

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Periodicals  
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.  
USPS 114-590

Volume 45 Number 7 September 2016

One Dollar

## Mayor Promises Sound Abatement at Rodman's Neck

By JANE PROTZMAN



Photo by JAMES BREEN

At a town hall meeting on Aug. 10 with Mayor Bill de Blasio (seated at left), City Island Civic Association officer Barbara Dolensek thanked him for his role in changing the bridge design for City Island and then pressed him for a response to the decades-long promises for sound abatement at the Rodman's Neck police firing range.

Mayor Bill de Blasio visited the east Bronx on Wednesday, Aug. 10, when he held a town hall meeting at Villa Barone Manor in Throggs Neck and reassured City Island that sound abatement at the police firing range would be in the next capital budget.

The town hall meeting was moderated by Councilmember James Vacca, who served as emcee for the event, which was also attended by a number of NYC commissioners, several representatives of the New York Police Department, and elected officials, including State Senator Jeff Klein, Public Advocate Letitia James, and District Attorney Darcel Clark. Co-sponsors for the town hall included the City Island Civic Association, Community Boards 10 and 11, the Morris Park Community Association, the Theodore Korony American Legion Post and the Westchester BID, among other organizations.

After introductory remarks by the various elected officials, the Mayor mentioned a number of issues relating to the community, such as the reduction in crime, and then he took questions from the floor.

Of particular interest to City Island was his estimate that the City Island Bridge would be completed by the end of the year, confirmed by Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, who held up crossed fingers as she nodded, suggesting that this was a hopeful estimate rather than a firm commitment.

Barbara Dolensek, representing the City Island Civic Association, began by thanking the Mayor for his role in changing the bridge design by having appointed Commissioner Trottenberg, but quickly moved to the noise abatement at the Rodman's Neck firing range. She described over 20 years of correspondence with mayors and police commissioners that promised sound abatement "within a year." Clearly, the Mayor recalled his conversation with her on WNYC earlier in the summer, because he came prepared with a response to a situation he had previously known nothing about.

He said that the costs of constructing sound abatement and other improvements at Rodman's Neck would definitely be in the city's capital budget, which would be

released for review in January 2017. He did not explain why the sum had been eliminated from the current fiscal year's budget, although the design phase of the project is now in the works, according to Councilmember Vacca.

Another Islander, Wilfredo Benitez, complained about the excessive noise, including the occasional detonations that emanate from the bomb squad, also located on Rodman's Neck. The Mayor seemed unaware of that issue and said he would look into that as well.

Tommy Breen, who with his brother, James, had produced a widely publicized video of the dangerous conditions along Shore Road, asked the Mayor what the city was planning to do to improve the situation. Polly Trottenberg responded by reporting that DOT had been able to do some short-term emergency repairs and that the longer reconstruction project is "certainly on our list of projects to look at and we know that it's one that has been a big concern in the community." She said that Shore Road was "part of the discussions we are having now in the upcoming capital plan."

Mayor de Blasio acknowledged that this was the first time he had heard of the Shore Road issue and complimented Mr. Breen: "I appreciate that you did that film, because this is a great example of using the digital world to bring a concern to the attention of government and get a solution. In January we're setting this 10-year capital plan. So you have just effectively lobbied to get it on my brain and her brain to make sure it's in the plan. I can't guarantee it yet, I want to get through the process but I'm hearing you loud and clear, and we will have an answer in January."

The fact that the capital budget plan was to be spread over a period of 10 years continues to be a concern for Islanders who have been waiting decades for action on Rodman's Neck. The Civic Association is therefore keeping its options open regarding a lawsuit to spur the progress of the abatement, and Councilmember Vacca will be meeting with the Facilities Management Division of the NYPD to get a timetable for the project.

## William Tell, Rat Island's New Resident

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by DAIMON EMPFIELD and JANE PROTZMAN

A celebration of Swiss National Day on Rat Island on July 31, 2016, featured the unveiling of a statue of the Swiss hero William Tell and the raising of the Swiss flag, along with the flags of the United States and New York State (see page 15).

"Tell Goes West to the Big Apple." This was the heading for an invitation that was sent out in July by Swiss-born Alex Schibli, resident of Cross Street and owner of Rat Island off the east shore of City Island.

Guests were invited to take a boat trip

to Rat Island from the World's Fair Marina in Queens on Sunday, July 31, in order to help celebrate Swiss National Day, which takes place every year on Aug. 1, a holiday similar to the U.S. Fourth of July.

The invitation made clear the sudden

*Continued on page 15*

## CONVENTIONAL ISLANDERS



Photos courtesy of JO HECK AND FRED RAMFTL

The top photo shows City Islander Jo Heck with two other Bernie Sanders delegates (Carlos Suarez at left, Ron Suarez at right) on their way to the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia. City Island was also represented at the Republican Convention in Cleveland, thanks to Fred Ramftl Jr. (bottom photo).



# BRIEFLY...

**FALL FAIR** The 2016 Fall Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11. Taste delicious fare from City Island restaurants and browse the wares of the many vendors which line City Island Avenue between Bay and Carroll Streets from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will also be music in Hawkins Park and representatives from many City Island organizations, so come out and celebrate the change of seasons with friends and visitors. And don't forget the annual clam chowder contest on Sunday starting at 2 p.m. co-sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein. At 5 p.m. the chowders will be judged by members of the public and by celebrity judges, who will name the restaurants creating the best red (Manhattan) and white (New England) chowders.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during July and August 2016. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - PETIT LARCENY
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 - DOA
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - GRAFFITI
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from June 25 to Aug. 20, 2016.

6/25 - An off-Island male, 38, was arrested and charged with assault on City Island Avenue at 6:35 p.m. after he struck a uniformed officer, causing lacerations.

7/7 - An off-Island female reported an incident of grand larceny on City Island Avenue at 3:10 p.m. An unknown perpe-

tor allegedly removed her purse after she left it unattended while dining outside at a commercial establishment.

7/10 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 41, at 7:45 p.m. on Bridge Street and City Island Avenue and charged him with DWI.

7/15 - Police responded to a report of an unconscious male on Centre Street at 6 p.m. Officers from the 45th Precinct pronounced the Island male, 33, dead at the scene.

7/18 - At 7 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island male reported that an unknown person took his motorcycle without permission in an act of grand larceny auto.

7/19 - The 45th Precinct Graffiti Squad responded at 9:30 a.m. to a report of vandalism to a sea wall on Pilot Street. The officer documented the spray painted graffiti and submitted a request for cleanup.

8/4 - On Terrace Street at 11 p.m., an Island male, 47, reported that an unknown person had broken the driver's-side mirror of his vehicle in an act of criminal mischief.

8/14 - An off-Island female, 48, reported that an unknown perpetrator fled the scene of an accident on City Island Avenue after rear-ending her vehicle, causing damage and personal injury.

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THE ISLAND CURRENT  
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CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribauda, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571  
Printed by JB Offset Printing Corp., 475 Walnut Street, Norwood, NJ 07648  
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0760. Copyright 2016 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

# City Island Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat. & Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
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# HAIL TO THE WARRIOR GAMES

By JUDY RAUH

When he worked as a press liaison at the 2016 Millrose Games in February, Islander Mike Rauh was given a special opportunity. He met representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) who had brought some of their athletes from the Invictus Games to compete on the Armory track. When the representatives learned that Mike was a veteran and also did track and field announcing, they offered him a position of announcer at the DoD Warrior Games.

Hosted this year by the Army, the games were scheduled for June 15–21 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. Competing in the games would be more than 250 athletes from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and the United Kingdom Armed Forces.

The Warrior Games are an annual Paralympic-type event that began in 2010 under the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 2015 the DoD took over the lead role of organizing the games, which encompass archery, cycling, field, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, and wheelchair volleyball events. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded in several disability categories.

For the athletes who participate, according to the DoD, “the Warrior Games represent the culmination of their participation in structured adaptive sports and reconditioning activities throughout recovery and transition. They are designed to showcase the resilient spirit of our nation’s wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans.”

The main focus of Mike Rauh’s announcing at the Warrior Games was to engage the audience in a way that would make them more informed about what they were watching. He also drew on the spirit of the various teams competing, making note of which team could get the loudest cheers.

He often started each day or event by going into the grandstand and interviewing spectators, asking them. “What’s your name? Where are you from? Who are you cheering for?” Then he would inquire if they were familiar with the rules of the sport they were watching. During the track event, he brought a parent and three children down to the track to illustrate how the winner of the race is determined. “Finishing by a nose only wins for horse racing,” he told them. “In track, it’s the person whose torso crosses the line first.”

Mike himself needed to learn the rules

for several of the sports. During the archery competition, Mike interviewed a professional archer, Chuck Cooley, on camera, asking simple yet important questions about the types of bows and how results were recorded. As Mike learned about archery, so did everyone in the audience. Mike also brought some children down to field level to show them how far away the targets are.

For the shooting event, Mike worked with another announcer, Jill Shackner. The setup for this event had the shooters in three enclosed shooting ranges and the announcers in another room, where several television screens showed the competition at each of the shooting ranges. The audience was seated in another arena, where they watched the competitors on split screens, with another screen showing Mike and Jill interviewing experts in rifle and pistol competition. Mike and Jill had to come up with questions “on the spot,” he said, to help the audience learn about the sport.

During the cycling event, Mike and Jill worked the start/finish area. Mike had another announcer, Tom Doherty, go out to the halfway point on the 5K bike course. Once the races started, the riders were far from view in the finish area. When they reached Tom, he would call Mike on his cell phone with updates. As Tom gave a report on the leaders, Mike would put his phone on speaker and hold it next to the microphone to let the spectators know what was going on even when the riders were out of sight.

The swimming competition included races in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. Mike and Tom were joined at the announcers’ table by Rowdy Gaines, three-time Olympic gold medalist and swimming analyst for ESPN and NBC television networks. Mike was excited to be working with an Olympic champion!

The two big team events were sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball, which featured some pretty exciting moves. To watch a wheelchair player who flipped over get back up almost instantly was incredible. Doug Garner joined Mike to announce the gold medal rounds for sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball. For these sports, the athletes had to train together to achieve results that relied on every member of the team. This training, Mike noted, would carry over as they face the challenges of their new lives. “It’s important to learn about achieving goals and working with others.”

