kneeling: Eleni Mantzaris, Isabel Whelan and Alexa Forliano.



The Boys JV basketball team also had an outstanding year. They won a total of 17 games and made it to the division championship game. The smiling team members are (standing, l. to r.): John Bernardo, Joshua Rosario, Angel Ramos, Stephen Rice, Ginutis Sipas and Frankie Lubelli. Kneeling: Angelo Nieves, Joseph Goonan, Joey Cruz, Carmine Testa, Sebastian Rodriguez and Timothy Stiene. Their dedicated coaches were Chris Rice, James Goonan and Mike Torres.

## DON COQUI DRAWS CROWDS TO CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Residents of City Island have become accustomed to the heavy traffic that usually begins on the first warm evening in the spring, but many were taken by surprise when the new Lighthouse Restaurant suddenly changed its name to Don Coquí during the last week in January and traffic jams multiplied during the first week in February.

Jimmy Rodriguez Jr., who owned and operated Jimmy's City Island (in the building that now houses Ohana) nearly a decade ago, is back on the Island, this time with the third of his Don Coquí chain, the first one in the Bronx. The other restaurants are in New Rochelle and White Plains, and like them, the City Island site will offer Puerto Rican cuisine, along with music and a lively lounge scene. Although dancing is advertised on the restaurant's

web site ([doncoqui.tv](http://doncoqui.tv)), he claims there will be no dancing at the City Island location, and no application has been made for a cabaret license, which would be required.

Although Jimmy Jr. has opened and designed the restaurant, it is being run by his children, Jaleene, Jewelle and Jimmy III, who are definitely attracting a young clientele. The owners maintain that the restaurant is intended for an upscale family audience, with white tablecloths and an expensive menu.

City Islanders who are familiar with the other Don Coquí restaurants have told this reporter that they are looking forward to the same fine food and enjoyable music. However, the enthusiasm felt by some has been diminished by the unusually high volume of traffic, especially late at night on

*Continued on page 13*

### Bridge Activity Alert

In late March, DOT began the relocation of the existing water main on the City Island Bridge. As a result, the pedestrian and bike path on the south side of the bridge will be closed. Pedestrians and cyclists will be re-routed to the north path, and temporary traffic signals have been installed at each end of the bridge to create safe crosswalks.

# BRIEFLY...

**HEALTH FAIR AT PILOT COVE.** A group of students at the college of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale is sponsoring a health fair for the City Island community as part of a community service project. The fair will take place on Friday, May 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pilot Cove Manor, 160 Pilot Street. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be health-related information and free diagnostic testing, and some guest speakers will be discussing various health issues that affect the community. There will also be raffles and other interactive activities, as well as refreshments. For more information, call 718-715-2568.

**C. I. YACHT CLUB SPRING SEMINAR SERIES** will feature two important events in April. On Saturday, April 5, at 1 p.m. the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present a two-part exercise on flare training and live fire. First the flotilla will present topics such as fire prevention and control; the deployment of safety and visual distress signals (handheld and gun type); PFD and other required safety equipment, and more, followed by a "live fire" event on the pier and floats, where the auxiliary will instruct and demonstrate safe and proper firing of flares. Under the supervision of qualified personnel, you will have the rare practice opportunity to fire off flares. Be sure to bring any of your old flares. Recently expired flares will be used for demonstration and practice; older ones will be properly disposed of. On Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. Sally Small and Kurt Krimphove will present "Cruising 101 and Beyond," extolling the virtues of cruising a small boat and presenting important information for sailors. Seminars are free for CIYC members; the \$10 charge for non-members includes a beverage coupon to the yacht club's pub room which will open at 5 p.m. Reservations recommended. Call 718-885-2487 or email [cluboffice@cityislandyc.org](mailto:cluboffice@cityislandyc.org).

**LITTLE LEAGUE 2014 OPENING DAY** will be Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. at Ambrosini Field. Everyone is welcome to join this long-time City Island tradition. The opening day game will start about 11 a.m., and hot dogs and sodas will be served.

**SKIP GIACCO TO BE HONORED:** The 45th Precinct Community Council will honor Chamber of Commerce president Skip Giacco at the annual 45th Precinct Council Breakfast, which will be held on Wednesday, May 14, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway. Other honorees are Leo Johnson, director of Montefiore-Mosholu Boy's & Girls Club at Co-op City; Anita Valenti, president, Pelham Bay Taxpayers Association; Sandi Lusk, director, Westchester Square-Zerega Improvement Organization; and Anthony Orza, manager, Villa Barone Manor. The council asks for a \$15 donation; please make checks payable to the "45th Precinct Community Council" and mail to Annie Boller, c/o Abalon, 1040 Home Street, Bronx, NY 10459. For information, call Robert Bieder at 718-828-4400 or Joe Boiko at 718-320-3300, ext. 3409.

**WATER WATER EVERY WHERE:** An exhibition of photographs by Islander Jane Protzman will be on view at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, which reopens for the year on Saturday, April 5, at 1 p.m. There will be a reception for the show on Sunday, April 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., when the photographer will be present. Since the photographs were taken in many places around the world, she will be available to tell the stories behind each image. From April 5 until the end of the year, the museum will be open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, or by special appointment (call 718-885-0507 for information). Be sure to check out the new items in the gift shop!

**AGATHA CHRISTIE'S PLAY "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"** will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on Friday, April 25; Saturday, April 26; Friday, May 2; and Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 27 and May 4, at 3 p.m. The production will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. For tickets, please call 718-885-3066 or email [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting our website [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

**EASTER EGG HUNT** at Grace Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. in front of the parish hall. There will be face painting, crafts and more! Everyone is invited to attend!

**BEAUTIFY CITY ISLAND:** The Garden Club will soon distribute its annual Beautification Fund letters and hopes that Island businesses and residents will give generously to help the club keep the Island beautiful.

## INCOME TAX RETURNS

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# 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – BURGLARY\*
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following arrests (\*) and incidents for the period from February 21 to March 18, 2014.

2/21 – At 3:11 a.m., an incident of petit larceny was reported at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue. A cell phone was taken without the owner's permission.

3/15 – A female victim reported an incident of harassment on Centre Street at 10 p.m. The complainant stated that another female approached her and pulled her hair.

No arrest was made.

3/18 – After an investigation, detectives from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 18, and charged him with burglary. The defendant allegedly broke into a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue on March 11 at 1 a.m. and removed cash from the register.

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*"Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore"*

–Naomi Shihab Nye

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# MY SOCHI STORY

By ANITA LA SCALA

On a cold winter's day in New York City in early February of 2012, I sat at a table in a studio in Queens across from scenic designer George Tsylin and associate designer Rob Bissinger. The reason for our meeting was that George, a Russian-born designer who has lived in the United States for the past 30 years, had been chosen by the Russian government to design the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

As reported in *The Island Current's* December 2013 issue, the Russians were calling all the shots in the project, which was to take place in a stadium built specifically for the show, but they were relying on George's brilliance to tell the history of Russia in an impressive series of five segments.

I had spent five years working with George and Rob on the design for "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," which had opened eight months earlier on Broadway, and I had come to know this scenario well. But this time the schedule was only two years, not five, and the project would be seen on an international stage.

At that early meeting, we sat at a series of long, rolling industrial tables that were littered with George's rough Sharpie sketches, all drawn in perfect scale. We discussed the project using such general terms as "spectacle" and "oversized," as we poured over drawings of the stadium where the ceremony would take place.

Within a few months, the studio was abuzz with conceptual artists, model makers, sculptors, draftsmen and graphic artists. Rob, the art director, and I, as assistant art director, dabbled with all of the designs as we led a team of 20 artists through George's creative process.

I spent the spring, summer and fall of 2013 traveling with Rob and sometimes with George to Canada, Sweden, Russia, Moscow and the United Kingdom to visit the scenic fabrication shops. Armed with a metric ruler, my notebook and a camera, we documented the construction process and labored over decisions and details. We worked with the shops to find creative solutions, leaning on the expertise of engineers and our own brilliant technical team. Being surrounded by so many gifted and eager minds instilled in me a great deal of energy, but little did I realize how much I would have to draw on that energy in the months to come.

The ceremony headquarters were located in Moscow, and I flew there every month between shop visits, so I had become familiar with the city, which seemed to me like a much more expensive and spread-out New York City. My last trip to Moscow in November 2013 was bittersweet, but I was thrilled to step out of the Sochi airport and into a subtropical climate, where I was welcomed by a shining sun, a gentle breeze from the Black Sea and swaying palm trees.

We were driven to a town named Adler, where 99.9 percent of my time would be spent either at my hotel or at the stadium (or getting from one to the other). Compared to the lavish four-star hotel in Moscow, my accommodations were quite simple. The hotel, which was more like a hostel, had been built decades earlier, but the proprietors had never catered to foreigners and I don't think they much liked doing so now.

My room was sizeable with a thin queen-sized mattress, two wood chairs, a desk, a little rolling table and a coat closet for my belongings. The bathroom contained a plas-

tic shower stall raised up on cinder blocks, a toilet, a sink and a little shelf with a mirror. The "wood" floor, heated towel rack and bedside lamps were luxury items that set my room apart from some of the lower-class rooms. But luxury was hardly a suitable term for the accommodations. When my extra set of towels was removed from the room, I asked the staff for replacements and was told "Nyet. One person, one towel." It felt as if I had stepped back in time to the Soviet era.

The lack of kitchen facilities was worrisome, because the restaurant on site would frequently run out of food or close before we returned from work. But there were a few markets nearby where we could purchase water to drink and simple items like cheese and carrots to nibble on, and within walking distance was a street full of family-run vegetable stands, local restaurants with kebab grills outside, and souvenir shops that had seen better times.

The hotel was located on a back street of a residential neighborhood not far from the remarkably beautiful Black Sea. Our teams were divided between multiple hotels, but mine was one of the furthest from the stadium, and the trip home averaged an hour and a half in bumper-to-bumper traffic each night.

When I arrived in Sochi near the end of November, the stadium was months behind schedule and our onsite offices were not finished. In our safety briefing, we were warned to be extremely careful when walking around and to pay particular attention to non-fitting manhole covers and gaping holes. The site was still under major construction, so my time outside the office was limited, and every day we had to put on our steel-tipped boots, high-visibility vests, hard hats and credentials. By December the weather had become very cold, and gusty winds from the sea chilled us despite multiple layers of clothing. We experienced multiple monsoons and near-hurricane winds, which forced several evacuations from the site.

My days were filled with scenic automation tests, color and finish tests, paint sample reviews, research, meetings, note logging and endless details. Olympic Park security was slowly stepping up, and by end of December, there was a sudden ban on all food and drink entering the stadium. Fresh apples and bananas, candy bars, sandwiches and thermoses were all discarded, and our team and crew were furious. An onsite canteen sprang into operation, and potatoes, cabbage and mystery meat were served daily.

In early January, the choreographers arrived, and our days were filled with meetings in which our models were reviewed, along with the exact ways in which the cast and scenery were to be integrated onstage. At one point, President Putin visited a rehearsal tent, as an enormous entourage videotaped his presence.

