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CLAM DIGGER WINS PELHAM ELECTION

By KAREN NANI



Clam digger Cathy Mazzaro was elected Receiver of Taxes for the town of Pelham on Nov. 7 2017. She is shown above at the swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 8, 2018, and with her husband Vincent (center) and her five children, who witnessed her oath (top right photo).

Former Islander Cathy Schaller Mazzaro was elected Receiver of Taxes for the town of Pelham on Nov. 7, 2017, in a very close contest that came down to a manual count of votes two weeks after Election Day. She was sworn in at the Pelham Town Hall on Jan. 8, 2018.

Ms. Mazzaro is one of six children born on City Island to Russell and Eileen Schaller (Russell, longtime cartoonist for *The Current*, passed away in 2016). She attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea elementary school and Cardinal Spellman High School. She then graduated with a degree in business administration from Iona College.

Always interested in accounting, Ms. Mazzaro attended the NYU Stern School of Business and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1988.

So, how did she wind up in Pelham? "After I married my husband, Vincent, we lived in New Rochelle, but then moved to Pelham in 1994. We have been here for 23 years and we know so many families through all the activities with the kids," she told *The Current*.

She and her husband have five children, four boys (including twins) and one girl. Over the years, the energetic Ms. Mazzaro worked for the accounting firm KPMG, as well as GE Capital. Then, 20 years ago, she set up her own accounting firm. Vincent Mazzaro is also a CPA, so a love of numbers and finance runs in the family.

"I was always very active in the Pelham community," she explained, including volunteering as treasurer of the Pelham Education Foundation, the Pelham Chamber of Commerce and the Junior League. She also spent a lot of time with other parents at Pelham hockey games, including with the travel team that her twin boys played on and that won the New York State championship last year.

It was through these organizations that she met members of the town council, who then approached her to run for the Receiver of Taxes position. She agreed and ran on the Republican, Conservative, Reform and Independent tickets along with five running mates for other local government positions.

She was opposed by a Democrat who was relatively new to the town of Pelham.

Ms. Mazzaro said she thought this would be an easy campaign. "Frankly, I was confident of victory because I was well known in the town, but it turned out to be a very close race." She told *The Current* that the "Trump effect energized Democrats and several Republicans, such as two-term Republican Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino, were defeated."

While some of her running mates were defeated, she won by 150 votes, which she credits to many of her Democratic friends who crossed party lines to vote for her. It was so close that, before she could be declared the winner, absentee ballots had to be counted along with votes from one polling site where the voting machine malfunctioned and paper ballots had to be used.

When asked what exactly does the Receiver of Taxes do, Ms. Mazzaro explained that she will oversee the billing and collection of three taxes charged to the residents of Pelham and Pelham Manor: village, property and school taxes. Together these three taxes are typically referred to as Pelham's "property taxes," which average \$32,000 a year for homeowners according to published estimates.

"Pelham, along with many Westchester towns, has high property taxes because there is no large commercial (or business) base. There is no bustling commercial district as there is in Mamaroneck and White Plains, for example," she explained. "Pelham has a small town feel, like City Island, and the resident taxes have to cover municipal services and pay for our excellent schools."

She further explained that the Receiver of Taxes is a stipend position and does not require her to give up her accounting practice. She is backed up by the Deputy Tax Receiver, which is a full-time position and another part-time employee. "I will be in my office in Town Hall probably one to two days a week, perhaps more during the busy tax collection periods."

The tax office was especially busy at the end of 2017 as residents scrambled to pre-pay their school taxes in anticipation of



the 2018 tax plan passed by Congress and signed by President Trump. Under the new plan, the deduction for property, state and local taxes will be capped at \$10,000, so Pelham residents will take an especially large hit, given that many homeowners pay over \$20,000 in property taxes alone.

She was asked what effect this will have on the future of home sales in Pelham. "No one is sure what will happen exactly. Governor Andrew Cuomo and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin are groping for ways to get around the cap, including having school taxes paid to a charitable organization, thereby

making them a charitable deduction."

Meanwhile, among her goals as the new Receiver of Taxes is to initiate an online payment system that gives Pelham residents access to online tax information and billing.

Ms. Mazzaro remains tied to City Island since her three brothers, Joe, Tom and Russell, still live on the Island and the family still owns their father's house on King Avenue. In addition, she has been the volunteer accountant for *The Island Current* for many years and will, thankfully, continue to support this newspaper into its 47th year.

Dog Park Project Makes Progress

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In October 2016, Gracemary Curbelo, an Island resident, presented to the City Island Civic Association the idea of setting up a dog run on the Island, perhaps near the Little League field. New York City has an initiative for grants to set up this kind of facility, which is considered a good way for people to use space that is currently vacant. According to Ms. Curbelo, dog parks have been shown to increase property values in several communities.