At the Warrior Games, Mike noticed that it wasn’t just the winner or the second-place finisher who got all the applause. Even the last-place finisher, who might be a swimmer with one arm or a runner with a prosthetic leg, received loud shouts and applause, often stronger than that for the leaders. Their teammates, the crowd and sometimes the announcers as well carried the last competitor across the finish line with a wave of cheers.

In the evenings, Mike took the microphone at Eisenhower (Ike) Hall to do the crowd warmup prior to the medal presentation for the day’s events. Initially he was told he would be doing this “over in the auditorium.” When he entered from backstage, he was taken aback to see that the auditorium was the size of a Broadway theater!

During the seven days of the Warrior



Photos by STEFAN ENGLISH and SUSANNA THORNTON

Islander Mike Rauh (top photo with microphone) was chosen to be the announcer at the Department of Defense Warrior Games on June 15 to 21, 2016, at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. The Warrior Games are an annual Paralympic-type event that began in 2010 under the U. S. Olympic Committee. The competition features athletes such as Army veteran Staff Sgt. Matthew Lammers, who is shown in the shotput event at the games.

Games, Mike had time to talk to the athletes. “They are very determined, very spirited,” he said. They really impressed him with their drive to succeed in their recovery. He was also pleased as a Vietnam veteran to be interviewing or talking with several ranking officers, who were there to cheer on their service members and veterans.

Being a part of the Warrior Games made its impression on Mike, as well as on everyone who was there. “I know they were getting job retraining [from the military],” Mike said. “But the sports aspect of this program was a form of physical therapy that was certainly more enjoyable than going to a PT facility to be stretched. Here you were part of a team and part of the action. It seemed a great way to restore the whole person.” Mike left West Point with a strong impression that the Warrior Transition Command was doing a great job for its wounded warriors.

Mike’s efforts were well received. He got e-mails of praise for his work. Bill Shamlian of the video crew called him a “pro,” and told him: “When I requested, you delivered.” Scott L. Danberg, Warrior Games Sports Director, wrote: “You and your team did an outstanding job.”

The DoD Warrior Games ended on June 21 with a fabulous fireworks display lighting



up the majestic view of the Hudson River from Trophy Point. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point certainly put on a great show hosting all the events of the week.

## Islanders Show Concern for Displaced Resident

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RON TERNER

This photograph of the Islander known only as Jen attracted attention to her plight from CBS news, Facebook and other media.

A City Island resident, or rather a woman who spends most of her time on City Island but not in a residence, has captured the attention of the press and of Facebook fans.

Known only as “Jen,” this woman can be seen regularly sitting in Hawkins Park or at the bus stop, sometimes asking for

money and sometimes just talking aloud to anyone who cares to listen. She is other times coherent, which observers assume indicate that she is on medication, but often irrational and confused.

Ron Turner of the Focal Point Gallery took a photograph of Jen that quickly found a wide audience on Facebook, and the CBS reporter Lou Young followed up by interviewing Ron and others on City Island who are worried about Jen’s well-being.

Ron told CBS: “We care about each other, and she’s somebody that we see on a daily basis. I think everybody started to see that she wasn’t doing well and became concerned.” Violet Smith was moved to tears seeing her wander around the Island.

According to Jen, she used to live on Horton Street with a friend who recently kicked her out, and apparently she cannot go back. But because she loves City Island, she keeps returning here, even after she is taken to shelters off the Island and, in at least one case, to Jacobi Medical Center.

Islanders have offered her food and clothing, and many people have made calls to the Department of Homeless Services, but Jen keeps coming back. So long as the weather is bearable, she can sit outdoors, but no one knows what will happen to her when the cold weather sets in.

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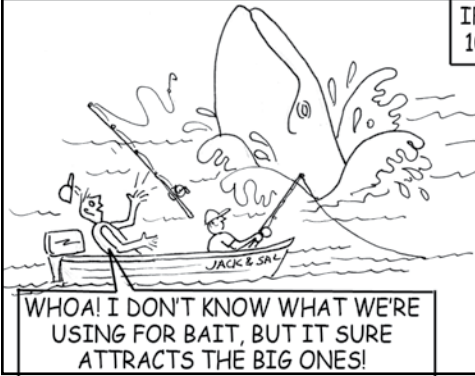
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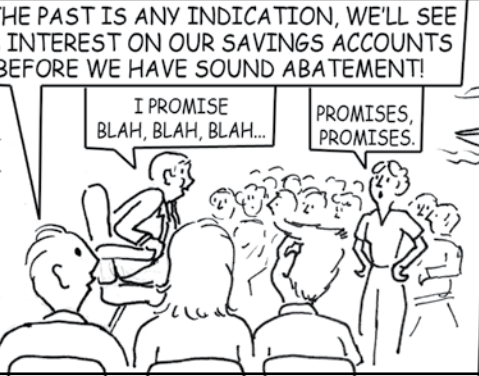


WHALE APPEARS TO CITY ISLAND FISHERMEN IN NEARBY LONG ISLAND SOUND



WHOA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE USING FOR BAIT, BUT IT SURE ATTRACTS THE BIG ONES!

MAYOR PROMISES SOUND ABATEMENT OF RODMAN'S NECK (AGAIN) AT TOWN HALL MEETING

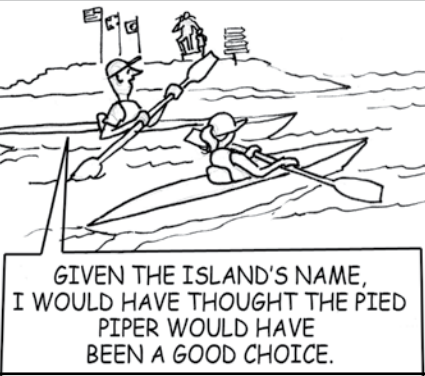


IF THE PAST IS ANY INDICATION, WE'LL SEE 10% INTEREST ON OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNTS BEFORE WE HAVE SOUND ABATEMENT!

I PROMISE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...

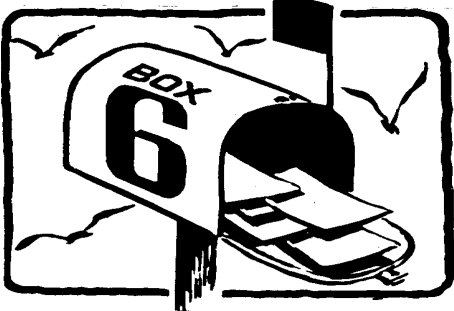
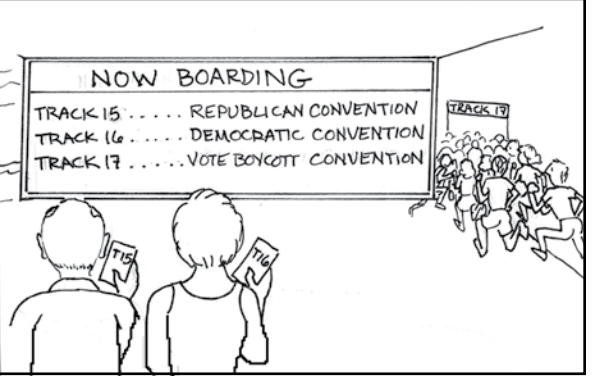
PROMISES, PROMISES.

WILLIAM TELL STATUE PLACED ON RAT ISLAND



GIVEN THE ISLAND'S NAME, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE PIED PIPER WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD CHOICE.

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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.

In Loving Memory

To the Editor:

There are no words to describe or

explain how you all sustained us in our time of greatest grief. Your prayers, thoughts, kindnesses and considerations after the passing of our son Conal helped us to survive day by day.

Our strength comes from your support. "Thank you" is inadequate but will have to do for now. The love of our community is stunningly overwhelming.

Conal is abysmally missed. A life so fully lived cannot be described here in a few sentences; suffice it to say that he lived well if not long. The chasm left is filled with memories of happy tidings and especially Montauk dreams.

The Schaller Family

LOBSTER BOX advertisement with logo, address (34 City Island Avenue), phone (718-885-1952), and 'EARLY BIRD SPECIALS \$19.95' offer.

Vertical 'SUPER SPECIALS' advertisement listing 'SNOW CRAB LEGS SPECIAL - \$28.95', 'LOBSTER ROLL & SOUP OR SALAD - \$24.95', and 'KIDS EAT FREE ALL DAY'.

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Real estate advertisement for Louise Del Giudice, Century 21 Marciano, including contact information and a 'Five Star Award' mention.

City Island Real Estate, Ltd. advertisement featuring a logo, 'LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENTS' (Betty Lavelle-Esola & Maureen McEnery-Hraska), and a photo of a house.

ART OF BEAUTY FULL SERVICE UNISEX SALON advertisement with logo, 'Gift Certificates Available!', and contact info (413 City Island Ave.).

TISO APPLIANCES, INC. advertisement featuring images of kitchen appliances, 'DISCOUNT SALES • REPAIRS', and contact info (914-738-1221).



# New CI Girl Scout Season Kicks Off

By KAREN NANI



Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

On June 5, 2016, City Island's Girl Scout troops held their end-of-year ceremony at the Morris Yacht Club featuring recognition of troop achievements and the many adult volunteers who make scouting possible. Photo above: Leaders Cheryl Riordan and Valarie Kelly with their Daisy Brownies, who moved up to the next level of scouting. Top photo, right: Troop co-leaders Susan Goonan, Natasha Reilly, Vicki Sorvillo Weidemann and Jonna Weppler with their Brownie troop. Middle photo, right: Cheryl Riordan and Valarie Kelly with their Daisy troop. Bottom photo, right: all the troop leaders (l. to r.) Melissa Cebollero, Flora Miria, Susan Goonan, Natasha Reilly, Jonna Weppler, Vicki Sorvillo Weidemann, Cheryl Riordan and Valarie Kelly.

City Island has a long tradition of great scouting for both girls and boys. Ask the many Islanders who participated in scouting about their fond memories of earning badges, going on camping trips, marching in the Memorial Day parade, taking swimming lessons off City Island beaches, and celebrating at father-daughter dances.

Thanks to the many dedicated adult volunteers, the next exciting season of Girl Scouts will begin in September 2016. Each troop's efforts are then recognized at a grand "moving up" ceremony and celebration of scouting. Last season's gala event was held at the Morris Yacht Club on June 5 (see photos).