When we were finally able to move inside the stadium, lighting, projection, audio and special effects were added to the mix, and eventually costumes started appearing. We watched rehearsals from the stadium control rooms, where we would study everything both live and on monitors. Production meetings held at the end of every day pushed our days into 16-hour marathons. Footage of each onstage rehearsal was recorded and studied, as we paid particular attention to the show's timing. The show had been visualized in hand-made models from George's studio, as



Photos by NATHAN HEVERIN

Islander Anita LaScala was the assistant art director for the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia. She is shown above in Sochi with the art director Rob Bissinger and with one of the scenic troikas (inset).

well as in full digital animations by our technical department, but we fretted and frowned as the Russian creative team made changes to the show, which was already weeks behind schedule.

Show Day on Feb. 7 dawned on a surprisingly happy but very tired and hungry team and crew. The stadium was freezing cold, and I was thankful to be near a space heater. As I watched the show, I held my breath, but my heart sank very low as that now-famous final snowflake failed to open. Our production stage manager called the cue again, but a data glitch rendered the object immovable, although our Russian TV monitor saw five blooming rings. The control room, full of Russian directors, the creative teams and Putin's administrators, was silent for the very first time. (In fact, in the closing ceremony, the Russians poked fun at themselves and this mishap.) I prayed they would fix the edit for worldwide broadcast.

Our smiles were restored, however, by the end of the show, which we had never had a chance to run in its entirety without a technical failure. But tonight it was nearly perfect, except for that finicky snowflake. The Russians smiled broadly and thanked and congratulated us all on our collective achievement, as champagne corks flew and an after-party served our favorite tradi-

tional vodka.

Having the project come to an abrupt finish was both sad and exhilarating. The entire team had been a joy to work with, and there is no doubt that this highly ambitious show would never have made it without the professional dedication of those fine men and women. The Russians had been wonderful and very warm social hosts, although the amount of patience, energy and understanding required by this very foreign country had left me tired and numb. I had only seen the city of Sochi on my two days off, so I decided to spend my last few days packing my things and enjoying time with friends.

Now that I have had an opportunity to recuperate, I can say without a doubt that this was the experience of a lifetime, and I am ultimately thankful for it. I wear my memories like scars; some are very negative and others are very positive. This project was enormous in both scale and scope, and it challenged my personal attitude as well as my professional experience. I thank the team, as well as the support of my family, friends and all of City Island, for giving me the strength and perseverance to see it through to the end. I can honestly say that even Russia wrestled its way into my heart. I have a better understanding of the world's history and a greater respect and love for America, which is not only my home but also who I am.

## Bridge Design Under Review

By KAREN NANI

On Tuesday, March 11, Polly Trottenberg, the new commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT), picked up the telephone and called Barbara Dolensek, an officer of the City Island Civic Association and a longtime advocate for a new bridge design. She told Ms. Dolensek that the DOT engineers were working with the engineers employed by the contractor, Tutor Perini, to see if it would be possible to arrive at a design solution that would be more appropriate as a replacement for the historic 1901 bridge.

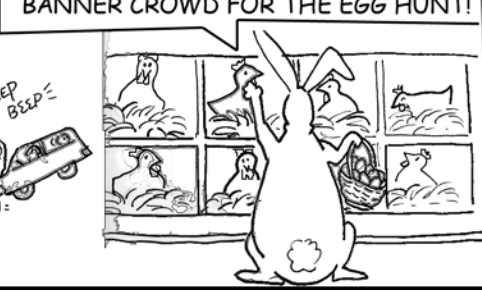

Ms. Dolensek had heard the previous week from Councilmember James Vacca that Ms. Trottenberg was looking into the possibility of reviewing the design of the cable-stayed bridge, to which many Island residents have objected since it was first presented to the community in 2003. She wrote Ms. Trottenberg suggesting that the DOT consider replacing the cable-stayed design with one of their other proposals, a low-rise bridge with two or three piers in the water. When Ms. Trottenberg received the letter, she decided to call Ms. Dolensek directly

to tell her about this decision to review the design.

Ms. Trottenberg made it clear that this was in no way a promise of a new design, but she did want to reassure the City Island community that their objections were finally being heard and that the DOT hoped to find a solution that would be satisfactory to everyone. At the very least, she promised that the process would be transparent and that the community would be kept informed if and as a solution was reached.

In the meantime, work continues at the bridge but it is related to the relocation of the existing water main, a necessary preliminary step before the temporary bridge is installed.

On March 20, Community Board 10 voted nearly unanimously to support the City Island community by rejecting the ULURP resolutions that DOT has applied for in order to proceed with the bridge construction. The resolutions were also rejected by Community Board 12 and will now go to the Borough Board and the Borough President before reaching the City Council for a vote.

<p><b>NEW DON COQUI RESTAURANT PATRONS CAUSE MASSIVE TRAFFIC TIE-UPS</b></p>	<p><b>GRACE CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT EAGERLY AWAITED</b></p>	<p><b>NEW HEAD OF DOT HOLDS OUT HOPE FOR REDESIGN ON BRIDGE</b></p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM TURNS IN AN IMPRESSIVE SEASON</b></p>
<p>I CAN'T BEAT 'EM, DON'T WANT TO JOIN 'EM, SO I'M GOING TO RENT THE SPACES IN MY DRIVEWAY FOR \$10 AN HOUR EACH!</p> 	<p>OK, TEAM, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO UP THE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR. GRACE CHURCH IS EXPECTING A BANNER CROWD FOR THE EGG HUNT!</p> 	<p>IT'S BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD FOR US. WHAT OTHER PREVIOUSLY DONE DESIGNS CAN WE CO-OPT?</p> <p>HOW ABOUT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE?</p> 	<p>WE GOT THE SPIRIT, WE GOT THE POWER, WE'RE ST. MARY'S STRONG!</p> 



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

**Civic Letter re: Don Coquis**

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

Captain James McGeown  
45th Precinct, NYC Police Department  
2877 Barkley Avenue  
Bronx, New York, 10465

Dear Captain McGeown:

We write today with respect to the above-mentioned establishment, which is a frequent subject of contention on our Association's Facebook page and was discussed at our February 25 meeting, when Lt. Paul Trapani gave an informative presentation of the establishment's effect on traffic as motorists enter the City Island community.

As you already know, traffic congestion is a fact of life in our community during the summer months. The police officers and traffic agents we receive each year make a laudable effort of protecting the safety of both pedestrians and motorists. However, it is very unexpected that this problem would start in February. Furthermore, the establishment's location at the north end of City Island causes delays for everyone who comes to City Island.

Lt. Trapani made it clear at our meeting that the 45th Precinct is aware of this problem and is taking every step possible to make life better for residents. One suggestion he offered was to temporarily remove the parking spaces in the parking lane on both sides of City Island Avenue between Bridge Street and Cross Street during Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings when traffic is at its peak. By removing these spaces, he explained that the lane could then serve as a holding area for cars entering the establishment while allowing residential motorists to bypass the traffic congestion.

There are only a handful of residential units located in this part of the Island and, so long as the residents are informed beforehand, we have no objection to this proposal being instituted. Although it is regretful that residents of a relatively quiet community now have to deal with a changing and disruptive environment, we believe this inconvenience for a few residents will provide meaningful traffic relief for the vast majority of City Islanders.

We appreciate the concern the Precinct has shown the City Island community on this matter.

The City Island Civic Association

**Hoop Memories**

To the Editor:

As a graduate of St. Mary's Star of the Sea (class of '60), I was saddened to read about the closing of our school. Nevertheless, I am glad that St. Mary's basketball



Check out the retro uniforms on the 1964 St. Mary's Basketball senior team! Shown in their official team photo are (l. to r., seated) Bob Foster, Jimmy Goehl, Jimmy Warren, Russ McDaniel, John Flynn. Standing: Tony Durante, Richie Birmingham, Richie Rior-dan, Jerry Myklysch, Bob McConaghy, Earl Rickard and George Ralph. Not shown: Fred Hess Jr. and Bill Louttit. Coach Earl Rickard Jr. is shown at right.

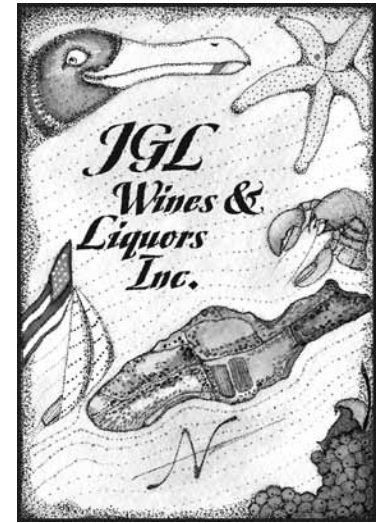
will continue. I played for St. Mary's in the early 1960s, first on the junior team for coach Anthony Ambrosini, then on the senior team from 1962-1964 under my father, the late Earl "Spider" Rickard, who also played for St. Mary's in the 1930s and 40s. The basketball program from the 30s through the 60s was more of a parish program. The only grade school teams in my time were the eighth graders. The junior (13 to 15 years old) and senior (16 to 18 years old) teams consisted of St. Mary's high school age parishioners who did not play for their high school teams.

The enclosed pictures were taken on Sunday afternoon, March 22, 1964, just before the Alumni Game (senior team vs. "old timers"). This was the second year of the senior team coached by my dad. The team included almost the same personnel from the previous year. Only two players are not in the photo: Fred Hess, son of long-time *Island Current* columnist, the late Dr. Fred Hess, and Bill Louttit.

Over the years, *The Island Current* has published many photos of St. Mary's teams posed in front of the gym windows showing the distinctive glass blocks around the windows. For me those blocks have been a constant symbol of St. Mary's Basketball, just as Yankee stadium's famous ornate facade has been to the Yankees. Of course, those blocks are inanimate objects; more important are all the players, coaches and support people who have worked and will work in the little gym on the Sound.

God bless all those who work so hard to continue the basketball program. May there always be St. Mary's Basketball.

Earl Rickard



358 City Island Avenue  
City Island, NY 10464  
jgl358@verizon.net  
718-885-0200

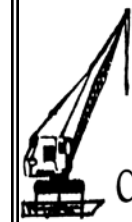
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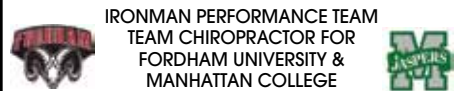
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The St. Mary's Boys Varsity ended the season with an overall record of 21 wins and 9 losses. They competed in the very tough Division A playoffs. The hard-working team is shown above (standing, l. to r.): head coach Mark Amos, Mateo Tomlinson, Connor Hanley-Piri, Dino Esposito, Deion Rodriguez, Cesar Lugo, Joseph Leni and coach Tom Leni. Kneeling: Andrew Whalen, Eric Lamonoco, John Tomsen, Michael Amos, Nicholas Rivera and Nicholas Calbo. Not shown: Jimmy McGaughan.