After the Civic meeting, where Ms. Curbelo was encouraged to explore the project with various officials, she was successful in obtaining an allocation of \$600,000 from former Councilmember James Vacca. She also received encouragement from Virginia Gallagher, then chair of the Parks Committee for Community Board 10, and from Iris Rodriguez Rosa, Commissioner of Bronx Parks. Ms. Curbelo set up a Facebook page, on which dog owners post their comments about the project, and circulated a petition asking for community support that has received more than 70 signatures.

Some residents of City Island don't see the point of the dog run, but many residents do support it. Although funding is now secured, the location of the dog run is still up in the air. Ambrosini Field was the first suggestion, but because it is on the water, putting a dog run there would require approvals from the NYS Department of Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers, which would be complicated.

In November 2017, Rabia Graney, on behalf of the dog park group, proposed to the Civic Association three possible sites for the dog run. One of them was a section of Catherine Scott Promenade near the bridge, which is undergoing renovation by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as a final part of the bridge project. The second site was the vacant lot next to the bridge that was once Rosenberger's boat rental and most recently the Worm Bar, owned by John Persteins. Some of the property belongs to DOT, which has been parking construction

vehicles there for several months. The third proposed site was in Pelham Bay Park, just beyond the bridge on the right side of the road as one leaves the Island.

Nearly everyone in attendance at the Civic meeting was strongly against the idea of the Scott Promenade as a site, largely because it is (or will be again) a sitting area for residents and visitors, to whom dogs barking would be disruptive and unwelcome. The Scott family had not been approached about the idea, but the dog run group was willing to drop it in any case.

Those present at the Civic meeting expressed a favorable opinion about the Worm Bar site, because it is an unsightly space, one of the first sites seen by those driving onto the Island, and because the land is otherwise unused. And a dog run off the Island close to the bridge was also viewed as a possibility. Representatives of DOT later expressed their refusal to use the Worm Bar site, claiming that some of it was privately owned and that it would be too complicated to clear for a dog run.

A meeting of the Parks Committee at Community Board 10, of which Ms. Curbelo is now a member, was held on Jan. 11, 2018, and the matter was discussed at length. Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, felt that a location in the park would be workable and proposed a site near Rodman's Neck, where there is parking. The meeting adjourned with dog run advocates prepared to look at various sites and to elicit community support for whatever is finally decided.

Ms. Curbelo told *The Current* that community input was a very important aspect of the dog run proposal. She noted that many dog runs exist throughout the city and are considered positive elements in their communities. It is her hope that agreement can be reached as to location, because she feels that a well-designed, well-run facility would help to enhance life on City Island, for people and dogs alike.

BRIEFLY...

PICTURE THE BEACH! PHOTO CONTEST: The Friends of Pelham Bay Park and the City Island Nautical Museum invite photographers to submit digital images that celebrate the beach. The contest has five parts, each devoted to a different subject relating to Orchard Beach. The first two parts—People at the Beach and Scenic Vistas—are completed, but three more parts can still be entered: Wildlife (Feb. 11–17); Infused by Bronx History (March 4–10) and Seasons (March 25–31). A panel of judges will choose their five favorite photos in each thematic category and these will then be posted on the Friends Facebook page, where visitors can vote for the final winners. The judges will decide on one overall Grand Prize winner from the five category winners, which will be announced at the Friends of Pelham Bay Park's Spring Fundraiser on April 19, 2018, and later exhibited at the Nautical Museum. All images must be submitted via e-mail to friendsofpelhambaypark@gmail.com during the period of submission for the specific category. Each photographer is asked to include a caption, subject of the image, when and where it was taken and the photographer's name. For more information, visit friendsofpelhambaypark.org and click on Events.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP presents David Lindsay-Abaire's "Rabbit Hole" on Friday, March 2; Saturday, March 3; Friday, March 9; Saturday, March 10, at 8 p.m., as well as Sunday, March 4 and 11 at 3 p.m. There will be a champagne reception open to the audience following the show on Saturday, March 3. All shows will be performed at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. For tickets, please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the website, www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during November and December 2017, and January 2018. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 4 – GRAFFITI VANDALISM
- 3 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 – HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Nov. 20, 2017, to Jan. 18, 2018:

11/23 – At 9:40 a.m. on Carroll Street, an Island female told police that an unknown person harassed and threw objects at her while she was in her backyard.

11/25 to 12/6 – Multiple acts of graffiti were reported to the 45th Precinct, including spray painting a DEP water station and several mailboxes on City Island Avenue. The vandalism is being scheduled for clean-up by the precinct's Graffiti Removal Coordinator.