There are three troops for girls on City Island.

Registration for the Daisy/Brownie Troop #1115 will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. This

is for girls in Grades 1 through 3. Meetings will begin on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The meeting schedule will be every other Thursday, according to troop leaders Cheryl Riordan and Valarie Kelly.

At press time, an agenda for meetings, activities and trips for Troop #1165 for this school year was still being developed. Stay tuned for additional information in late September. Leader Jonna Gallo Weppler's troop is for fourth-grade girls, and she looks forward to another great season of scouting.

Cadet Troop #1465, for sixth-grade girls ages 10 through 12, will meet on Sundays from 12:30 to 2 p.m., with the first meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 25. At that meeting, registration and uniform orders will take place.

So tell your daughters, nieces and granddaughters about how much fun scouting can be and sign them up!



# CHANGE OF COMMAND

By JANE PROTZMAN

On July 14, 2016, City Islander Lt. Peter J. Howard became the Perspective Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Henry Blake*. The change-of-command ceremony was held at the U. S. Naval Station in Everett, WA. The program for the event reported that "Lt. Pete Howard, originally from the Bronx, NY, enlisted in the Coast Guard in August 1993. He worked his way through the enlisted ranks and was promoted to Warrant Officer in 2008 and then to Lt. in 2014. He has had over 15 years of sea time, including time on USCGC *Polar Sea*, a heavy icebreaker heading to Antarctica and the Arctic. More recently he served on the USCGC *Douglas Munro*. Lt. Howard was the Operations Officer on the *Munro* conducting missions from Kodiak, Alaska. He has numerous

military decorations for his service."

Pete's new command, the cutter *Henry Blake*, one of the newest cutters in the Pacific Northwest with responsibility for servicing the navigational aids in the area and providing environmental protection and search and rescue. Its area of responsibility includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the gateway to the North Pacific and Alaska. It is 174 feet long with a crew of 23.

Pete Howard is married to the former Carrie Stage and they have two children, Bryce and Laurel. Pete is the son of Jay Howard of City Island; his mother is Maureen Howard, formerly of City Island. Years ago, Pete was the launch boy at the Harlem Yacht Club and at the end of that summer realized that his future would be in the Coast Guard.

# Programs for Budding Filmmakers

Steven Spielberg, the subject of this month's Marsha's Movie Mania, started his filmmaking career at the age of 12. Educational programming at the Picture House in Pelham is not for adults only. There are a plethora of exciting classes and films for students of all ages.

### Classes

On Camera Acting I in the Screening Room, Tuesdays, Sept. 20–Nov. 15 (no class Oct. 4). Grades 3–5, 3:30 to 4:30. Grades 6–8, 4:35 to 5:35.

Improv/Sketch Comedy in the Screening Room/Main Hall; Tuesdays, Sept. 20–May 29 (no class during holidays or school breaks). Monthly First Friday performances beginning Friday, Nov. 4. Grades 6–8, 6 to 7; Grades 9–12, 7:05 to 8:05.

Evening Film Club in the Satellite Film Lab, Wednesdays, Sept. 21–May 30. Grades 9–12, 6:45 to 8:30.

Movie Making I; Make a Trailer in the Screening Room, Thursdays, Sept. 22–Nov. 17 (no class week of Oct. 4). Grades K–2, 3:30 to 4:30; Grades 3–5, 4:35 to 5:35; Grades 6–8, 5:40 to 6:40.

Podcasting I in the Satellite Film Lab, Thursdays, Sept. 22–Nov. 17 (no class week of Oct. 4). Grades 6–8, 6:30 to 7:30;

Grades 9–12, 7:35 to 8:35.

### Upcoming Special Event

The Picture House in Pelham is once again presenting the Westchester International Children's Film Festival from Sept. 2 through 6. The festival will bring the best new films from around the world for ages 3 through 18 to Westchester, the Bronx and Connecticut. "We are thrilled to cap off the summer by hosting the second Westchester International Children's Film Festival at The Picture House," said Clayton Bushong, director of programming, marketing and operations at the Picture House. "It's a chance to travel the world through film without leaving Westchester."

The festival will conclude with a "Taste of Education" day-long program at the theater, featuring one-hour workshops of some of the Picture House's most popular education classes taught by TPH faculty. These classes will be free and open to the public but are subject to availability and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Picture House is located at 175 Wolfs Lane in Pelham. For more information on the programs, visit [www.thepicturehouse.org](http://www.thepicturehouse.org). Because special programming sometimes preempts regular theatrical films, check the website in advance or call the theater (914-738-7337), to obtain the most accurate scheduling information.

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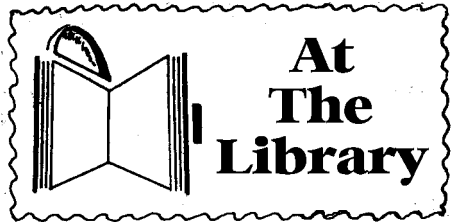
PARKING AVAILABLE





Ron Turner celebrates 42 years at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) with an exhibition of his own new work, which he calls "Photo Sculptures." The exhibition will be on view from Sept. 9 to Nov. 27, and there will be an opening reception on Sept. 9 from 7 to 10 p.m.

The **City Island Mixed Martial Arts** at 229 City Island Avenue is now accepting registration for its after-school program. Space is limited, so register soon. Private classes are also available for singles and groups. Call 347-945-3172 or visit [cityislandmixedma.com](http://cityislandmixedma.com).



**PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**  
718-885-1703

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

**SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

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

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

**Lego League:** Bring your imagination and join us for fun with Lego! Blocks of various sizes will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5-11. A limit of 10 children with their caregivers. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Craft-A-Way!:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2-11. Friday, Sept. 16, at 12 noon.

**SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**After School Lounge:** Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** at 3 p.m. Sept. 2, Wii Gaming; Sept. 16, Back to School Bash; Sept. 23, The Ultimate Pokémon Quiz; Sept. 30, Wii Gaming

**SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**The Island Writers:** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Intro to Computers:** Come to the library, ask questions about how to use computers and sharpen your skills through computer use. "How do I turn the computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Résumé Workshop:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resume. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**One-on-One: Computer Training:** Stop by or call to make an appointment for one hour of instruction that focuses on your

questions and interests.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** at 1 p.m.: Sept. 10: "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi"; Sept. 17: "The Young Messiah"; Sept. 24: "Air"

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



**Bartow-Pell Events**

**First Friday! Music & Trolley** on Sept. 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Brooklyn Bluegrass Collective will be playing acoustic roots music from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments will be served. The trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members: free; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, and students.

Also on Sept. 2 from 5 to 6 p.m. BPMM is pleased to present its **Garden Centennial Exhibition**, featuring large-scale steel, cast-bronze, and mixed-media work, including kinetic sculptures whose movement is choreographed by elements from nature. Artworks explore themes such as the history of the site and the co-existence of the built environment with nature. Featured artists include Lea Patrice Fales, Fitzhugh Karol, Wendy Klemperer, William Logan, Shannon Novak, Camilla Oldenkamp, Sarah Olson, Sui Park, Audrey Shachnow, Aaron Suggs, Naomi Teppich & Martin Springhetti, Gregory Thielker, Beatrice Wolert and Christopher Yockey. The show will run through Oct. 30.

**A Mansions and Cottages Trolley Tour** will take place on Thursday, Sept. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take a trolley tour of historic homes and gardens in the Bronx. The tour culminates at Bartow-Pell, stopping first at Wave Hill, Van Cortlandt House, Valentine-Varian House and Edgar Allen Poe Cottage, and driving by various historical sites along the way. Includes lunch on Arthur Avenue. The trolley departs from Grand Concourse between 158th and 161st Streets. Cost: \$50 adults, \$25 children under 12. For more information and tickets, call Bronx Tourism Council at 718-590-3518.

**Summer Sunset Classical Concert** on Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 to 8 p.m. Watch the sunset and listen as violinist Kristina Giles and harpsichordist Rebecca Pechesky perform sonatas of the late Baroque period in the parlors. Registration requested. Cost: \$20. Reservations requested; call 718-886-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

**Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day Live!** Saturday, Sept. 24, 12 to 4 p.m. Bartow-Pell joins participating museums across the nation in offering free admission on Museum Day Live! Explore the mansion and carriage house on guided tours at 12:15, 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15 p.m. Download your free ticket on the Smithsonian Magazine website, [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday).

**Local Author Spotlight** on Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. Richard Zacks discusses his new book, "Chasing the Last Laugh: Mark Twain's Raucous and Redemptive Round-the-World Comedy Tour" (Double-day, 2016; \$29.95), the untold story of how in 1895 Samuel Langhorne Clemens—the highest-paid writer in America—succeeded in losing his entire family's fortune, only to win it all back and rehabilitate his reputation through the world's first global standup comedy tour. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org). Cost: BPMM Members: free; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$10.

**GOURDS** **American Legion** **MUMS**

**Pumpkin Sale**

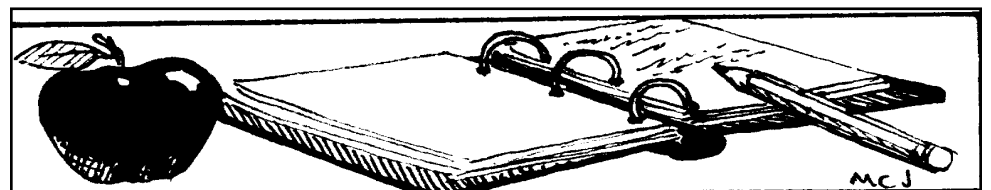
Friday, Sept. 30th - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 1st - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 2nd - 10 a.m. to End

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# Keeping Alive the Traditions of the Black Whale and City Island

By BILL STUTTIG



Photos by KAREN NANI

Calliope Rigos in front of her favorite restaurant, the Black Whale, where she is now the proud proprietor and (above, right) in front of a photo of Richie DePiero, who started the establishment in 1961.

The following interview is the sixth in a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support *The Island Current* by placing ads in virtually every issue for more than 20 years.

Lifelong City Island resident Calliope Rigos has had a love-hate relationship with restaurants since she was 17. “I’ve been in the business since then, and it is a horrible business, but I love it,” she explains.