The St. Mary's Girls Gidgets posted a record of 13 wins and 7 losses. They came in third place in the A division. Led by their coaches Jimmy Mantzaris and Frank Cebek, the enthusiastic Gidgets are shown above (standing, l. to r.): Jessica DesGroseilliers, Deirdra Kirwin, Jennifer Gjonaj, Kayla Fusco and Jaimee Bernardo. Kneeling: Fiorela Miria, Amanda Acocella, Demitria Mantzaris and Adriana Testa. Not shown: Oona Fox.

## SMSS Basketball

Continued from page 1

Angelo Nieves and Joshua Rosario. It was an exciting season in which everyone gave their all, learned a lot of skills and grew as a team.

The season highlight was a game at St. Theresa's in which every player on the team scored at least one basket. In addition to the all-stars, the team members were John Bernardo, Angel Ramos, Ginutis Sipas, Frankie Lubelli, Joseph Goonan, Joey Cruz, Carmine Testa, Sebastian Rodriguez and Timothy Stiene.

Good luck to the players who are moving up. Coaches James Goonan, Chris Rice and Mike Torres hope to see everyone else back next season and look forward to new players joining. Special thanks to Christine Rice for all her help.

### Girls Junior Varsity

Even though they had a limited squad, all the girls on St. Mary's Girls JV team worked hard in practice, learned the fundamentals of the game and showed great teamwork. They played some tough opponents and demonstrated impressive determination throughout the season.

The coaches, Lorraine Watson and Bill Whelan, would like to thank the fourth-grade girls who played up with the team; it made a difference.

The coaches hope to see everyone back next season and congratulate all their players: Jady Watson, Kaltrina Rugova, Alexa Gjonaj, Eleni Mantzaris, Isabel Whelan and Alexa Forliano.

### Boys Varsity

The 2013-2014 Boys Varsity basketball season was full of thrills and excitement, starting with a loss to a very talented St. Francis Xavier basketball team in triple overtime. Later in the season, the St. Mary's team returned the favor by defeating them convincingly at the home gym on City Island.

The competition throughout the season was very challenging. The team ended with an overall record of 21 wins and 9 losses,

which placed them in the very talented Division A playoffs. Unfortunately, they fell short of advancing in the playoffs by losing to St. Brendan's in the first round.

Coach Mark Amos could not have been prouder of the team for displaying a never-give-up attitude. During the Christmas holidays, the team participated in the Our Lady of Assumption tournament and came in third place overall. As one of the head coaches of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball Program, he has seen most of these young boys grow through the ranks from intramurals to Bantams to Tyros and finally up to varsity basketball. He told *The Current*: "These young boys have grown into very talented basketball players but also into great young men, showing respect not only to their teammates but to others all around them."

Coach Amos thanked all the eighth-grade players: Deion Rodriguez, Mateo Tomlinson, Connor Hanley-Piri, Eric Lamonaco, John Tomsen, Dino Esposito and Andrew Whalen. He wishes them much success not only in high school, but throughout their lives. The returning and talented seventh-graders are Michael Amos, Cesar Lugo, Nicholas Rivera, Joseph Leni, Jimmy McGaughan and Nicholas Calbo. He urges them to work hard during the off-season on their basketball fundamentals, including dribbling, passing, defense, free throws and shooting. He looks forward to seeing them next season!

He also acknowledged coach Tom Leni for his dedication and commitment to the program and thanked all the parents, especially Cheryl Spencer and Genea Rochester, for all their sacrifice and hard work throughout the season.

Lastly, he praised Anna and Robert Whelan for their efforts in continuing the basketball program!

### Girls Gidgets

Coach Jimmy Mantzaris led a great Girls Gidgets team, which wound up with a record of 13 wins and 7 losses. The enthusiastic young ladies came in third place in the A division.

The future WNBA players included Fiorela Miria, Amanda Acocella, Demitria Mantzaris, Adriana Testa, Jessica DesGroseilliers, Deirdra Kirwin, Jennifer Gjonaj, Kayla Fusco, Jaimee Bernardo and Oona Fox.

### Intramurals

Coaches Ozlem Rodriguez, Ginutis Sipas and Michael Torres want to thank all those who participated in St. Mary's Intramural program for an exciting and fun season of learning to play basketball. Congratulations and good luck to the players who are moving up. The hopeful hoopsters included Marcus Sipas, Paul Goonan, Michael Sanfratello, Richie Muller, Alyssa Fusco, Abby Weidemann, Antalya Rodriguez, Jeana Zezula and Savannah Waters.

High five to all the players, coaches and parents who kept the tradition of St. Mary's basketball going for another year!



The young hoopster hopefuls of St. Mary's Intramural team (standing, l. to r.): Marcus Sipas, Paul Goonan, Michael Sanfratello and Richie Muller. Kneeling: Alyssa Fusco, Abby Weidemann, Antalya Rodriguez, Jeana Zezula and Savannah Waters. Patient coaches were Ozlem Rodriguez, Ginutis Sipas and Michael Torres.



Photo by ERIC RAUHAUSER

Horton Street resident Frank Fish Kavanda detected the smell of gas on March 3, 2014, in front of 111 Horton Street and quickly called 911. Both Con Edison and the City Island fire trucks responded within minutes. The gas main was cracked when a truck involved in the renovation of a house across the street backed up over the curb and broke the concrete. Con Ed repaired the gas main within four hours, which was fortuitous given the gas explosion that destroyed two buildings in Manhattan one week later. Gas leaks were also reported and quickly repaired on Tier Street in February and three times on Earley Street, most recently on March 20.

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

On April 4, the first Friday of the month, in conjunction with the Bronx Trolley, Fe Fi Faux Gallery (276 City Island Avenue) will open an exhibition of paintings by Mary Colby with a reception offering light refreshments beginning at 6 p.m.

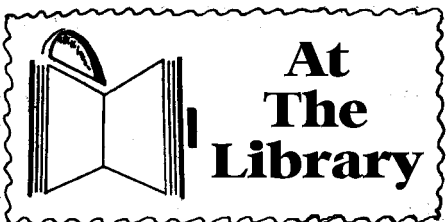
Dragons Path Academy (229 City Island Avenue) will be holding an open house every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon with information about this year's Martial Arts Summer Camp. The camp will start July 7, and there will be discounts for siblings. Registration closes May 10. For more information, visit www.dragonspathacademy.com or call 347-945-3172 or 917-742-2007.

We can tell that spring is definitely coming when Lickety Split (295 City Island Avenue) opens the doors of the ice cream shop! The opening date is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, and from then on the shop will be open seven days a week, from noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, and noon to midnight Friday and Saturday.



As a service to our readers, The Island Current will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. The Current is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
170 Schofield St., unit 30	12/18/13	\$220,000	condo
8 Leeward Lane #27	12/30/13	\$375,000	condo
175 City Island Ave.	12/31/13	\$1,303,025	manufac



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April Children's Programs  
Read-a-Loud: The first Friday of every month will have a read-aloud in the early afternoon. Listen to the librarian's choices, and feel free to bring your

family's favorite to share. Our read-aloud program is slowly transitioning into more of a Toddler Time activity. Friday, April 4, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

April Arts and Crafts: We will supply the scissors, glue and construction paper; please bring your own imagination and artistic flair as we make arts and crafts to celebrate spring. April 18, from 11 a.m. to noon, for preschoolers.

April Teen Programs

After-School Lounge: Students can play Wii, bring a book, do their homework and sneak in a snack. Monday through Friday afternoons when school is in session from 3 to 5 in our Community Room.

April Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the Internet before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL website. Every Tuesday morning from 10 to noon, and Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, 116 City Island Ave. at Pilot St.

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

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Every Saturday that we are open, we will present a movie or a lecture/discussion. Please check our flyers in the library or call for Saturday movies or lecture programs. All Saturday afternoon events begin at 1 p.m.

Tablet Group: Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3.

Island Writers: This is a creative writing workshop that meets in our community room once a week. "When we write, we find ourselves writing answers to questions we didn't know we had." Presented by Ms. Gail Hitt every Tuesday afternoon at 1.

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations.

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## A Current Review FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS

By BRUCE A. WEIS

The City Island Theater Group (CITG) opened its new season with the 2014 Festival of One-Act Plays, and as usual poured the usual flood of talent into this major effort. An impressive 23 actors and 11 directors combined forces to present 12 complete productions over the weekends of Feb. 28 through March 2 and March 7 through the 9th at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, and audiences responded by filling the hall to enjoy the wide variety of performances.

One of the interesting things about one-act plays is obvious from the name: each production generally has only one (usually) brief act. Characters appear on stage fully formed, and their back story must be gleaned as events unfold. Only one or two actions take place, and then the play is over and the environment vanishes, followed immediately by another set of characters caught up in a different situation, place and story. Some audience members may have been frustrated wondering how things finally turned out; others will happily decide that events took a good turn. But that's the nature of the one-act play, and the variety was as impressive as the plays themselves.

The first weekend of the festival opened with the play "Wanda's Visit" written by Christopher Durang and directed by Nic Anthony Calabro. John (Ted Nelson) and Marsha (Carol Dooner) are stuck in a boring 13-year marriage when Wanda (Paula Hernandez), a high school acquaintance of John's, suddenly shows up. John remembers Wanda as a fling, but she seems to consider him the lost love of her life, much to the consternation of Marsha and the confusion of a waiter (Joshua Miller), who is clearly in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Wanda's Visit" was followed by "The Rothko Room" by Stuart Spencer, directed by Maria Provenzano. Set in London's Tate Gallery, what at first seems to be a light-hearted meet-up in a gallery turns on an emotional dime to become a man's (Jason Hazell) last goodbye to his absent mother (Elizabeth Paldino) and a reflection on the struggle to accept our own mortality.

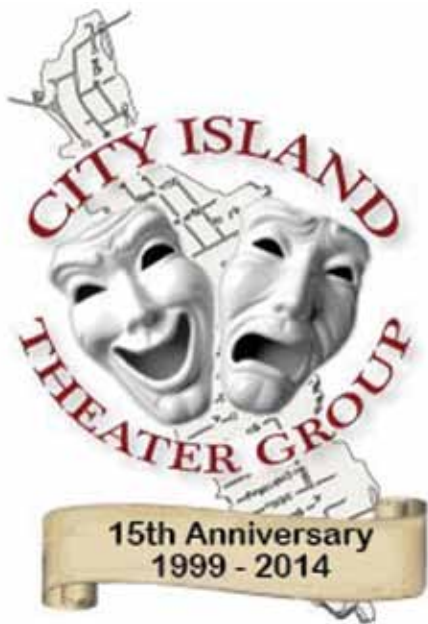
A lighter-hearted production, "Cell Phone Epidemic," was a slice of life from the daily communication struggles of two teenagers (Victoria Hernandez and Tera Meesawan) and offers a commentary on the increasing introspection in Generation Z and (perhaps) on a society-wide lack of personal responsibility. The play was written by Claudia Haas and directed by Nick Sala.

"GQ" sent two friends (Steven Bendler and Jason Hazell) on a clothes shopping trip, one of them desperate for advice on style and the other one probably not the right person to ask. Keith Rodriguez directed.