11/27 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of grand larceny at 4 p.m. on Minneford Avenue. A male Islander reported that an unknown person had removed mail containing a credit card from his home mailbox.

12/9 – An Island female reported aggravated harassment on City Island Avenue at 9:30 p.m. The complainant received multiple calls from an unknown person making threats and causing her to fear for her life.

12/10 – On Winters Street at 5 a.m., a male Islander told police that a male off-Islander was harassing him by sending threatening text messages.

12/18 – At 11:30 p.m. on Centre Street, a female Islander told police that an unknown person had painted the side of her house, causing damage in an act of criminal mischief.

1/9 – An Island female reported an act of grand larceny on Reville Street at 10 a.m. The resident had ordered new checks from her bank and they were not received. Upon checking her account, she noticed that two checks from the expected batch had been forged and cashed.



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NYPD Sergeant Indicted for Car Crash Near City Island

By KAREN NANI

A New York City Police Department sergeant was indicted on vehicular manslaughter following an off-duty crash in 2017 that caused the death of a 27-year old rookie police officer. Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark announced the indictment against Randolph Price, 33, on Jan. 5, 2018, which included second-degree manslaughter and two counts of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

The Current previously reported the details of the fiery crash at the circle over the bridge in the March 2017 issue. According to the investigation, "on Feb. 1, 2017, Sergeant Price was with the victim, Officer Bianca Bennett, and two other people at a City Island establishment. Price allegedly drank enough alcohol to put his blood level well over the legal limit of .08."

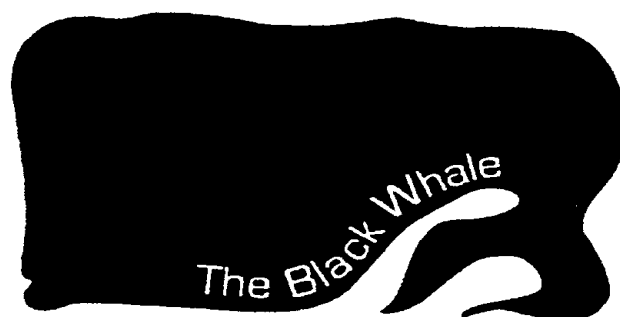
Around 11:45 p.m., Sergeant Price was driving on City Island Road in excess of the speed limit, and his 2012 Dodge Charger went off the roadway onto the grassy area in the circle, according to the District Attor-

ney's office. The car hit a tree stump, flipped over, landed on its roof and then burst into flames. Officer Bennett died at the scene from burns caused by the fire.

The driver was pulled from the burning vehicle by two other off-duty officers who had reportedly been at the Rodman's Neck Firing Range just off the circle. Sergeant Price suffered critical injuries to his legs and was rushed to the hospital. The officers could not save his passenger, Officer Bennett.

The tragedy was widely publicized last February, as the victim had been on the police force for only 10 months and was engaged to be married a few months after the accident. "This tragedy is all the more senseless because it was avoidable," said District Attorney Clark. "Her promising life was cut short."

Sergeant Price was arraigned on Jan. 4 in Bronx Supreme Court, and bail was set at \$100,000. If convicted of the charges, he faces up to two to seven years in prison.



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CITY ISLAND GAINS NEW LANDMARKS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of the LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION and MOLLY SCHROEDER

City Island's latest landmarks, recently designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, include the Samuel Booth house on Centre Street (above left), which has changed only slightly from the photograph in 1939-40 (above), and the Sears Roebuck bungalow on Pell Place (right), which was advertised as "The Osborn" in the Sears catalogue (above right).

The Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City voted to designate two City Island houses on Nov. 27, 2017, bringing the Island's total to eight landmarks.

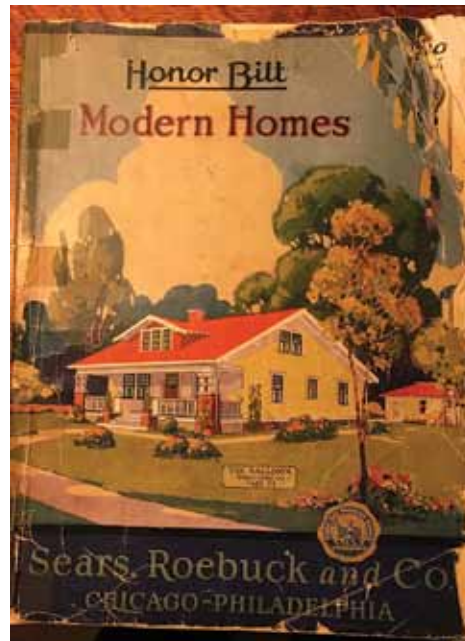
The Queen Anne-style cottage at 30 Centre Street was designed and constructed for Samuel H. Booth and his wife, Mary Titus Booth, during the 1890s after the Booths bought two large lots on Centre Street from William H. Scofield, whose house on Schofield Street was designated a landmark in 2016.