Starting when she was a teenaged junior chef at the City Island Yacht Club, Calliope has done it all in restaurant business over the four decades that followed: being a food-services manager for a large school in upper Manhattan; running the restaurants at three City Island boat clubs on separate occasions; owning and operating the Island Café when she was a young woman; and operating a catering business on the Island for several years. But ever since she was that youngster, the restaurant she always dreamed of running was The Black Whale.

Started in 1961 by long-time City Island resident Richie DePiero, the Black Whale was often described as a “Bohemian” coffee and dessert shop with an eclectic collection of decorations, menu items and guest-star attractions. Calliope says she looks back on those years and can only wonder what it must have been like to be part of the Black Whale experience. “I was always a little jealous of the older generation back then,” she recalls. “I would peek through the fence, and it really looked cool, but I was too young and my father wouldn’t let me go in.”

A few years later, as a young adult, Calliope did get to go into the restaurant, and she fell in love for life with the art, antiques, nautical artifacts and great companionship in the place. About 20 years after that infatuation began, her friend and colleague Billy Kenny reestablished the Black Whale, not as a coffee and desert restaurant but as a full-time, full-service restaurant with the same eclectic feel. Calliope recalls that she and Billy often worked together over those years, in the restaurant and in co-running a catering business on the Island.

Calliope says that Billy decided to leave the restaurant business a few years ago, for the opportunity to enjoy the schedule of a

normal person and to spend more time with his family. That moment, she said, was the chance to live her dream, and to her delight, Richie sought her out personally as the person to take over from Billy.

“I think Billy wanted it to stay the same,” Calliope thinks. “and I think for Richie, the idea of my running the Black Whale had been his dream since I had the Island Café many years ago. So I didn’t really take it over; it was kind of passed down.”

The Black Whale now offers an American menu that features specials on weekends, often fresh fish. Just as it was under Billy, the Sunday brunch is a popular tradition featuring traditional brunch favorites, and Calliope’s son Alexander prepares the omelets.

Calliope describes the Black Whale now as a time-consuming labor of love, for which she spends half her time running the restaurant and the other half enhancing the restaurant’s interior. She is determined to restore the memories that people have of the old Black Whale and the old City Island.

“There are so many buildings here that just get torn down,” she laments, “and then you don’t even remember what existed there. When you look at the old pictures of City Island and see how beautiful it was, it is really sad. A lot of those buildings are just gone.”

“So I love doing this,” she says. “It’s not just the restaurant but it’s maintaining the tradition. I say running the restaurant is 60 percent of the job and the rest is maintaining the antiques and keeping up with the woodwork. It is a very old building that came here from Hart Island.”

“But that makes it fun,” she adds. “People cleaning out a garage will come across something, like an old compass, and bring it over here. Some of the things are not working when they get here, but we get them working. We also got some antiques from Trader John. When I first got this place, I really didn’t know what to do so I stopped at Trader John’s, and he was nice enough to give me a lot of things and sell me a lot of things. I stopped there every couple of weeks, and when he was not



around, he would hold stuff for me. When he was in the hospital before he died, they found notes in the store from him saying ‘this goes to the girl at the Black Whale.’”

“What we are trying to do is out of love for those community traditions like Trader John’s,” Calliope says, “to keep the tradition alive and keep something nautical, because there have been so many new buildings and additions that many clam diggers say just don’t fit in. So it is nice to have a sort of nostalgic place, to keep the tradition for the community going.”

“We are working to restore a lot of the interior that the building had originally,” she notes. “Of course, Richie had a lot of things at his house that he wanted us to use. I am always trying to keep him in mind and continue his history, because I feel that the Black Whale was really an important part of the community. It was either love or hatred. I meet people from far away who still remember the Black Whale.”

“Many people just stop by to visit a place they knew in the ‘70s and take a chance to see if it is still there,” she says. “They are really surprised. They say things like ‘we had our first date here’ or ‘I had my graduation party here.’ Things like that. All good memories and that is the most fun—when they walk in and see the same lamp from a half century ago, they just can’t believe it. They still ask for Richie,” who often stops by just to see how she is doing. “We just hope to continue to keep it traditional and have something that is aesthetically pleasing for the community along with good food and good service,” Calliope says.

Long-time Black Whale employee Maurice Richard adds: “I love working here. It is not just for the money. We are here because we want to be here.”

The Black Whale is open from 5 to 10 p.m. weekdays; noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Sunday brunch; and 4 to 9 p.m. for Sunday dinner.

## SIZZLING SUMMER



Photos by RICK DeWITT and HANNAH DOYLE

Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and State Senator Jeff Klein enjoy the show during the annual “New York Salutes America” boardwalk festival and fireworks extravaganza at Orchard Beach on Thursday, June 30, 2016 (top photo). These will be probably the last fireworks seen above the current City Island Bridge (middle photo). The exceptionally warm summer of 2016 featured beautiful sunsets, lightning storms and a surprise visit by a humpback whale to the waters near City Island (see *Sights & Sounds*).



## 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

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 10 and 11, **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sat., Sept. 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers.

Tues., Sept. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory Oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. For more information, visit [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We welcome you to follow us on Facebook.

Kabbalat Shabbat services are on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 2, with Rabbi David

Sept. 9, Community-led Shabbat

Sept. 16, with Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David

Sept. 23, Community-led Shabbat

Sept. 30, Community-led Shabbat

Oct. 7, with Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David

#### Events and Classes

Mondays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Prana Yoga led by Daniella Haney, a certified instructor in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing. Suitable for all. Dress in loose clothing. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at [kyncyc@aol.com](mailto:kyncyc@aol.com).

Thursday, Sept. 15, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Selichot Stories, Song and Soul. Rebbetzin Emuna Witt-Halevi returns from Jerusalem with maggidut (holy stories) for the season of Selichot and Teshuvah. Come for a deep evening of story, song and soul as we prepare for the Days of Awe. Suggested free-will offering of \$10 requested to cover Rebbetzin Emuna's costs.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David for a spiritual gathering themed to the High Holy Day journey of teshuvah (forgiveness), hope and purification using Alan Lew's book "This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared." Learn about mikveh and then perform a cleansing ritual in Long Island Sound. Participants should bring bathing suits, towels and water shoes.

Sunday, Sept. 25, 1 to 4 p.m. Mitzvah Day at TBE! Join your TBE family for our first Mitzvah Day, a community-wide dedication to tikkun olam (repairing the world) as permanent spiritual commitment. Refreshments will be served, and participants will be eligible for TBE Mitzvah Day T-shirts. Help build community, show TBE pride and repair the world.

#### Looking Ahead

Sunday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah, Day 1

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah, Day 2

Friday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah; oneg sponsored by Barbara Gold

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m. Erev Yom Kippur-Kol Nidre

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m. Yom Kippur morning service

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 5 p.m. Yom Kippur evening service and community Break-Fast

#### Seeking

Musicians: Looking for string, wind, brass and percussion players. Contact Rabbi David via [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Computer geek for database management and design, e-blast flyers. E-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Oneg sponsorships: for special occasions or memorials. Contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

#### Outreach

Enrollment continues for TBE's Hebrew school partner, Sinai Free Synagogue, in nearby Mount Vernon. To enroll a child or obtain more information, contact Rabbi Shohama via [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Paul Klein

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

On Saturday, Sept. 17, we will hold our annual outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 14, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3 p.m. and grades 4 through 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone who has not yet registered should call Teri Kurtz at 718-885-1440.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will reopen officially on Thursday, Sept. 15. Come take a look around. Lots of fall selections.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

#### Garden Club of City Island

The Club has been busy with summertime activities, including our annual maintenance of the planter boxes on City Island Avenue. Members have been busy watering the containers and maintaining the potato vines, calibrocoa and purple dracaena through the hot weather. Assistance from merchants and residents in watering our plants is greatly appreciated. The soil dries out very quickly in the summer, and the plants become very stressed. We are also asking for all City Islanders and visitors to be mindful that the containers and plants are there for everyone to enjoy. Several plants were missing shortly after they were planted this spring. Presumably they are in someone's backyard. Should you see someone taking plants, please let a member of the Garden Club know about the incident.

In June club members were treated to a lovely day visiting the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Garden club members Barbara Dennis and Barbara Dolensek served as docents for the very interesting tours of this historic house and its gardens. The tour was followed by a delicious and beautifully presented tea in the Orangerie. If you have not visited Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, we recommend that you do so. It is only around the corner and part of our history here on City Island.

Our program committee has been busy organizing our next trip, which will be on Tuesday, Oct. 11, to Steinhardt Gardens, a 55-acre private garden in Mount Kisco, NY. The committee has also been busy organiz-



Friends and family of the late John Gilder gathered for the seventh annual barbecue at the Morris Yacht Club on July 30, 2016. The event raised over \$5,000 to fund scholarships at Greenwich High School, Fordham University and the City Island Little League team named in John's memory.

ing presentations for our meetings. Daryl Beyers, instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, delighted members with a visually exciting presentation on lilacs and flowering shrubs at the June meeting. The September meeting will feature a slide presentation by Richard Rosiello of Meadowbrook Gardens in New Milford, CT. He will be talking about native plants and invasive species. Trevor Hall from Bartlett Tree Service will be presenting on tree care at our Oct. 3 meeting.

The installation of officers took place at our July members' luncheon, which was held at the City Island Yacht Club. President Judy Judson started a second two-year term and Vice-President Melanie Benvenue started her first two-year term. Past Vice-President Barbara Harrison stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the club; we are indebted to her for her hard work and creativity over the years.

If you have an interest in civic beautification and promoting gardening, please join us the first Monday of the month (with the exception of August) at the City Island Yacht Club at 10:00 a.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12 "the Monday after Labor Day). Annual dues are \$35. The meeting is followed by coffee and fresh baked goods provided by our Hospitality Committee.

Gail Hitt and Judy Judson

#### American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 156 strives to cultivate a culture of good will, which can be described as kind, helpful and having a positive attitude toward others. A major source of gratification comes from helping our veterans, the military and their families. If you know of a veteran or military family in need of our services, please contact the President, Laura Booth via e-mail at [lamc2051@verizon.net](mailto:lamc2051@verizon.net), cc: [jcute53@aol.com](mailto:jcute53@aol.com).