In "Home" by Laura Cahill, a troubled daughter (Paula Hernandez) seeking sanctuary returns home to find that her mother (Sandy Prosnitz) has problems of her own and that the imagined safety of home may be illusory. Ray Tollinchi handled the direction.

Closing the evening was "Surprise," in which Whitney (Elizabeth Paldino) is planning to break up with Peter (Jason Hazell) at a restaurant because his psychic ability to see two minutes into the future (but no further) has driven her to distraction. Fortunately for Peter, the waitress, Esther (Ashlee Danielle), is there to pick up the slack. "Surprise" was written by Mark Harvey Levine and directed by Torrey Rodriguez.

After "Surprise" came a lengthy intermission, which actually lasted until the following Friday, when the second week of plays began. The first play was "Midnight Moonlight Wedding Chapel," in which



Peter (Chris Manetakis) decides to marry a cocktail waitress (Ashlee Danielle) on a whim during a Las Vegas vacation, over the protests of his friend Walter (Jonathan Abbruzzese), at the same time as another couple, Juliana and Marvin (Carol Dooner and David Lazaar), decide to marry after a very long relationship. The following day, the tables turn as one relationship falls apart and the other becomes stronger, all under the guidance of the chapel's officiant (Camille Kaiser). The play, written by Eric Berlin, was directed by Steven Bendler.

"Game Theory," by Peter Sagal, matched two role-playing executives, Paul (Phil Garfinkel) and Mark (Jason Hazell), against one another in a game of wits at one of those retreat things executives go to. Can old age and treachery really beat youth and skill? Margo Brooks was the director.

In "Are You Ready?" by David Auburn, the fates of three people in a restaurant are altered in a moment. Each of them—the diner (Daniel Burke), the food critic (Ashlee Danielle) and the owner (Sandy Prosnitz)—provides a back story for their behavior in a revealing and often amusing soliloquy. Thomas Losito directed.

"Avenue of Dreams" traps Olga (Susan Rauh) in a threadbare life with an unhappy mother (Toni Fazio), who taunts her relentlessly. The two share a relationship in what seems like a merger of "The Glass Menagerie" and "Waiting for Godot." In this case, the mother desperately needs the suitor, who will likely never appear. "Avenue of Dreams" by Elyse Nass was directed by Elizabeth Paldino.

In "Ambition," a happy piece of children's theater, three school girls—Amy (Melanie Glynn), Gemma (Samantha Kucerka) and Emily (Mackenzie Merenda)—are given the opportunity to realize (and then recant) their childhood fantasies. This all takes place under the tutelage of a teacher (Jason Hazell) and with the aid of an accommodating mystical fairy (Cathy Romanovitch). Marie Provenzano directed this play by Tony Best.

The evening ended with "Hal and Cathy" (like a scene from "Lovers and Other Strangers"), in which Cathy (Toni Fazio), the mistress of Hal (Phil Garfinkel), somehow manages to maintain her dignity while spending most of the scene sitting on a toilet, as Hal explains why he can't ask his wife for a divorce; at least, not quite yet. Chris Manetakis directed this play by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna.

Because so many set changes were needed for these 12 productions, the sets were minimal, but they were effective and switched seamlessly from one to the next. Joe Burck did his usual great work with production design and lighting; Denis Zepeda created the sound design, and Hannah Glick handled the performance sound board duties.

Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker designed, made, purchased and reworked costumes, while prop mistress Barbara Dolensek had her hands full getting hold of a toilet and some fairy dust. Jay Langkamp handled the complicated job of production stage manager, while Nick Sala and Carol McCabe split the production manager duties by supervising the whole production, a very auspicious beginning to the City Island Theater Group's 15th year.

## WINTER BLAST NO MATCH FOR KID ASTRONOMERS

By DORIS QUINONES



Photo by LEON DAVIS

Elsie Marie Auguste and her daughter, Jana, share an astronomy experience as part of Project B.L.AST! (the Bronx Learns Astronomy), the borough's first after-school astronomy program, presented by Bronx House Community Center with funding from Con Edison.

Temperatures on the evening of Thursday, March 13, took a big dive, but they weren't enough to keep the borough's newest and youngest amateur astronomers from reaching for the stars, as they headed to City Island to view the night sky on one of the clearest nights of the season.

Positioned at Catherine Scott Park, the 20 middle-schoolers enjoyed spectacular views of Orion's Belt, the moon and Jupiter through high-powered, computerized telescopes and astronomical binoculars, as part of Project B.L.AST! (the Bronx Learns Astronomy), the borough's first after-school astronomy program, which is funded by Con Edison at the Bronx House Community Center.

The students were led by their instructors, Amateur Astronomers Association of New York board members Bruce Kamiat and Joseph Martinez, who is better known to these kids as Jupiter Joe, who also runs Jupiter Joe's Sidewalk Astronomy. Over the winter the students took part in a unique and enjoyable learning experience. "My daughter is so excited about learning astronomy," said Renee Mikens, whose daughter, Lonee, was part of the Project B.L.AST! launch and who braved the cold with her daughter to take her own first look through a telescope. "I figured I would come out and see it for myself."

"That's part of the idea behind the program," says Leon Davis, the director of Family, Children and Camping Services at Bronx House. "In wintertime kids are at our after-school program well after nightfall, and that gives us an opportunity to capitalize on their natural curiosity about space. At the same time, we engage parents so that they are also encouraging

their children's enthusiasm about learning astronomy and science."

Joe Martinez says he chose City Island for the Project B.L.AST! field trip because "it has large, open sky viewing with no major sky obstructions and limited light pollution." City Island was also ideal for this after-school activity because it is the furthest point east in the Bronx, which means it gets darker sooner, so that observing can start earlier. "Because the earth rotates to the east, celestial objects appear to move from east to west," Mr. Martinez says. "So we're able to see objects sooner than we would if we were further west."

In fact, stargazing in the borough's seaside community is developing a following. "City Island is very receptive to observing and to participating in community-based astronomy events," Mr. Martinez reports. Last year, he held a Super Moon Observing Night on the island, and this year on Aug. 23, Jupiter Joe's Sidewalk Astronomy will host a Star Party to commemorate the third annual City Island reunion. Anyone interested in learning about upcoming events open to the public is encouraged to visit [facebook.com/JupiterJoesAstronomy](http://facebook.com/JupiterJoesAstronomy).

Bronx House is the first and longest-running community center of its type in the Bronx and celebrates its 103rd anniversary in 2014. Programs serve toddlers to seniors, and in addition to after-school astronomy, it offers aquatics, a fitness and wellness center, summer camp, youth sports, universal pre-kindergarten and after-school enrichment classes, the Bronx House School for Performing Arts and more. For information on their March 29 Kids Day Open House and other upcoming activities and programs, visit [www.bronxhouse.org](http://www.bronxhouse.org).

## Dr. Mignone Goes Back to Drawing Board

On Feb. 25, 2014, the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) held a public hearing to review the third proposal for a senior-housing project that the Italian

Hospital Society (IHS) wants to construct in a manufacturing zone at Schofield Street and City Island Avenue. The third design is for a much smaller development, offering 54 apartments in four buildings with no parking underground. The City Island Civic Association attended the hearing to voice their concern that the new design, while much smaller, is still denser than buildings allowed by City Island Special District Zoning, and the BSA agreed. The attorney for Dr. Mignone, president of the Italian Hospital Society, was asked to reduce the FAR (Floor Area Ratio) from .8 to .5, which is called for in the zoning regulations. The IHS has until April 8 to come up with a revised plan, and a new hearing is scheduled to be held on May 13.

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### APRIL

Sat., April 5, **Trinity Methodist Spring Fair**, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch served from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Sat., April 12, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Thurs., April 17, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Access Community Health Center, 1420 Ferris Place (front of building).

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., April 17, 18 and 19, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sat. April 19, **Easter Egg Hunt**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 1 to 3 p.m.

Sat., April 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

Tues., April 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### Holiday Services

##### Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Sunday, April 6: Healing Service in preparation for Passover, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9: Spirit of the Year Class: Passover, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15: Seder by the Sea, Community Passover seder led by Reb David, 6 p.m. Call for reservations (718-885-3098).

##### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday service, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:30 a.m. Easter Celebrative Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

##### St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

City Island Ave. near the Bridge

Saturday, April 12: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

Thursday, April 17: Tenebrae, 8 a.m., Holy Thursday psalms and readings. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 18, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 4 p.m. Confessions, 5 to 6 p.m.

April 19, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 20, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon.

##### Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday service, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday, Festival and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

##### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), at 480 City Island Avenue, is an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue. Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please come at 7:15 to enjoy welcoming music as well as an opportunity to meet and

greet before services begin. Please visit our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). Our schedule is as follows:

April 6, 10 a.m. Healing Service. Join Reb Eva for a special service dedicated to healing and wholeness, for ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. With chant, meditation, movement and stillness, we will attune to health and healing in all worlds, readying ourselves for the release and purification of Passover.

April 9, 7:30 p.m., Spirit of the Year Class: Passover. Join Reb David for our monthly exploration of the holidays. With Passover approaching, we will explore the meaning of freedom, the power of four questions, cups, sons, and the 49-day journey of Omer between liberation (Passover) to revelation (Shavuot). Refreshments.

April 11, 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Reb David and Reb Eva. Oneg to follow sponsored by David Stark in honor of his birthday.

April 15, 6 p.m. Seder by the Sea. Join Reb David for a community Passover seder like no other. Co-sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program. RSVPs required (details to be announced). Mark your calendars and bring friends for this annual experience of transformation, liberation and joy. Complete kosher seder in a congenial setting. \$50 adults, \$18 children, under 13. Contact Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 or by email at [shul.bythesea@verizon.net](mailto:shul.bythesea@verizon.net).

April 18, 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Rabbi Shohama and Reb David. Oneg to follow sponsored by Paul Klein in honor of his partner Bill Rainford's birthday.

May 10, 9:45 a.m. Spring in the Garden. Join Reb Eva and Reb David for a guided shabbat walk in the New York Botanical Garden at the height of spring. Meet main gate at 9:45 a.m. for free admission.

"The Velveteen Rabbi" will visit City Island as scholar in residence on from May 30 through June 1. Nationally recognized Rabbi, poet and blogger Rachel will hold a special Shabbat at Temple Beth-El. This amazing and profound weekend will include co-leading music-filled services, special teachings and public readings/symposia of Rabbi Rachel's works. An accomplished author of numerous books of spiritual poetry, Rabbi Rachel has been recognized by *Time Magazine* as one of the Internet's 25 top bloggers. She is especially known for spiritual writing and re-imagining the lives of Jews, families and especially women for the 21st century. Mark your calendars: you won't want to miss this very special weekend.

June 3, 7:30 p.m. Love, Sex and Torah: A Shavuot Journey. Join Reb David for an evening journey of sharing, story, song and mystical text for Shavuot, the festival of giving Torah. In honor of the Shavuot theme of unity, this year's subject will be Love, Sex and Torah. Join us: you will never think of Shavuot the same way again. Celebratory dessert se'udah (feast) to follow.