In the United States, Patriot Day is observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance on Sept. 11 each year in memory of the 2,977 people killed in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, President George W. Bush proclaimed Friday, Sept. 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the victims of the terrorist attacks. The flag of the United States is flown at half-staff at the White House and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments throughout the world; individual American homes are also encouraged to display the American flag. Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m., the time that the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Please join us in displaying the American flag and observing Patriot Day.

The Ladies Auxiliary Unit 156 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Please be sure to check the Post

website ([http://leonardhawkinspost156.com/Legion\\_Auxiliary.html](http://leonardhawkinspost156.com/Legion_Auxiliary.html)) for auxiliary events, our mission statement and contact numbers, and look for our membership brochures and display at the City Island Library. We look forward to seeing active and new members.

Joanne Valetta

#### City Island Republicans

Thanks goes out to all of our poll workers who carried the petitions to get everyone onto the ballot. Also, we would like to thank those who signed our sheets.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our new commander, Vic Anderson, was sworn in during June, and a lovely dinner followed. Thanks to Jimmy Livingston and Gene Valesio for doing the cooking and Mike Jawski for setting up. Our other officers for the upcoming year are Fred Ramftl Jr., vice commander membership; James Livingston, finance officer; John Ainette, chaplain; Tom Vivolo, vice commander for Americanism; Gene Valesio, historian; Peter Del-Debbio, advisor; Walter Natiw, vice commander for activities; Peter Booth, once again adjutant, and Joe Scotti is our sergeant-at-arms. We will be hosting an Oktoberfest next month. Details to follow.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

##### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

##### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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[HebenOnline.com](http://HebenOnline.com)





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

Although summer may not be officially over, many classes are resuming. Please contact the instructors to enroll and to be sure of the start date. We have many wonderful classes with several new interesting offerings.

Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please think about it and consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145, or "Like" us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. Think about it.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Wednesday after school, Saturday afternoon. An exciting new educational program for children is coming to the Center. Taught by experienced school teachers, the Español Experience teaches conversational Spanish to children grades K through 5 through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. Classes start in September and are forming now. For more information and to register your child, visit [www.espanolexperience.com](http://www.espanolexperience.com), or call 917-889-4938.

**Healing Service:** Thursday by appointment. Rev. Francesca Vitale, Polarity / Craniosacral Practitioner, formerly of the New York Open Center, is offering her healing services to anyone in need. Exploring energetic anatomy and the mind-body connection, a person can receive clarity and balance within in order to heal and become empowered. A donation of \$33 per hour session is suggested. For further information, visit [www.theevitalforcefoundation.org](http://www.theevitalforcefoundation.org). To

schedule an appointment call Francesca at 914-837-6830.

**Mommy and Baby Yoga:** Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. Sarah Hutching's special class offers gentle stretching, toning, baby massage and relaxation. A wonderful and nurturing way to spend time together. For information call Sarah at 914-216-5851.

**Ballroom Dance:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. In September, the featured dances will be the Rhumba and Cha Cha with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

**Bollywood Dance:** Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 2:30 to 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian Films. To register or for more information, e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Art for Children:** Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study art from the 15th to 21st century with Lorraine Cantori. Try one session, \$20. Classes begin Oct. 1. Register at [ceasardante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasardante@optonline.net) or call 914-552-5268.

**Irish Dance for Children:** Monday, beginning Sept. 12. Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., Beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

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

**Jill's Playgroup:** Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill 917-330-0922.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Belly Dance/Shimmy by the Sea** with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves. Classes resume in October. To enroll, call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575.

**Chess & Card Club:** Tuesday at 7 p.m. Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

**City Island Community Supported Agriculture:** Mondays, 5 to 6 p.m., The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables throughout the summer and fall. We now have meat, poultry and eggs available. For information, e-mail [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com).

com or call 917-238-0529

**City Island Culinary Club:** First and third Mondays at 7 p.m. Sept. 12 and 28. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. Mondays at 7 p.m. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Drawing Society:** Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. Resumes in October. For information, call 917-721-1419.

**Parenting Group:** Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. Topic "Let's raise racially aware children together." We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us on this journey through parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com) or call 917-853-4719.

**Zumba with Julia/Kickbox with Maria:** Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514 or Maria at 347-267-0591.

**Zumba with Lettie:** Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### AARP 318

AARP 318 meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street at 1 p.m. Our meetings for September will be on Sept. 7 and 21. Tentative plans for the fall include: A day trip to Big E, Massachusetts State Fair on Sept. 28. Cost is \$32 per person, Octoberfest, Staten Island (Oct. 5), \$80.00 per person and the Penny Auction (Oct. 19). Be sure to come to the Sept. 7 meeting to sign up for the upcoming activities and bring your friends.

**Rosetta Woods**

#### Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome.

Sunday School lessons are going strong and will take place this month on Sept. 4 and 18. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and, then leave with their teacher for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. All interested parents and children are welcome.

The Grace Tones, our musical ministry made up of members of the church choir and singers from the Island, perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. There will be no rehearsal in September, but we will have two in October to prepare for a show with a local Girl Scout troop at Beth Abraham Nursing Home. If you would like to join us, please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

Hearts and Hands is a group of parishioners who knit and crochet comfort items (hats and blankets) for patients at Calvary Hospital. The group will meet on Monday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall, and we invite other crafters to join us. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

Please visit our website at [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

**Sandy Dunn**

#### PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to [pat-tis@pssusa.org](mailto:pat-tis@pssusa.org).

#### Highlights

NEW! Starting Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.: Diabetes Workshop for six weeks

Sept. 2: We close at 1 p.m. Lunch is served 11:30 to 12:30.

Sept. 5: We close for Labor Day.

Sept. 7: Calligraphy class resumes at 1 p.m.

Sept. 9: Health Fair: 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Flu and pneumococcal (1 & 2) vaccinations, vascular ultrasound, reflexology, blood pressure, PSS Circle of Care Caregiver Services, crime prevention, GuildNet Lighthouse Guild, diabetes workshop preview, voter registration

Sept. 15 at 12:15: Managed Long Term Care

Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.: Diabetes workshop

Sept. 23 at 12:15: Elder Abuse Presentation

**September Physical Exercise:** The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Learn Tai Chi at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Exercise at 9:15 a.m. (Please call for more information), Yoga Stretch at 10:30, Balance Class 1 p.m. For the Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch and Tai Chi classes, suggested donation is \$1 each. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

**September Programs:** Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m., Jewelry Making at 1 p.m. Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 on Sept. 6 and Sept. 20. Wednesdays: Exercise at 9:15 a.m. (Please call for more information.); Calligraphy at 1 p.m., Ice Cream Express on Sept. 8, Sept. 29 at 12:45. Haircuts by Brenda on Sept. 14, Sept. 28 for \$10. Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m., Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 15; Birthday Party Sept. 22. Fridays: Bake & Tag Sale on Sept. 16 at 12:30.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance.** Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

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

**Transportation Services.** Off-island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Roe at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift shop opening Thursday, September 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come see our Fall and Winter collection, our Halloween collection and lots more. Complimentary coffee and chit chat.

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**Fantastical Steven Spielberg**

Steven Spielberg is the most commercially successful director of all time. For more than 40 years, we have all been captivated by his action adventure/sci-fi films, as well as his serious historical endeavors. This column, part 1 of my foray into Spielberg directorial efforts, concentrates on action and imagination.

**Jaws** (1975) was Spielberg's first major box-office success. The shark saga set the standard for the summer blockbuster while frightening millions of moviegoers out of the water. In fact, someone asked me at the time if the film made me afraid to go in the ocean, to which I responded: "to a person who is afraid of jellyfish, a shark has no meaning." Set in a fictional Atlantic resort, when pieces of a woman wash ashore, Police Chief Brody (Roy Scheider) suspects the worst, but Mayor Vaughn (Murray Hamilton), not wanting to scare away the tourists, refuses to put the island on alert. Subsequent victims force the mayor to order local fishermen to catch the culprit. When a shark is found, the beaches are reopened, despite warnings from visiting ichthyologist Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss). After another fatality, Brody and Hooper join forces with old Quint (Robert Shaw), the only local fisherman willing to take on a great white. The three face their adversary on Quint's boat, *The Orca*.

**Close Encounters of the Third Kind** (1977) is an epic science fiction adventure about an unrelated group of people who have close encounters with alien space crafts and are drawn to a place where contact could be made. The disparate group includes Roy Neary (Richard Dreyfuss), an electrical lineman; Jillian (Melinda

Dillon), a single mother whose son disappeared during her UFO experience; and Claude Lacombe (celebrated French filmmaker François Truffaut), a French researcher. Lacombe's theory of communicating with aliens through music is put to the test when government researchers and UFO enthusiasts congregate near Devil's Tower in Wyoming.

**E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982) is a classic sci-fi adventure movie for the entire family. Henry Thomas plays Elliott, a young boy living with his single mother (Dee Wallace); his older brother, Michael (Robert MacNaughton), and his younger sister, Gertie (Drew Barrymore). When Elliott finds an alien whose scientific spacecraft accidentally left him behind, he names him E.T and decides to help him figure out a way to get home. E.T. rigs up a communication device from junk he finds around the house, but will he be rescued before a group of government scientists gets hold of him? In 2002, Steven Spielberg re-released the film in a revised edition, with several deleted scenes restored and digitally refurbished special effects.

**Jurassic Park** (1993) is yet another phenomenally successful sci-fi adventure thriller that used state-of-the-art special effects from George Lucas's (of *Star Wars* fame) Industrial Light & Magic. The film follows two dinosaur experts, Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr. Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern), who have been invited by eccentric millionaire John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) to preview his new amusement park on an island off Costa Rica. Hammond has cloned DNA fossils to create living dinosaurs for his new Jurassic Park, an immense animal preserve. Accompanied by cynical scientist Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) and Hammond's two grandchildren (Ariana Richards and Joseph Mazzello), they all go on a tour of the park. When a tropical storm knocks out the power supply, the dinosaurs start to rage out of control. Grant then has to bring Hammond's grandchildren back to safety.

Instead of "Big Brother" watching the citizens of the planet Earth, a top secret organization monitors alien activity in

**Men in Black** (1997). Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) recruits NYPD undercover cop James Edwards (Will Smith), who becomes Agent J, and together they go on a zany chase through a film replete with aliens and special effects that rival the bar scene in the original *Star Wars* movie. Their assignment is to prevent an inter-galactic conflict that could destroy the Earth.

Set in 2054, Steven Spielberg's **Minority Report** (2002) is the story of Pre-Crime, a law enforcement unit that monitors society to stop crimes before they are committed. Three Pre-Cogs, beings who float in a nutrient rich fluid, can predict who will commit a crime and when. When Pre-Crime chief John Anderton (Tom Cruise) is accused of a crime he hasn't yet committed, he goes on the run, chased by FBI Agent Ed Witwer (Colin Farrell). Only Pre-Cog Agatha (Samantha Morton) can help prove his innocence.

The single best movie-going experience I ever had was seeing **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981) on the day it opened, though I had no idea what the movie was about. I sat there mesmerized as archaeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford), somewhere in the Peruvian jungle in 1936, is found running through a booby-trapped cave to retrieve a solid-gold idol. When his chief rival, French archaeologist Rene Belloq (Paul Freeman), steals the artifact

and threatens to have Jones killed, Belloq is eluded in the first of many escapes, like those seen in historic Saturday afternoon cinema serials of the 1950s. When not having incredible adventures, Jones is a university professor but he is commissioned by museum curator Marcus Brody (Denholm Elliott) to find the long-lost Ark of the Covenant, for which the Nazis are already searching. The key to finding the Ark is a medallion kept under the protection of Marion (Karen Allen), daughter of Jones's mentor Abner Ravenwood. Indy and Marion become partners in one action-packed adventure after another, which range from surviving the snake pits of the Well of Souls to the unearthing of the sacred Ark. A joint project of Hollywood prodigies George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, with a script co-written by Lawrence Kasdan and Philip Kaufman, among others, **Raiders of the Lost Ark** is not so much a movie as a 115-minute roller-coaster ride. It was followed by **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom** (1985), **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** (1989) and **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** (2008). Each subsequent film is not as good as the one preceding it, but diehard fans won't mind.

Next month I'll explore Spielberg's serious side and his fascination with history. And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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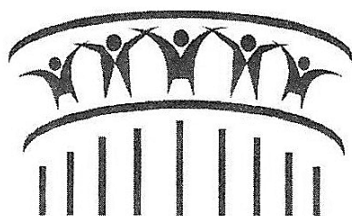
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Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Firefighters assigned to the City Island firehouse have an opportunity to identify themselves as representatives of this unique part of New York City.

# Multi-Vehicle Pileup on City Island Road

By BLAKE BELL

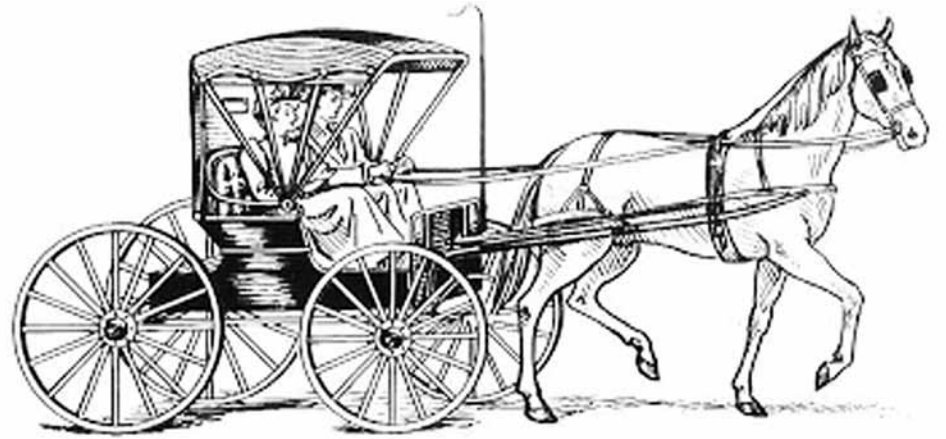


Image courtesy of BLAKE BELL

Undated image of a horse-drawn carriage that may be similar to the one driven by Samuel Cook with his wife at the time of the accident on Aug. 31, 1896.

Turn on the radio and listen to the traffic report on any given day. Local residents often will hear of a multi-car pileup near the New Rochelle tolls on I-95 or a car crash on the Hutchinson River Parkway at Wolf's Lane or even a fender-bender on Boston Post Road near Pelham Parkway. When the exhaust fumes grow thick and the traffic heading into or out of the city is thicker than molasses on a cold winter day, can we be blamed if we wish for a simpler time when horses and horse-drawn carriages ruled the roads of our region?

The days of horses and horse-drawn carriages may have been simpler, but don't assume that the roads of our region were never crowded nor the scene of multi-vehicle crashes during those "good old days." For example, on Aug. 31, 1896, there was a multi-vehicle crash of horse-drawn vehicles on City Island Road.

On a warm Monday in 1896, Aug. 31 to be precise, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cook of New York City were driving their carriage on City Island Road heading from Bartow toward City Island. At the same time, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson of Mount Vernon, NY, were driving their smart phaeton, traveling toward Bartow from City Island. A short distance behind the Johnsons were Mr. Henry Keyser of New York City and his daughter, also traveling toward Bartow in their wagon.

As the Cooks drove their carriage toward City Island, a nearby tree branch frightened their horse, who took off at full speed with the carriage bouncing along on the rough roadway behind it. Samuel Cook tried desperately to stop the galloping horse, but his efforts were futile and the horse raced out of control dragging the carriage behind it.

As Cook's out-of-control carriage

reached a small curve in the road near the Little Mothers' Home, the carriage smashed into the phaeton carrying Henry Johnson and his wife. The crash was so violent that Samuel Cook and his wife were thrown over the dashboard of the carriage onto the road. Mrs. Cook was knocked unconscious. Henry Johnson and his wife likewise were thrown from their phaeton. Both were badly cut on their heads, and Mrs. Johnson's face was "severely cut."

The Johnsons' horse broke free from the smashed phaeton and raced up the road toward Bartow. The Cooks' horse likewise broke free from the smashed carriage and raced down the road a few hundred feet, when it ran headlong into the wagon of Henry Keyser and his daughter. The wagon was overturned. Henry Keyser's daughter was thrown from the wagon and had her arm crushed and suffered a cut on her face.

A member of the Park Police, Roundsmen Reed, rounded up the two runaway horses. In the meantime, an ambulance (presumably horse-drawn) was summoned from Fordham Hospital. A physician arrived and dressed the injuries suffered by the Cooks and Miss Keyser.

It seems that no summonses were issued following the multi-vehicle accident that day. In fact, it seems that traffic tickets in and around Pelham were unheard of for at least the next few years until the rise of the horseless carriage.

Blake Bell, historian of Pelham, NY, posts blogs regularly on his website *Historic Pelham* ([historicpelham.blogspot.com](http://historicpelham.blogspot.com)). Many of his posts are about City Island, which was part of Pelham until 1896.

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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.



### Claire Dassy

Claire Lemke Dassy, 63, of Algonquin, IL, and former City Islander, passed away very peacefully with her family and friends by her side.

Claire was born on Dec. 31, 1952, to Gustave and Marjorie (Rowe) Lemke of City Island. She spent her formative years on City Island and attended Hunter College-Bellevue Hospital in New York City for her nursing degree. She was a nurse for 40 years. Upon leaving New York, where she worked with Pediatric Cancer patients at Memorial Sloan Kettering, she traveled to Chicago, where she worked with pediatrics cancer patients at Children's Memorial Hospital. She worked as a visiting nurse at VNA of Chicago, Mt. Sinai Hospital and Rush Home Care and Family Home Care. She loved to cook and became a professional chef while continuing to work as a nurse, until she retired in 2013.

Claire is survived by her sister, Barbara (Lemke) O'Donnell (Raymond) of Lawton, MI, her brother, Ken Lemke (Edwina) of City Island; her aunt Edith (Rowe) Fairgrieve of Mystic, CT; 9 nieces and nephews whom she loved deeply, 24 great nieces and great nephews, 5 cousins and many friends, both from childhood and adulthood.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her nephew Michael O'Donnell of Lawton, MI; her cousin Audrey (Rowe) Micklas, of Ossining, NY; and her uncle Phil Rowe of Ossining.

Claire was an avid photographer who loved to photograph her family and nature whenever possible. Her passion for nursing and teaching other nurses continued until her death. Claire's family, friends, photography, cooking and nursing brought daily joy to her life.

Donations in Claire's memory may be made to Operation Smile, P.O. Box 5017, Hagerstown, MD 21741-9716; National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, 2501 Oak Lawn Ave. #435, Dallas, TX 75219; Animal Care League, 1011 Garfield St., Oak Park, IL 60304; Fox Valley Center, P.O. Box 385, 45W061 Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119.

A celebration of her life was held on August 13, 2016, in Elgin, IL.

### Anne Frances Di Iorio

Anne Frances Di Iorio (née Crisafulli) passed away on May 18, 2016. She was born on Jan. 1, 1928, and lived on City Island from 1960 until her death.

Anne worked as a receptionist for the



Anne Di Lorio

executive director at Jacobi Hospital from 1969 until her retirement in 1994. She was a quiet, unassuming type, who loved live music and dancing. She absolutely adored her eight grandchildren. Her smile lit up a room, and she will be sorely missed.

Anne was predeceased by her husband of 43 years, Anthony T. Di Iorio. She is survived by her daughter, Angela Di Iorio Ventura of Massachusetts, her son Leonard of New Rochelle and her son Anthony E. of City Island. Anne was laid to rest in Pelham Cemetery with her husband.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Hospital, whose staff took wonderful care of her in her final six months.



Photo by Ron Turner

### Conal Schaller

Conal Andrew Schaller, a clam digger, passed away on July 15, 2016, at the age of 33.

Conal attended P. S. 175, Fordham Preparatory High School, and SUNY Oneonta. Many Islanders knew him as the proprietor of CAS Property Care.

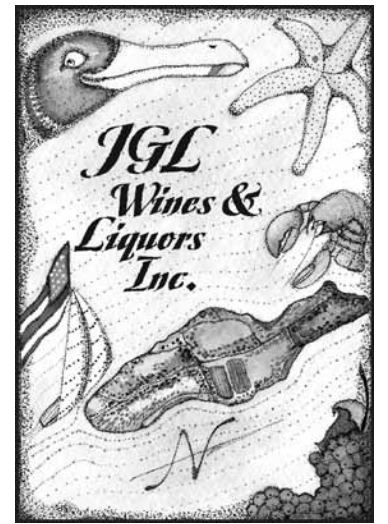
Conal enjoyed camping on the beach and fishing with his girlfriend, Katie, almost as much as he enjoyed being with his family, including his 12 cousins, his aunts and uncles, and his grandfather, Russell Schaller.