Ellen Ruth Topol

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Group Bible Study began March 9 and will run through April 16. The group, led by George Cavaliere, is resuming the study of Romans, chapters 11 through 16. Each session will start at 11:15 a.m. following the regular service and end at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Make plans now to shop at the Trinity Spring Fair on April 5, from 11 to 3; lunch is served from 12 to 2.

The Easter Sunrise Service is on April 20 and will begin at 6 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in Trinity Fellowship Hall.

The Budget Corner is open! The winter/



Photo by KAREN DAVIDOWITZ

**On Sunday, March 16, Temple Beth-El celebrated Purim, one of the most joyous holidays on the Jewish calendar, when carnival-like celebrations are held, featuring plays, parodies and costumes, including cross-dressing. Purim commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination and is sometimes referred to in America as the Jewish Mardi Gras.**

spring schedule is March 1, 4, 15, 18, 25 and 29; April 5, 8, 19 and 22. Think of Trinity while you are spring cleaning and donate your no longer needed but gently used items. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

#### Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Holy Week services will be as follows:

Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, at 10 a.m.

Grace will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, on the church grounds, with face painting, crafts and more. Everyone is welcome.

Join us on April 11 for Friday night fellowship, when Captain Chris from the Island Current fleet will talk to us about fishing. The program will start at 7 p.m.; refreshments will be served and there is no charge.

Eileen Marcus

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will debut its Spring Collection on Thursday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spring and summer items (new and used) will be for sale, including Easter clothing, decorations, shoes, bonnets and bric-a-brac. The shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays through the month of April (April 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26). We also have bags, linens, household appliances, CDs, tapes, records and books. Come by to check out the Spring Collection and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee with your friends and neighbors. Remember that donations are always gratefully accepted.

Arlene Byrne

#### AARP Chapter 318

AARP 318 meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. Our April meetings will be held on April 2 and 16. Plans for our spring meetings include a day trip to West Point on May 8 at \$89 per person and a day at the Westchester Dinner Theater on April 23. We will have speakers at other meetings. A safe-driver course will be held on Saturday, May 31, at Trinity church hall. Please come and sign up for these wonderful activities and bring a friend.

Rosetta Woods

#### City Island Theater Group

In 1939, Agatha Christie wrote the book "And Then There Were None" based on the nursery rhyme by the same title. The book was so well received that very soon she received requests to dramatize it, but she decided that she would do that herself. The play was originally performed in England in 1943.

The CITG is pleased to produce this murder mystery on Friday and Saturday, April 25

and 26, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. And on the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3 at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m.

All productions will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. For tickets, please call 718-885-3066 or email [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting our website [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

Mary McIntyre

#### American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be on April 1, 2014. Our Cancer Bingo is on May 15 so this is an important time to get plans finalized.

Happy Easter on April 20 to all our members.

Stop by the Legion for any upcoming events. Thank you.

Maryann Occhicone

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 156

We would like to remind all members that 2014 dues (\$30) are now due. Mail the dues or drop off to the Post in the SAL box.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

Thank you to all of those who helped with the Pig's-knuckle Party. Once again it was a huge success.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### City Island Republicans

Every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. is the Republican County meeting, which is open to the public.

We will be meeting again in early May.

Fred Ramftl Jr.







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

Want to get involved in your community? Want to share your talents to make a difference? The City Island Community Center is seeking individuals of all ages to volunteer to help expand and build a center worthy of our dynamic community. Do you have talents or skills in graphic design, grant writing, fundraising? If so, we want to hear from you.

The City Island Community Center strives to be a welcoming and safe place for meeting, celebrating, creating, teaching, learning and promoting awareness for the common good of all. The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We are grateful to have about 100 members. Annual membership is \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining.

To join the Center or for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Pysanky Egg Craft**, Sunday, April 13, at 6 p.m. Young people! Be creative and have fun decorating eggs under the direction of Jay Howard. Material fee is \$5.

**Awareness: Drugs and City Island Young People**, Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to explore issues in a gentle discussion led by Jay Howard and Bowie Stivala.

**Weekly Weight Watchers Meetings**, Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Join us and we can get ready for bathing suit weather together. It's a great group! For more information call Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Zumbathon**, Sunday, April 27, 1 p.m. Our dynamic instructors, Julia and Lettie, get together for fun-filled, hot Zumba session and a fundraiser for the Center. Donation \$12. (Look at You Tube - *City Island Zumbathon* to see what it is all about.)

**Monthly Teen Dances (6th, 7th and 8th grades)**. Come join your P.S. 175 and City Island friends for a night of fun. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Due to liability, safety, and space issues, we are now requiring all teens attending to register by signing a release, having their parent sign a release, and adding their parents' telephone numbers in case of an emergency. To preregister, email [bowiesmail@gmail.com](mailto:bowiesmail@gmail.com). (Forms will also be distributed at P.S. 175.) The next dances are April 26 and May 24. There is no charge for the dances, but donations are welcome.

**Monthly Parenting Discussions with John Scardina**. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another: join us as we each share our experience, strength and hope on

this journey of parenthood! Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call 718-885-9305.

**Family Bingo Nights**, Friday, April 25 and May 30, at 7 p.m. Come join us for a great night filled with laughter, joy and great prizes for the family. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

**NEW PROGRAMS**

**Shimmy By the Sea**: We are happy to announce that Belly Dance with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, will continue on Fridays at 7 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcuita at 646-625-1575 for information.

**Art Classes for Ages 7-12**, Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore techniques in drawing and painting with pencil, pen, oil pastels and much more. The cost for 10 classes, an hour and a half long, is \$165. Must have eight children. To register, contact Lorraine Cantori at [CeasarDante@optonline.net](mailto:CeasarDante@optonline.net) or call 914-552-5268.

**Yoga with Jo Ann**, Saturdays from noon to 1:15 p.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible a yoga blanket. For more information, call Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or email [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com).

**Scrapbooking Classes and Paper Crafting Events with Desiree**. Coming soon! Check out her website at [www.demahandcrafts.com](http://www.demahandcrafts.com) or call 914-562-5857.

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Irish Dance**: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit [www.deirdreomara.com](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

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

**Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep**: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former LaGuardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

**Arts and Crafts Classes with Eileen**: Starting Monday, March 10, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Four classes \$90. These classes feature painting, collage, paper sculpture, printmaking and many other projects that will ignite the imagination! Call Eileen Stoudt at 914-633-1695 to register or for more information. Leave a message.

**Introduction to Acting** with Eileen Stoudt, from Monday, March 10 through April 14, for grades 3-6 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Six classes for \$125. These classes are designed for children to express themselves in a fun and warm environment with theater, songs and dance. There will be a final performance for family and friends. Call Eileen at 914-633-1695 to register or for more information. Leave a message.

**ADULT PROGRAM**

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

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

**Baby Boomer Yoga with Norma**, Thursday at 7 p.m. This is a hatha vinyasa

class suitable for all fitness levels. The session focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. Best of all the class is easy and fun for all. \$10 per class. Call 718-885-0535 for more information.

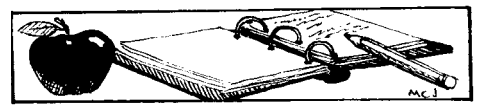
**Chair Yoga with Michael**, Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

**Chess Club**: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

**Zumba with Julia**: Want to lose that belly fat brought on by the holidays? Well here is your chance to zumba with Julia, a high-energy hour-long workout. Saturday mornings from 10 to 11. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

**Zumba with Letti**: Letti is a fantastic zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Classes are \$10; a five-class card is \$40.

**Patty Grondahl**



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

On Friday, April 4, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer. That same day we will hold the Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

On Saturday, April 5, children from our religious education program will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The ceremony will take place in our church at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to join us at our monthly Hospitality Hour on Sunday, April 6. It will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass.

On Wednesday, April 9, our students who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation will participate on a day of retreat at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY. This is part of their immediate preparation for the reception of the sacrament in early May.

The holiest week of our church year will begin on April 13, when we begin the commemoration of the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. April 13 is Palm Sunday, when palms will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have the service of Tenebrae, consisting of psalms, readings and chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah. The solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 4 p.m. After a day of waiting and silence on Saturday, the solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. that evening, and our joyful Alleluias will continue on Easter Sunday at all our Masses, 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Because of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, there will be no religious education classes on April 16 and 23.

On Sunday, April 27, the class of 1958 of St. Mary Star of the Sea school will gather at the 12 noon Mass for a reunion celebration. All are welcome.

Happy Easter to all!

**Sr. Bernadette, osu**

**PSS Healthy Seniors**

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families through information, services and support. Our goal is to promote the independence of the elderly

by helping them remain Healthy, Engaged, and Connected. We're not your everyday senior center!

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 or better. Morning features our fitness program listed below. Afternoon activities include individualized computer class, acrylic painting, movies and more. Blood-pressure screening and health and nutrition talks are also available monthly.

Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

**Physical Exercise**

Our exercise program offers classes with various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself: Arthritis Workshop: Monday at 10:15 a.m.; Cardio Fitness Tuesday at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch Tuesday at 10:15 a.m.; Rhythm and Drums Wednesday at 10:15 a.m.; Zumba Gold Thursday at 9 a.m.; Fit for Life Friday at 9 a.m.; Arthritis Workshop II Friday at 10:15 a.m. The arthritis workshop classes on Mondays and Fridays are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each, or \$30 monthly for unlimited classes.

**Volunteering**

We welcome all new volunteers to help make this senior center the absolute best for our seaside community, and we are thankful for our current volunteers. We can always use extra help at our front desk, serving lunch and for parties and special events.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance**

If you would like more information regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we would be more than happy to help out. We also provide assistance with filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

**Caregivers Support**

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

**Transportation Services**

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 for morning Island trips and pickup for exercise programs or lunch. Afternoon shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services.

**Patty Attis**

**American Legion Post 156**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. On Monday, April 21, will be the executive board meeting.

The VA accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed. The Post is not accepting book donations at this time.

It's party time! The hall is available for rent, and dates are filling up. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Past Commander Bob Mennona reports that the Post now has a Kuerig machine. There is plenty of good coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cider.

Vice Commander Mike Treats reports that membership dues (\$50) are now due. The money can be mailed or dropped off to the Post.

We are now on the web at [Post156.com](http://Post156.com).

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

**Edwin Shipp**

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### International Journalism

We begin our look at journalism around the world in the Alfred Hitchcock classic **Foreign Correspondent** (1940). Joel McCrea stars as John Jones, an American journalist sent by his newspaper to cover the advent of war in Europe in the years 1938 to 1940. As he arrives in Holland, he witnesses the assassination of a Dutch diplomat. Jones meets peace-activist Stephen Fisher (Herbert Marshall), his like-minded daughter Carol (Laraine Day) and a British secret agent (George Sanders). The final scene, in which McCrea broadcasts to a "sleeping" America from London while Nazi bombs drop all around him, was filmed only a short time after the actual London blitz.

**Under Fire** (1983) is political film set during the last days of the Nicaraguan revolution that ended the Somoza regime in 1979. It stars Nick Nolte as photojournalist Russell Price, who finds it difficult to stay neutral. Gene Hackman is Alex Grazier, a reporter who dreams of becoming an anchorman. Joanna Cassidy is radio reporter Clare Stryder, who falls out of love with Grazier and into love with Price. This is a gripping, emotional story of a roving photographer's transformation from a neutral artist with a camera to an involved human rights activist.

**The Year of Living Dangerously** (1983) is set in the exotic location of Jakarta, Indonesia, during the 1965 coup against President Sukarno. Mel Gibson stars as Guy Hamilton, an Australian wire-service reporter. Hamilton is followed wherever he goes by photographer Billy Kwan (Linda Hunt, who won an Academy Award for her performance). As all of Jakarta sinks into disorder, Hamilton pursues a romance with British attaché Jill Bryant (Sigourney Weaver).

In **The Killing Fields** (1984) Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston), a correspondent for the New York Times, covered the invasion of Cambodia with the help of Dith Pran (Oscar winner Dr. Haing S. Ngor), a local journalist and translator. When the country fell to the communist Khmer Rouge, the Western correspondents evacuated, but Pran elected to stay and was captured. Schanberg won a Pulitzer for his coverage of the Cambodian civil war and accepted it on behalf of his missing friend. A good deal of the film focuses on Pran's struggle to survive, which parallels the real-life experiences of the actor who played him.

Directed by Oliver Stone, **Salvador** (1986) is an interesting character study of a down-and-out veteran photojournalist Richard Boyle (James Woods) and his pal Dr. Rock (Jim Belushi), an out-of-work DJ. They travel to Salvador to find work amid the country's civil war, but they soon discover that the danger is more than they can handle.

**Welcome to Sarajevo** (1997) is a disquieting examination of the Bosnian war of the mid-1990s and the roles played by the journalists who covered it. When cynical English reporter Michael Henderson (Stephen Dillane) observes the countless children left orphaned in war-torn Bosnia,

he risks his life to help rescue a young girl. Woody Harrelson is on hand as a reckless grandstanding reporter, and Marisa Tomei is an American aide worker who helps Henderson.

**Live from Baghdad** (2002) is a dramatization that recounts the CNN Network coverage of the beginning of the Persian Gulf War in late 1990. CNN producers Robert Wiener (Michael Keaton) and Ingrid Formanek (Helena Bonham Carter), assisted by on-the-scene reporters Bernard Shaw (Robert Wisdom), Peter Arnett (Bruce McGill) and John Holliman (John Carroll Lynch), represented the only American news service on the scene during the first night of bombing on Jan. 16, 1991. Not only does the film celebrate the heroism of the CNN crew, but it also vividly demonstrates how a tiny but tenacious basic cable channel managed to out-scoop the Big Three networks, subsequently becoming one of the most powerful and influential journalistic forces in the world.

**Veronica Guerin** (2003) is based on the real-life story of an assassinated Irish journalist. Cate Blanchett appears in the title role as a relentless crime reporter during the early 1990s who pursues the underground drug trade in Dublin. Not deterred by threats or gunshot wounds, she uses gangster John Traynor (Ciarán Hinds) as an informer to help her investigate psychotic mobster John Gilligan (Gerard McSorley). Guerin's violent murder in 1996 led to a revision of Ireland's laws.

**The Journalist and the Jihadi: The Murder of Daniel Pearl** (2006) is a documentary about the life of the South Asia Bureau Chief for the Wall Street Journal, a reporter slain by terrorists. The film compares and contrasts that life with Omar Sheikh, who is believed to have had a hand in Pearl's death. Both were well educated, but where Pearl sought to bring people together through his work, Sheikh took a path that led to religious extremism. The film **A Mighty Heart** (2007) is a dramatization of this story starring Angelina Jolie as Mariane Pearl, wife of the slain journalist.

The most moving of all the films on this topic is **Under Fire: Journalists in Combat** (2011). It considers the psychological and emotional toll of covering wars. Among the participants are major war correspondents from the New York Times, BBC, Times of London and others. Combat footage, intense interviews with reporters from around the world and commentary by psychiatrist Anthony Feinstein, who specializes in treating journalists, shed light on the traumas faced by those who risk their lives to report from war zones.

**Philomena** (2013) is the moving story of Philomena Lee (Judi Dench) who as a young girl, gave birth to a son out of wedlock. He was given away for adoption by the nuns at the Irish Church where she and others in her predicament were abused. When she meets Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan), a BBC reporter, she enlists his aid in trying to find her long-lost son.

**The Fifth Estate** (2013) concerns journalists, bloggers and websites that operate outside of the mainstream media. Driven to expose corporate crimes and government secrets no matter what the cost, activist Julian Assange (Benedict Cumberbatch) and computer hacker Daniel Berg (Daniel Bruhl) team up to become the underground watchdogs of the privileged and powerful. As their Wikileaks organization starts to gather support and influence across the globe, they find themselves in conflict with U.S. intelligence agencies when their actions put the lives of thousands in danger.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

## GOOD RIDDANCE TO WINTER, HELLO, SPRING!

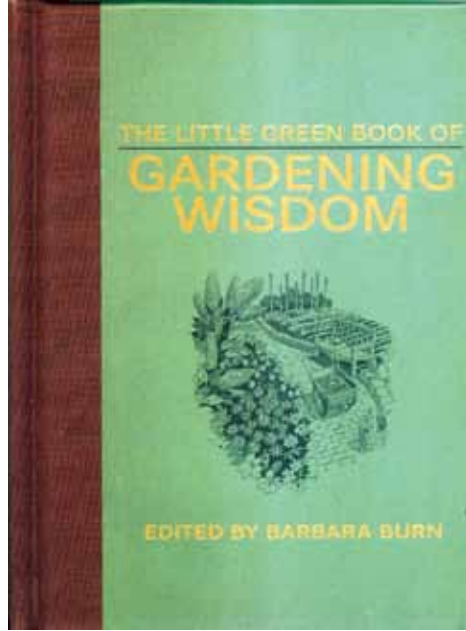
Bells should be pealing as Mother Nature rings in what should be considered the New Year, for all will be made fresh and new as the gray cold weather will be banished by April. Spring! It has finally and unequivocally arrived.

To herald its return is a new gardening book, "The Little Green Book of Gardening Wisdom" edited and with an introduction by Barbara Burn. This is a charming compilation of poetry, prose, beautiful photography and invaluable insights into the world of gardens and gardening. You will open it to the likes of Kipling, Jefferson and Cicero. Find advice here from such garden sages as Olmsted, Jekyll, Robinson and Lloyd. As a fanatical garden book collector, I am thrilled to finally own a book that encompasses all the great garden writers, poets and men and women of letters in one delightful book. It is unique in this way. How handy it is in just the right size and the right color, green. I have spent many happy hours in its pages. Buy it on Amazon, or pick up a copy at the Bartow Pell Mansion-Museum or at the City Island Nautical Museum. A marvelous little green gardening book, wonderful to read with a cool drink in the summer's twilight. Congratulations, Barbara.

So we will find ourselves giddy this spring. Surely we will all have the fever after such a gloomy and bitterly cold winter. Garden centers will be burgeoning with plants for the taking and which will we take? If it's spring that you love, then add spring flowering plants to your garden: aubretia, snow in summer, iberis and violas. These will intermingle and form lovely mats of color. Good plant combinations make for pretty pictures.

For May flowering, plant iris and oriental poppies this spring and globe alliums this fall. Or let the shrubs take care of May, as there are so many good ones: rhododendron, azalea, spirea and viburnum, among many others.

In June there is such a flourish and impossible growing that there are almost too many varieties to choose from. I rely on self-seeders then, the red legion of honor poppies with verbascums. And of course roses, foxgloves and delphiniums regale the garden in June, though they are high maintenance. So if you are obsessed or very young with a lot of time, plant these together at least once in your life.



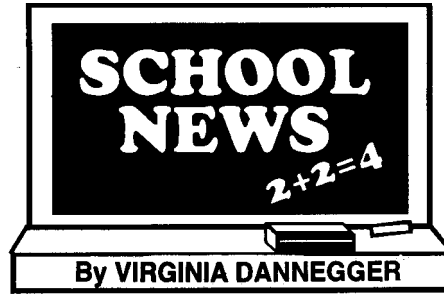
Now I am getting excited, and ahead of myself by two months in a delirium of plant dreaming. If you have children, start some sunflower seeds on May 15; all children benefit from growing things. I remember a gift when I was five of a packet of carrot seeds. The wonder of planting so tiny a seed and watching the ferny green sprouts come to life is a memory that is indelible and so delicious. Morning glories are easy too and will cover a building in no time.

Gardeners watch the weather, and unlike most people their idea of a good weekend is a drizzle of rain. Forecasters announce another great weekend of SUN, but the true gardener likes a fine spray on an overcast day to heel in his plants or to gently water his new crop of seedlings. Nothing could be more satisfying than planting in the rain. It is as if you yourself are one with nature, and on that day you may even have some chlorophyll running in your veins. How simple and how powerful this kind of happiness is.

Visit the New York Botanical Garden this spring. Not to be missed is the new azalea garden and the rock garden. Don't forget Stone Crop gardens and Wave Hill.

If you have any questions or need consultation in planning or amending your flower borders, you can contact me at 917-804-4509. I would be happy to assist. Happy planting and happy spring!

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



## ST. MARY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

March was filled with many fun activities for our Little Stars. They were quite busy exploring the character in the book "Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes" as his shoes changed from white to red to blue to brown to wet. The children enjoyed singing the song about how Pete loved his different colored shoes. As the children improved their listening skills, they also learned about opposites: wet and dry, hot and cold, cloudy and sunny. The book allowed the children a variety of sensory experiences. We have been having fun with creating different colored socks with Play-Doh and feeling the socks when wet.

The teachers and staff of Little Stars and many community members enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance on March 15. We would like to extend our gratitude to the whole community who are helping Little Stars along our journey to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the smallest members of the Island. With such a caring and dedicated staff, the early childhood education program promises to be filled with the stars of the future.

There will be an open registration for our fall program and for our after-care program on Friday, April 11, 2014. You may register your child any time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are working with the Department of Education for a Universal Pre-K program that should begin on Sept. 8 and follow the NYC public school system calendar. If you would like to register your child, please bring your child's birth certificate and updated immunizations. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Moore at the school (718-885-1527) for a complete list of documents needed for registration.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL 175

A lot went on at P.S. 175 in March! Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 11. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. The students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students also attended some exciting trips last month. The kindergarten and the first grade went to the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts to see a Chinese New Year performance and to the Children's Museum of Manhattan for the "Busy Bodies" exhibit. The third grade went to Queens College for a Chinese acrobats performance, and the fourth grade visited St. Paul's Church to learn more about how the local area was impacted by the American Revolution. The fifth grade saw the Broadway performance of "Matilda," and the sixth grade went to the Louis Armstrong Museum to learn more about the Harlem Renaissance. Seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historical sites and visited the Franklin Institute

Science Museum to explore the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits. As part of our "Rewarding Positive Behavior Program," students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades who had exemplary behavior went on a trip to the movies.