He is survived by his parents, Mary and

Joe; his brother, Corley, and sister, Elysia; and his nieces and nephews, Lukas, Andru, Maryn, Matthew and Caitlyn.

A funeral mass was held for Conal on July 20 at his parish, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Donations in Conal's memory can be sent to the Stamen Animal Hospital at [gofundme.com/conalschaller](http://gofundme.com/conalschaller).



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

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0017	8.35	0643	-0.33	1238	8.16	1900	-0.18	Thu 01
02 Fri	0058	8.21	0722	-0.12	1316	8.10	1939	-0.01	Fri 02
03 Sat	0135	7.98	0757	0.18	1350	7.96	2014	0.24	Sat 03
04 Sun	0208	7.71	0820	0.50	1416	7.78	2037	0.53	Sun 04
05 Mon	0232	7.44	0824	0.75	1434	7.63	2049	0.78	Mon 05
06 Tue	0255	7.21	0849	0.94	1502	7.50	2118	1.00	Tue 06
07 Wed	0328	7.01	0926	1.16	1540	7.38	2200	1.23	Wed 07
08 Thu	0410	6.83	1011	1.39	1624	7.26	2248	1.44	Thu 08
09 Fri	0459	6.69	1101	1.60	1714	7.17	2343	1.57	Fri 09
10 Sat	0556	6.64	1157	1.72	1811	7.16			Sat 10
11 Sun	0047	1.56	0702	6.74	1259	1.67	1913	7.28	Sun 11
12 Mon	0205	1.36	0812	7.00	1406	1.43	2016	7.52	Mon 12
13 Tue	0313	0.98	0908	7.38	1515	1.00	2114	7.84	Tue 13
14 Wed	0404	0.52	0953	7.83	1613	0.47	2205	8.19	Wed 14
15 Thu	0448	0.06	1036	8.27	1704	-0.06	2253	8.47	Thu 15
16 Fri	0530	-0.34	1119	8.65	1753	-0.51	2340	8.66	Fri 16
17 Sat	0612	-0.61	1203	8.93	1840	-0.80			Sat 17
18 Sun	0027	8.69	0656	-0.72	1248	9.05	1930	-0.89	Sun 18
19 Mon	0116	8.56	0742	-0.64	1336	8.98	2022	0.77	Mon 19
20 Tue	0207	8.27	0831	-0.37	1427	8.74	2122	-0.48	Tue 20
21 Wed	0303	7.87	0926	0.04	1523	8.35	2234	-0.10	Wed 21
22 Thu	0410	7.43	1038	0.49	1631	7.91	2353	0.19	Thu 22
23 Fri	0543	7.14	1210	0.80	1812	7.62			Fri 23
24 Sat	0105	0.31	0706	7.15	1327	0.82	1935	7.64	Sat 24
25 Sun	0210	0.26	0813	7.36	1433	0.64	2040	7.80	Sun 25
26 Mon	0310	0.12	0910	7.67	1532	0.35	2137	8.01	Mon 26
27 Tue	0403	-0.04	1003	7.96	1625	0.06	2227	8.16	Tue 27
28 Wed	0452	-0.13	1050	8.17	1713	-0.14	2314	8.22	Wed 28
29 Thu	0536	-0.13	1134	8.28	1757	-0.23	2357	8.17	Thu 29
30 Fri	0617	-0.02	1214	8.27	1838	-0.18			Fri 30
<b>OCTOBER 2016</b>									
01 Sat	0036	8.02	0653	0.18	1249	8.16	1914	-0.02	Sat 01
02 Sun	0111	7.81	0722	0.44	1317	7.99	1944	0.21	Sun 02
03 Mon	0140	7.57	0731	0.67	1331	7.84	1957	0.44	Mon 03
04 Tue	0155	7.37	0741	0.80	1349	7.76	2010	0.60	Tue 04
05 Wed	0216	7.24	0812	0.93	1420	7.69	2042	0.76	Wed 05



Photo by HANNAH DOYLE

The humpback whale sighted in Long Island Sound makes a meal of the mossbunker in this incredible photo taken just offshore in Connecticut.

**Whale Ho!**

By now, readers of this column have probably seen pictures of the humpback whale that was in the water off New Rochelle in July. Unlike our shark picture from the last *Sights and Sounds* column, the photos of this whale were clear as day (probably because they were taken in the broad daylight, as opposed to the picture of the shark that was taken in the darkness of early morning). But if those pictures were not enough for you, if you have doubt that still lingers, check out the link below that was sent to us by a friend. It is a video of the same animal: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/2016/07/22/humpback-whale-seen-off-new-rochelle-sound/87437280/>

The poor menhaden, also known as mossbunker, are the fish that the whale is after in the pictures. And if it's not a humpback whale giving chase, it's a seal or osprey or bluefish. In fact, there was a feeding frenzy for the ages in Eastchester Bay last month that went on for hours. The bluefish

were chasing the bunker right up to and almost onto the beach. For days afterwards, crabs, gulls and even a few cats were feeding on the bits and pieces left behind by the outgoing tide.

These days, it may even be a great white shark making a meal of the unfortunate mossbunker. There have been stories in the newspapers about more great white sightings than usual off coastal beaches in the northeast. The speculation is that rising water temperatures are drawing these new predators north, where the feeding remains good, thanks to plentiful prey.

It is tempting to think that the name Manhattan might have originated with "menhaden," which is a Native American word. There can be no doubt that there is a similarity in the sound of the words, to their cadence as well as their spelling, and that the species of fish were as plentiful if not more so in the early 1600s, when the Dutch first settled Manhattan. In fact, it was the same early Dutch settlers who gave menhaden their mossbunker alias. Although etymologists tell us otherwise, the temptation to link the two remains.

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# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



What was for a long time known as the Apothecaries' Garden in London is now called the Chelsea Physic Garden, and its story of survival into the 21st century is nothing short of miraculous. The word "apothecary" is now synonymous with "pharmacist," and an "apotheca" is a place to store dried plants and herbs. Early on, apothecaries were dependent on spice women, who collected the herbs but sometimes mislabeled them, causing confusion, poisoning and even death. So it was important for these learned men to have a garden where they could grow medicinal herbs and correctly identify them.

Founded in 1673, this garden is the largest holding of medicinal plants in the world. The garden would not be here if it weren't for its first curator, Hans Sloane. He was very shrewd in contracting the deed, which was essentially a five-pound annual rental in perpetuity. Also, the members themselves could not sell it or build on the property. So here it remains and flourishes to this day, aiding in research for the medical profession and the public.

The Chelsea Physic Garden is walled and flanked on one side by the River Thames, a site chosen for the barges bringing material from other lands. Joseph Banks, a famous plant hunter and botanist, sailed here in 1773, bringing with him the black basalt rock formed volcanically in Iceland as ballast for his ship, the *St. Lawrence*. These rocks were incorporated into this, Europe's oldest rock garden, along with clam shells brought back by Captain Cook on the *Endeavor* and masonry cornices from the Tower of London. Poppies spring from the rocks as well as echium, erigeron karvinskianus, and many other beautiful little things belonging to the saxifrage family.

In the greenhouse you can see the first Wardian cases, little glass greenhouses used to prevent sea spray from decimating plants being shipped overseas. Until Nathaniel Ward's simple invention, many rare plants were lost before they could make it to their European destinations. The tea trade in the middle of the 1800s from China to India was successful because of these cases, which were also vital in the importing

of the antimalarial drug quinine from the Andes in South America. Eighty percent of the world's population relies on plant-based medicines, and 15 percent of the top pharmaceuticals are derived from natural products, many of them plants. Wardian cases were used up to the 1950s, when (the not so visually beautiful) insulated packages were introduced to be used for air freight.

The Physic Garden is laid out in compartmentalized sections to enable easy access for purposes of study. There are gardens of edible plants, useful plants, historic plants, and British and American natives, to name a few. The most interesting of these for me was the garden of medicinal plants, which is subdivided into categories of world medicine—plants used by healers, shamans and herbalists for over 5,000 years.

Pharmaceutical plants include a full range of plants that are used today for their extracts, either derived or synthesized. In the pharmaceutical section of the garden, each area is marked by standing medicine cabinets, which clearly mark the areas of study. Oncology, neurology, dermatology, anesthetics, etc. There are other areas for future medicine, herbal remedies and wildlife. I could have stayed for a week at least, as there is also an incredible library, which is full of important botanical antiquarian books.

It was a delight for me to meet the past curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden on a tour of another garden the week I spent in London last spring. He explained to me how visitor attendance has increased over the last 25 years, as interest in plant-based medicines and the saving of our forests and natural resources has become a top priority for so many professionals.

While walking through the Physic Garden, you find yourself on a small lane traveling south toward the river. The opening in the brick wall is arched and covered in flowering vines, and a stone sign announces its address and the date of 1673. The past is not behind you here, but at your side. You can imagine walking the paths and stooping to attend to the flowers along with great men like Banks, Miller, Forsyth and Fortune who brought so many useful and beautiful plants to light.

As I entered the arch, three white ducks barred my path as a gardener, rubber-booted in khaki green, handed me a brochure. I brought this home to Dr. Schaumberg and Dr. Brown, who are collaborating with me on a small medicinal garden on their property on City Island. Most plants must be started from seed, and already there are poppies, echinacea, feverfew, camomile, turmeric, lavender and valerian growing

happily in their new situation. I carry my memory of useful information and beauty away from this garden, and I am expanding my interest by reading books on the properties of herbs and their uses.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.

## Why Talking About Race with Your Children is Important

By JOHN SCARDINA

We live in a time when racial tension is everywhere. Our children—who, as research has suggested, are well aware of the privilege of whiteness at an early age—learn from us adults on a daily basis. How we openly address issues of race and live our truth in our daily lives can help ensure that the next generation of adults can do better than we did in addressing racial injustice.

Here are five things you can keep in mind:

1) You can model and demonstrate diversity and inclusion in your own life. Are all of your friends from the same racial group? Do you have diverse people as friends—real friends—with whom you share a meal, travel, go to the movies, hang out in the living room? Encourage your child to do the same: reach out to others, learn how different homes represent different cultures and celebrate the mix of cultures and religions that makes us an enriched society.