In addition, P.S. 175's eighth-grade students conducted a jump-a-thon to benefit the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The sum of \$2,100.00 was raised and will go toward the building of a new home for a needy family. Ms. Heil was accompanied by eighth-graders Anita Beqiraj, John Cebollero, Chanel Coleman, Carlo Fine, Connor Hanley-Piri, Dusty Prohaska, Emma Ramos and John Tomsen to the Philippine Consulate to present our check to the Consul General, Mario L. De Leon Jr., who expressed great appreciation for our very generous donation! Thanks to all our families who contributed to this cause!

Fifth-grade students just finished their musical production of "Annie JR" The two evening performances were a huge success, and we are sure some of our students are Broadway bound! Our fabulous fifth-grade teachers Shannon Montenare, Lizanne Espina, Jaclyn Patsos and Ashley Baehrel worked with Jessica McCuiston and Adam Rosenwach from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to put on a fabulous show! We are grateful to Councilman James Vacca for the arts grant that helps to subsidize the fifth grade play.

Kindergarten through third-grade students finished their Alvin Ailey unit of study with a fabulous performance at the Clark Theater at Lincoln Center of "Ailey II." As always, we are grateful to our P.T.A. for subsidizing the Lincoln Center Institute, so that it continues to be part of the P.S. 175 arts and aesthetics education program.

Our phenomenal Parent-Teacher Association held its annual Card Party at the Split Rock Golf Course. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success. Many thanks to all the parents who spent countless hours preparing for the event, and a huge thank-you to all the teachers who "donated" an activity to the silent auction. We are very pleased that the funds raised will enable the P.T.A. to continue helping us to provide exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks also to the businesses in our community that supported the party.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2014, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten will have the opportunity to do so at school in early May. Parents and/or guardians should call the school at the end of April for specific dates. The DOE website also has registration information.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Monday, June 23, at 9:30 a.m. The eighth grade dance will take place that evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m.

The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

March Citizens-of-the-Month are Kylee Garcia (kindergarten); Ava Davis and Isabel Quiles (first grade); Jordan Knapp (second grade); Sofia Solazzo and Jessica Desgrosseillers (third grade); Mark Piri and Skylar Powers (fourth grade); Krista Durante and Mia Villafana (fifth grade); Alexa Gjonaj and Gianna Solazzo (sixth grade); Sean Clara and Angelo Ejli (seventh grade); Phoebe McElroy and Sabrina Jarvis (eighth grade).

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## Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



**Dennis Kurtz**

### Dennis K. Kurtz

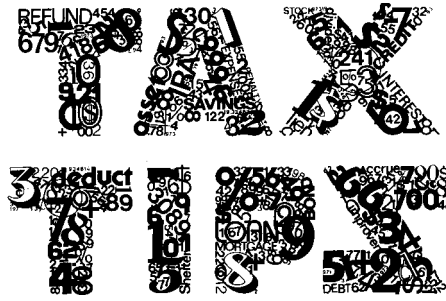
Island resident Dennis K. Kurtz passed away on March 3, 2014, at the age of 62.

As a child Dennis spent summers on City Island at his grandparents' bungalow on Schofield Street, and in 1982 he made the bungalow his permanent residence.

He worked for the telephone company (now Verizon) for 33 years and was a proud member of the Communication Workers of America.

Dennis is survived by his loving wife, Teri, his dear mother, Doris Kurtz, and his cherished dog, Bella. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Evelyn, brothers-in-law Steven (Stephanie) and Anthony (Phyllis) Berardo. His nieces and nephew, Julianna, Toni Ann, Michelle, Anthony, Andrea, Anna and Angela Berardo, also survive him, as does his good friend Richie.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, March 8, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.



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

The lobbying of the realtors and mortgage lenders has paid off for our area homeowners. Many deductions that were either on the chopping block or due to be seriously curtailed have survived another year relatively unscathed. This is the most wonderful time of the year to be a homeowner and do taxes. It never hurts to review those deductions to make sure you pay the least amount of taxes.

If you took out a mortgage (loan) to finance the purchase of your home, you probably have to make monthly house payments. Your house payment may include several costs of owning a home. The only costs you can deduct are real estate taxes, interest that qualifies as home mortgage interest, and mortgage insurance premiums.

Real estate taxes are deductible. What to write off becomes confusing to most people because of the wide variance in the ways that real estate taxes are reported. If you are lucky, many banks pay the real estate taxes and report the payments on Form 1098. Some municipalities charge homeowners a separate school tax that is spread out over two calendar years. The rule is simple. You paid it in 2013; you deduct it in 2013, even if you prepaid 2014.

Mortgage interest is deductible, whether it is secured by your primary or by your vacation home. It's usually reported to you by your bank on a Form 1098. Unless your mortgage is over a million (\$500,000 if filing single or married filing separately), it is completely deductible. Even if it's not reported to you on a Form 1098, you can still deduct your mortgage interest so long as you carefully document whom you are paying.

People in cooperatives should be aware that their share of the building entitles them to deduct their share of the building's mortgage (and real estate taxes) prorated to the number of shares they own. This is an often overlooked deduction. One of the reasons it is overlooked is that many times no Form 1098 gets issued. Check with your co-op board before filing your taxes.

If you purchase a home, or refinance your mortgage, points are deductible, either in the year of the purchase or over the life of the mortgage. Obviously, taxpayers are better off to write them off in the year paid, although the IRS's stance is that they be written off over time. As the requirements for the immediate write-off are complex, this is one area when it will pay off to consult a tax professional.

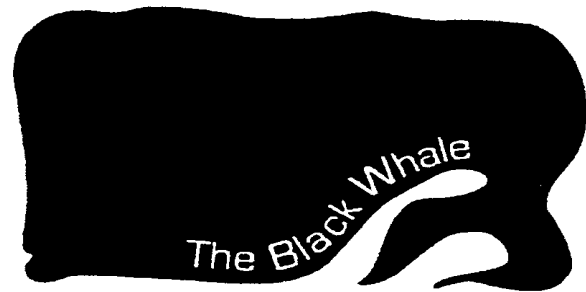
You may be able to take an itemized deduction for premiums you pay or accrue during 2013 for qualified mortgage insurance in connection with home acquisition debt on your qualified home. Mortgage insurance premiums you paid or accrued on any mortgage insurance contract issued before Jan. 1, 2007, are not deductible as an itemized deduction. Most mortgage insurance is qualified, but you should formally ask your lender to confirm.

Since many homeowners work from home, you should be aware that the IRS has greatly simplified the home office de-

duction this year. You can still use the old way, with its complicated (i.e., error-prone) methodology of allocating costs by square footage. Under the old system, for example, you could allocate some of your mortgage interest to the home office, using the remainder on your regular deductions and other expenses would be assigned entirely to the home office. Although you can still use the old method, the IRS has decided that you can deduct \$5 per square foot for the portion of the house that qualifies for a home office, up to 300 square feet. This limits the deduction to \$1,500 per year.

At first glance, that amount seems low. Consider the biggest expenses that you allocated, such as mortgage interest and real estate taxes. You can still write them off on your regular taxes. A careful review of other so-called home office expenses can actually still be written off against the business. For example, internet charges can be allocated on hours devoted to the business. In essence, you get the benefits of deducting your home office, less record-keeping and the full deduction benefits of many expenses.

Nothing that we've written here should be construed as tax advice for your particular situation, because there are nuances and exceptions to every IRS rule. Many times the cost of professional advice is greatly outweighed by the peace of mind of having done things correctly.



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**Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)**  
 Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).  
 HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

APRIL 2014									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0115	8.53	0755	-1.19	1345	7.92	2006	-0.59	Tue 01
02 Wed	0158	8.32	0841	-0.85	1430	7.63	2047	-0.17	Wed 02
03 Thu	0241	8.01	0927	-0.38	1518	7.31	2127	0.31	Thu 03
04 Fri	0326	7.64	1016	0.15	1610	7.00	2207	0.79	Fri 04
05 Sat	0419	7.27	1108	0.65	1709	6.77	2258	1.23	Sat 05
06 Sun	0526	6.97	1206	1.04	1813	6.66			Sun 06
07 Mon	0012	1.53	0636	6.81	1305	1.28	1913	6.70	Mon 07
08 Tue	0120	1.64	0738	6.80	1400	1.35	2010	6.85	Tue 08
09 Wed	0220	1.55	0834	6.89	1451	1.27	2101	7.06	Wed 09
10 Thu	0312	1.32	0924	7.03	1537	1.12	2146	7.28	Thu 10
11 Fri	0358	1.02	1008	7.17	1616	0.92	2225	7.47	Fri 11
12 Sat	0438	0.68	1046	7.28	1648	0.71	2254	7.64	Sat 12
13 Sun	0512	0.35	1114	7.37	1711	0.49	2308	7.84	Sun 13
14 Mon	0541	0.05	1130	7.48	1735	0.26	2331	8.10	Mon 14
15 Tue	0609	-0.22	1157	7.61	1807	0.07			Tue 15
16 Wed	0005	8.34	0643	-0.41	1234	7.72	1845	-0.03	Wed 16
17 Thu	0044	8.50	0722	-0.49	1315	7.75	1928	-0.02	Thu 17
18 Fri	0128	8.54	0806	-0.43	1401	7.69	2014	0.11	Fri 18
19 Sat	0215	8.42	0854	-0.24	1451	7.55	2105	0.33	Sat 19
20 Sun	0306	8.17	0949	0.03	1547	7.36	2202	0.61	Sun 20
21 Mon	0404	7.82	1054	0.32	1651	7.19	2312	0.84	Mon 21
22 Tue	0510	7.46	1229	0.47	1812	7.15			Tue 22
23 Wed	0101	0.82	0638	7.24	1351	0.36	1948	7.38	Wed 23
24 Thu	0223	0.44	0819	7.34	1455	0.10	2055	7.75	Thu 24
25 Fri	0327	-0.06	0925	7.57	1552	-0.19	2151	8.11	Fri 25
26 Sat	0424	-0.55	1021	7.78	1644	-0.43	2242	8.39	Sat 26
27 Sun	0516	-0.92	1112	7.91	1733	-0.55	2329	8.54	Sun 27
28 Mon	0605	-1.10	1159	7.93	1819	-0.53			Mon 28
29 Tue	0013	8.56	0652	-1.09	1245	7.85	1902	-0.36	Tue 29
30 Wed	0056	8.44	0736	-0.88	1328	7.70	1942	-0.08	Wed 30
MAY 2014									
01 Thu	0136	8.22	0819	-0.54	1410	7.50	2019	0.28	Thu 01
02 Fri	0213	7.94	0901	-0.10	1453	7.28	2048	0.66	Fri 02
03 Sat	0249	7.63	0939	0.36	1536	7.08	2111	1.01	Sat 03
04 Sun	0325	7.32	1015	0.79	1623	6.92	2146	1.32	Sun 04
05 Mon	0407	7.04	1043	1.14	1718	6.82	2233	1.56	Mon 05



**PETE SEEGER WOULD  
BEG TO DIFFER**

There has been a lot of talk lately of native and non-native plant and animal species in our area, of population control, and what's the government to do. For instance, last December a terrific hue and cry went up over snowy owls being killed by Port Authority employees at JFK airport. Because of it, officials were forced to change tactics, trapping and then relocating the birds instead of shooting them. Then in February, there were stories about eradicating mute swans, including a front-page piece in *The Island Current*.