2) Take advantage of teachable moments. When children realize that not all races are not represented equally in the media, in government and in positions of visibility and stature, let them know that in earlier days in the United States many groups of people were seen as the "other" and as a potential menace to society: Irish, Italians, Chinese, etc. By talking about these differences, accepting color and avoiding the hypocrisy of "color-blindness," we can come to true understanding of one another's experience. Kids can understand this as well. We are not "the same" but we are

entitled to equal access to the benefits of our society.

3) Accept the fact that "the talk" you have with your child is dependent upon your racial status. For whites it's about sex and being safe from pregnancy and disease; for people of color, it's about talking to the authorities and staying alive.

4) Realize that the biggest affirmative action program in the history of this country—the G.I. bills after World War II, which provided mortgages and education for returning G.I.s—created the white middle class in the 1950s that many of us benefited from growing up. Whites have a long history of helping themselves with government assistance. Why do we balk when this is about people of color?

5) Remember that important conversations with our children can be difficult but necessary. The status quo is unacceptable to people of color, and morally untenable for all of us, and our children have the opportunity to make things better.

John Dewey, an influential American educator of the 19th and 20th centuries, said that the goal of education is "to build a new world." May we help our children to do just that.

City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, school psychologist, and parent educator. Check out his website at [www.ThinkLaughLearn.com](http://www.ThinkLaughLearn.com) and join his parent support groups at the CI Community Center (usually the last Tuesday of the month).



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## Rat Island

*Continued from page 1*

appearance of a statue and some flagpoles on the island, which Mr. Schibli purchased in 2009 in an auction on City Island Avenue.

The statue, which was unveiled after the boat arrived at about 3 p.m., is a replica of a memorial to the legendary figure of William Tell that was first mounted in 1895 in the market place of Altdorf in the canton of Uri in Switzerland. The sculptor, Richard Kissling, depicted the Swiss national hero carrying a crossbow and standing next to his son, and he marked it with the date of 1307.

According to a 16th-century legend, William Tell visited Altdorf on Nov. 18, 1307, with his young son. He walked by a hat that had been placed in the center of town by Gessler, the newly appointed town mayor, who had instructed all townspeople to bow before it. Tell publicly refused to bow and was arrested and condemned by the mayor to be executed along with his son. However, he was given one chance to save his life by shooting an apple off of his son's head. When Tell split the apple with a bolt from his crossbow, Gessler immediately condemned him to imprisonment for life, but Tell is said to have escaped from a boat on his way to prison.

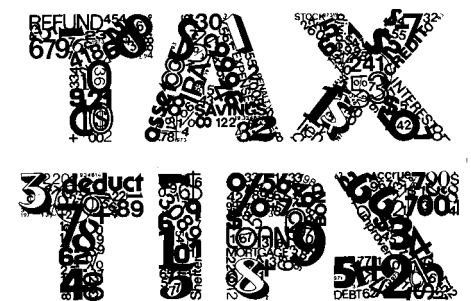
Other stories have placed William Tell

at the center of Switzerland's establishment as a federal state, when he is said to have been one of three men to have declared an oath of independence on August 1, 1307.

Although it is difficult to determine exactly what role William Tell actually played in Swiss history, Frederick Schiller's play "William Tell" (1804) and Gioacchino Rossini's opera of the same name (1829) made him an international figure. The opera's memorable overture that was the Lone Ranger's theme song is still familiar to those who remember the radio show from the 1930s and the television program from the 1950s.

Although William Tell is unlikely to have ever seen a body of salt water, since Switzerland has no access to the ocean, it is perhaps appropriate that he should be depicted on rocks near Hart Island, the site of a prison from which many other prisoners are said to have used in their escape to freedom. (The statue did not get there by swimming, however, but was conveyed to the island by Jason Barron of Barron's Boat Yard.)

Mr. Schibli described the unveiling event as a "Sister Republics Friendship Project," celebrating 725 years of Swiss history and 240 years of U.S. history. The three flags that hang from the poles on the island are the national flags of Switzerland and the United States, as well as the state flag of New York.



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

### Family Estate Transfers

On Aug. 4, 2016, the Treasury Department and the IRS issued proposed regulations under Internal Revenue Code Section 2704. These proposed regulations are far reaching and would largely eliminate estate tax discounts for lack of control or marketability. The bottom line is that the proposed regulations will eliminate many valuation discounts that attorneys, accountants, estate planners and taxpayers have come to expect and rely on when planning transfers of interests in business entities. The effective result will be to increase the estate tax rate for many taxpayers.

Based on the "potential" elimination of minority interest discounting in family gifting scenarios, we are suggesting valuation and implementation for all those who are consider-

ing the possibility. If there are any pending family gifting situations where discounting would be advantageous, we believe clients should be made aware of the possible change in tax regulation and be urged to act quickly to take advantage of the discounts that are still available until any changes take effect.

IRC Section 2704 describes how the IRS wants accountants to value certain interfamily transfers of corporate, LLC, and partnership interests. Specifically, this proposed Code Section addresses the effect of certain lapsing rights and restrictions in the agreements governing transfers of those interests on the transfer tax value of those interests.

Under current law, lapsing rights and restrictions can significantly affect the transfer tax value of an individual's estate, which include business interests. The proposed regulations would largely eliminate estate tax discounts.

As an example, under existing law, parents could create a limited partnership, transfer to the partnership valuable assets and then transfer to their children limited partner interests. If, by reason of the partnership structure, these limited interests are illiquid and have no voting rights, a qualified, independent appraiser would take these limitations and other factors into account in rendering an opinion as to the value of the interests transferred, and might easily reflect a discount from the value of the partnership's assets of 35 percent or more.

The proposed regulations seek to eliminate what the IRS perceives as abuses in this area of wealth transfer. The regulatory changes would not become effective until after they are made final, but this might occur as soon as Dec. 1, 2016, the date that hearings are scheduled.

If you are considering the transfer of any interests in family partnerships or other family business entities, you should consider acting promptly, as valuation discounts may soon be history, and no longer available or, may be severely curtailed.

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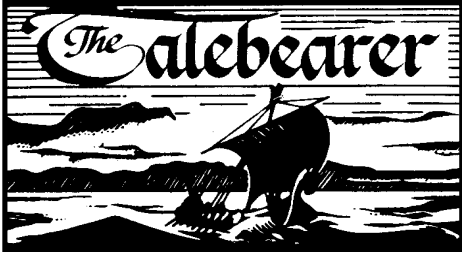
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Photo courtesy of the Corredor Family  
Krystle and Frank Rocci were wed on July 30.

Best wishes to Krystle and Frank Rocci, who said "I do" on July 30. Proud parents are Lucera Corredor and Frank M. and Mary Anne Rocci.

Birthday wishes to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson, who all share a birthday on Sept. 12.

Anniversary greetings on Sept. 5 to Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Congratulations to former longtime Centre Street residents Paula Huffell and Peter Natiw, who were married on July 22 in Fort Pierce, Florida. They send fond regards to the City Island community.

Happy birthday to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire, who will blow out birthday candles on Sept. 5.

Happy, happy birthday wishes to our "Fearless" Hunter, who turns three on Sept. 17. Love, hugs and kisses from Nonni and Pop.

Happy September birthdays to Mike Rauh and his nephew Dan Wright. Mike is training for his 38th New York City Marathon.

Best birthday wishes to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan. Love having you on the block, Love, Judy.

Earley Street's Lee Brown has been selected for a George Segal Memorial



Islander Samantha Pecoraro was married to Travis Cummings on July 28, 2016, in Battery Park in Manhattan. Shown above at the wedding are the bride and groom (center) with the bride's parents, Dean and Colleen Pecoraro, and brother Stephen (far right).

Happy birthday on Sept. 28 to Minneford Avenue's Tina Ruggiero, with love from your family and friends.

Happy 38th birthday wishes to Bobby Riordan, a great husband and dad! Love, Cheryl, Thomas, Grace and Emma.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Samantha Pecoraro and Travis Cummings, who were married on July 28 in a private ceremony in Battery Park.

Maria Swieciki



Carmelia Ramftl with her granddaughter Gianna.

Congratulations to Carmelia Ramftl who celebrated her 90th birthday on July 18. A party attended by family and friends was held on July 16 at the Legion Post, and a good time was had by all.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack on their engagement on July 22, 2016. Nicolette and Andrew met while studying at Brooklyn Law School. Nicolette is an attorney employed by Cleary Gottlieb of New York City and is currently working in their Italian office in Milan. Andrew is an attorney and will begin a clerkship for a federal judge in New York City this fall. An August 2017 wedding is planned. Nicolette will celebrate her birthday on Sept. 16. Love from Mom, Dad, Jillian, Briana and Stella Rose.

Good luck to Lily Kolb, who will begin her freshman year at Binghamton University this fall. We look forward to your many successes in college. With love from Aunt Nancy, Uncle Nicky, Nicolette, Andrew, Jillian and Briana.

Happy belated 30th birthday wishes to Nolan Quinn, who celebrated his big day on Aug. 16. Best wishes to you always, from the Lotrionte family.

Happy 30th birthday greetings on Sept. 2 to Stephen Swieciki, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

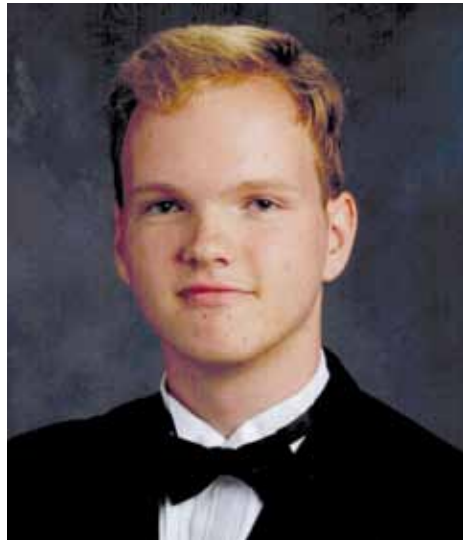


Photo courtesy of Louise Veasman  
Lee Brown

Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Lee plans to attend Morrisville State College in Morrisville, NY, to study automotive technology. He was selected from more than 500 applicants.

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