Although it is looking more and more like the swans are going to be granted the reprieve that public opinion seemed to be after—albeit a temporary one—we would like to offer our own two cents on the issue. First off, the non-native argument that has been advanced in favor of eradication seems a bit disingenuous. Yes, the mute swan was introduced to the United States in the 1800s, but so were the European starling and house sparrow. And these two are a whole lot more invasive than mute swans. So are pigeons, another non-native New York bird.

It's important to remember that the estimated population of the mute swan in our area is about 2,000. There were more starlings than that in the tree in our neighbor's yard the other day! And how the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) can hold 2,000 swans respon-

sible for poor water quality in New York is beyond us. As far as we are concerned, it's another dubious claim. We're not scientists but before this, weren't we always being told that the problems with the water in Long Island Sound, the East and Hudson Rivers were all manmade? That if we just changed our behavior, then things would improve? Remember the American Indian in the commercial with the tear running down his face? The drum beat, so to speak, until now anyway, had always been overdevelopment, sewage treatment facilities, GE and all sorts of industrial pollution. That sort of thing was responsible. Now it's the swan's fault!?

Pete Seeger did not struggle to save the Hudson River from the mute swan.

Another spurious argument put forth by DEC is the destruction of submerged aquatic vegetation caused by swans. We definitely beg to differ on this one. While it is true that the mute swan feeds on water plants that grow along New York City shores, it is also the case that this very territorial creature protects its feeding spots from the ubiquitous Canada goose. All winter long we have been watching busking swans chase geese away from the eel grass that grows at the end of Fordham Street. It hasn't been easy, either, as there are a whole lot more geese than swans. As far as we're concerned, the swans are protecting aquatic vegetation, not destroying it.

If you'd like to weigh in on this issue (or any other), we invite you to do so at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

**Don Coqui**

*Continued from page 1*

weekends.

Complaints were put up on the City Island Civic Association's Facebook page, and calls were made to 311 and the 45th precinct demanding that the police come and deal with the unusually high volume of cars trying to get into the Don Coqui parking lot and forcing cars to back up on the bridge, beyond the City Island circle. The parking lot, which is shared with Portofino, has two openings, but until recently neither was marked to indicate exit or entrance, and the valet parking attendants have had more cars than they can handle. As of press time, the opening closer to the bridge has been blocked, so that cars may enter only through the southern entrance.

Lieutenant Paul Trapani, who is in charge of special operations for the 45th precinct, attended the February meeting of the Civic Association and reassured members that the precinct was doing its best to cope with the situation. He proposed that parking be eliminated on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 4 to midnight on both sides of City Island Avenue between the bridge and Cross Street, a measure that is usually taken only during the summer months. He said this would allow five cars to wait for the valet attendants on the Avenue outside the parking lot and that other waiting cars would be moved along in traffic.

Mr. Rodriguez quickly recognized that the demand for parking greatly exceeded

the space in the lot, and he rented the Lido parking lot, which has remained unused for two years and is for sale. Valet attendants run the cars back and forth between the lot and the restaurants, which may be a temporary solution, as traffic can only get worse as the warm weather approaches. He told this reporter that he has no intention of buying either the lot or the Lido building itself.

He says he was as surprised as anyone by the huge crowds that came to the restaurant so soon after it opened, because nobody knew what to expect. Matters quickly became worse when the snowstorms resulted in piled-up snow and limited parking on the Avenue and in the parking lot. He feels that the situation is under control for now, thanks to the clearing of the parking lanes. With a number of cars allowed to line up in the parking lane waiting to get into the entrance, traffic can continue to move along the southbound lane. He told *The Current* that if there is no room in the parking lots, people are told what their wait is likely to be, and most move on to other restaurants, which could be good for other City Island businesses. The owner of Ohana, for instance, told him that his business had been up 30 percent.

He feels that on the whole his restaurant is good for City Island because he offers something different from the other restaurants. He is looking to expand Don Coqui into other boroughs, including Manhattan, and he wants to protect the brand. Although he is now fully booked for weekends well in advance, he believes that the traffic will not be any worse than in previous years.

Some residents feel strongly that City Island residents should not be made victims of the restaurant business and that those who live here should be able to drive home without sitting in traffic for hours. But this is hardly a new experience for residents. As long ago as 1897, a full decade before Mother's Day was first celebrated, Orrin Fordham wrote an editorial in the *City Island Drift* complaining about the congestion here caused by off-Islanders and their horse-drawn carriages!

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# SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY



Photos by JOYCE MULCAHY

Members of City Island Yacht Club are getting their boats ready for the new sailing season.

Spring is upon us, technically, although to me it's spring when I see the obvious signs: flowers blooming, parrots flying, Lickety Split open! I can't wait to brush winter's cold, wet residue from my shoulders and trade in my salt-caked boots for crocs and sneakers. Oh for the day when we return our misshapen hats and gloves to their dark corner of the closet and then, when the sun warms our faces as we walk down the avenue, it will finally feel like springtime on City Island!

The drab, monochromatic colors of the season will soon give way to vibrant shades of wonderful. Birds return to a veritable feast of organic delights; their songs at dusk embodying our mirth and shared pleasure at life a bloom. Evening spring thunderstorms once again lull us to sleep, and longer days will abound.

Boats begin returning to the water as early as April. Before their launch, the yards are abuzz with sanders and scrapers, hoses and halyards. It's my favorite time of year.

To be able to share your sailing passion with an entire community of people is a perk to living here. I know I've done it before, but this is the time of the year where I highlight the area yacht clubs. I am not a boat owner, but a social member of a local club, which enables me to be involved in various activities, dine on waterfront property, meet fellow sailors, develop my sailing and racing skills and make great friends!

Visit each of the four club's websites and look for the open houses they host this month and next. The City Island Yacht Club ([www.cityislandyc.org](http://www.cityislandyc.org)), Harlem Yacht Club ([www.hyc.org](http://www.hyc.org)), Morris Yacht & Beach Club ([www.morrisybc.com](http://www.morrisybc.com)) & Stuyvesant Yacht Club ([www.stuyvesantyc.org](http://www.stuyvesantyc.org)) each have their own activities, "personality," water views and amenities. Each club offers memberships

with a mooring field, launch services, dining facilities and, to varying degrees, social events, yacht racing, club cruising, sailing seminars, junior sailing programs, boat-sharing programs and an active calendar. Visit the websites or stop by for a visit to find out more about each club. It's a great opportunity to join an active sailing community, make new friends, learn a new skill (if you haven't really sailed before or want to get back into it) and discover the wonderful nautical life that is City Island!



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

**PASSPORT PHOTOS** taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

**CITY ISLAND HOME FOR SALE:** Lovely 3 bedroom ranch, great size rooms, beach block, great location-close to bus stop, school and shops. Wooden/tiled floors throughout. HWBB gas heat, formal dining room and open living room w/ a mantled fireplace. 2 kitchens-finished basement. possible mother/daughter. Built in wet bar. Great for entertaining! Attached garage w/ auto opener. Nice yard with pear trees and plenty of room for a garden. Beautiful trek deck to enjoy the outdoors. Stand-up attic, too.. Move in condition. Call for an appointment. Won't be disappointed. 85 Winters Street. Call 201-401-0731 or 718-885-1510.

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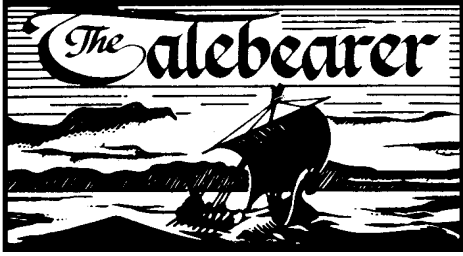
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

The Chase City Island branch would like to extend a warm welcome to Deidra Taylor and Gimeno Simmonds. Goodbye and lots of luck at your new branches to Brenda Winston and Ron Ramcharran.

Love and best wishes to Elizabeth and Ken Farnum, who will celebrate their anniversary on April 20 and Elizabeth's birthday on April 22. Love from Mom and Debra.

Happy birthday wishes on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Congratulations to Jillian Lotrionte on receiving her BS in Nursing from the College of Mt. Saint Vincent and for passing the NCLEX in Nursing. She is ready to pursue her career as a registered nurse. We wish her lots of good luck. With love from Mom, Dad, Nicolette and Briana.

Happy April 4 birthday wishes to Frank



Photo Courtesy of NANCY LOTRIONTE  
Jillian Lotrionte received her BS in Nursing from the College of Mt. Saint Vincent.

Ramftl with love from Mom, Dad, Fred and Grandma. Happy birthday to Frank. Love ya! Gianna.

Belated happy birthday greetings to "Coach" Tom Schaller from your buddies John, Bob and Mick.

Happy April birthday wishes to David Butterworth on April 30 and his aunt, Mari Doyle, on April 14, with love from the Doyle and Butterworth families.

Happy birthday to Anne McIntyre on April 22, Maria Swieciki on April 25, Brenda Winston on April 25 and Eileen Scott on April 19.

Congratulations to Rick DeWitt for being praised by the *New York Times* on March 20 for his photograph of waves smashing into the Touring Kayak Club during Hurricane Sandy. The photograph was selected from thousands submitted to the Museum of the City of New York and is one of 150 on view in the "Rising Waters" exhibit. As the Times put it, "His picture ... is that much more terrifying when one realizes it was not taken on the seashore but at the western end of Long Island Sound."

Maria Swieciki



Photo by RICK DEWITT

On Saturday, March 8, the City Island Girl Scouts danced the night away with parents and grandparents at their annual Sweetheart Dance. Everyone had a ball, thanks to DJ Ray and his talented entertainment team. Pictured, front row (l. to r.): Violet Chadwick, Campbell Wepler, Sarah Goonan; second row: Sarah George, Dana Moynihan, Savannah Waters, Erin Crowe, Gabby Gierum; third row: Antalya Rodriguez, Isabel Quiles, Abby Wiedemann, Raena Quiles, Fiorella Miria, Natalia Tranquillo, Evamarie Bellochio, Hope Rosado; back row: Gianna Cambria, Dusty Prohaska, Catherine Ficke.

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**Holy Week Schedule 2014**

**CONFESSIONS**  
SATURDAY-April 12  
4:30-5:00 P.M.

**PALM SUNDAY-April 13**  
VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.  
SUNDAY-8:00 A.M., 10:00., & 12:00 NOON  
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

**HOLY THURSDAY-April 17**  
8:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.  
Procession to Repository  
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

**GOOD FRIDAY-April 18**  
8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON  
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-4:00 P.M.  
Confessions 5:00-6:00 P.M.

**HOLY SATURDAY-April 19**  
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
Confessions 9:00-10:00 A.M. & 4:00-5:00 P.M.  
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M.  
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

**EASTER SUNDAY-April 20**  
Masses- 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A. M., & 12:00 Noon

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