Samuel H. Booth, a veteran of the Civil War, was a house builder and carpenter and is likely to have built the house himself. He was the builder of several other houses on City Island, including the landmarked Queen Anne-style house at 21 Tier Street, as well as two other houses on Centre Street and perhaps several more.

The cottage on Centre Street, owned by Wesley Rodstrom, is also in the Queen Anne

style, with, as the designation document puts it, "cross gables, a porch with decorative verge board and turned column, a prominent front-facing gable with bay window, and side facade with gabled oriel." The designation notes that two dormers and a second bay window were added late in the 20th century, and the rear porch was enclosed, but "the house retains its massing, form, and much of its original wood clapboarding."

Although the Landmarks Preservation Commission informed the owner of the pending designation, no permission was requested or given. Mr. Rodstrom is concerned about the requirements that he obtain permits for any changes to the property and that he received no compensation for maintaining a landmark, but he is happy to claim "bragging rights" and is determined to maintain the quality of the house in the future. "It's just a Victorian bungalow," he told *The Current*, "but there aren't that many here on the Island, so we must celebrate what's left."



A second house was designated on Nov. 27, the handsome cottage at 95 Pell Place that was erected in 1930 for Captain John H. Stafford, who operated the yacht *Corisande* for Marshall Field III. The architect for the one-story Craftsman-style house is listed as Sears, Roebuck and Company, and the house is notable for being an unusually intact example of a catalogue house.

According to the designation, "Sears, Roebuck and Company was one of the many mail-order companies that sold pre-fabricated house kits to the budget-conscious middle class. Between 1908 and 1940, its Modern Homes program offered home buyers a choice of some 447 designs in a range of prices. The most prestigious and expensive line was the company's 'Honor Bilt Homes,' which included 'The Osborn,' the model chosen by Captain Stafford. The house is a typical example of the Craftsman-style bungalow "with low-hanging, cross-gabled roofs that shelter deep porches and Arts and Crafts inspired windows and doors."

This house had been on the "to do" list for the Landmarks Commission for many years, but the owners, Charley and Molly Schroeder, were never in favor of the designation, primarily because they would be

required to obtain permits if they wanted to make any changes to the property. Although Landmarks personnel sent letters and telephoned the Schroeders in efforts to get them to approve of the designation, they never came to City Island to discuss the matter, so the Schroeders remain unhappy to this day about the way in which the process was handled.

In spite of the process, however, the Schroeders are proud of the house and have gone to great pains to be sure that it retains its original quality and character, and they have no plans to alter the exterior other than to make repairs to concrete, which would not require a permit.

According to the Landmarks Commission, this "house, which maintains a high level of integrity, is an excellent example of its type and represents a distinct period of development on City Island." There are several other Sears, Roebuck houses on City Island, including two cottages on west Horton Street, one of which was where the late Arthur "Ducky" Rauhauser used to live and where his grandson Mark now resides.

Ken Binder, a resident who has made an informal survey of architectural aspects of City Island, says that there are many kit houses here, not all of them from Sears, Roebuck, in addition to garages and other outbuildings. Ruth Markowe's house on King Avenue is a kit house, as is the boarded-up bungalow, or "log house," around the corner on Bridge Street.

Those who are interested in learning more about these houses and the other City Island landmarks can access the website www.nyc.gov/landmarks.



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Viacom Volunteers to Help Spruce Up the Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Employees of the media corporation Viacom volunteer each year for communities in New York City through a wide range of programs, including blood drives, walks, volunteer activities and more. On Friday, April 20, 2018, Viacomcommunity Day will take place on City Island, Viacom's first volunteer program in the Bronx.

Thanks to the efforts of Island resident and Viacom employee Laurie Vega, Viacom was persuaded to contribute to City Island by supporting a project that would highlight the community's significant nautical history and refresh the appearance of the "village," a term used by residents to denote City Island Avenue between Bay and Schofield Streets.

Empty storefronts will be enhanced by enlarged images of historic City Island—its yachts, yacht builders and sail makers—and plantings to improve the appearance of empty spaces that now attract weeds and rubbish.

Because a Viacomcommunity Day project must be sponsored by a local charitable organization, the City Island Historical Society, which administers the Nautical Museum, has taken on the role of providing images and informational materials to reflect City Island's nautical history. Examples of selected images include America's Cup defenders, yacht yards and historic buildings.

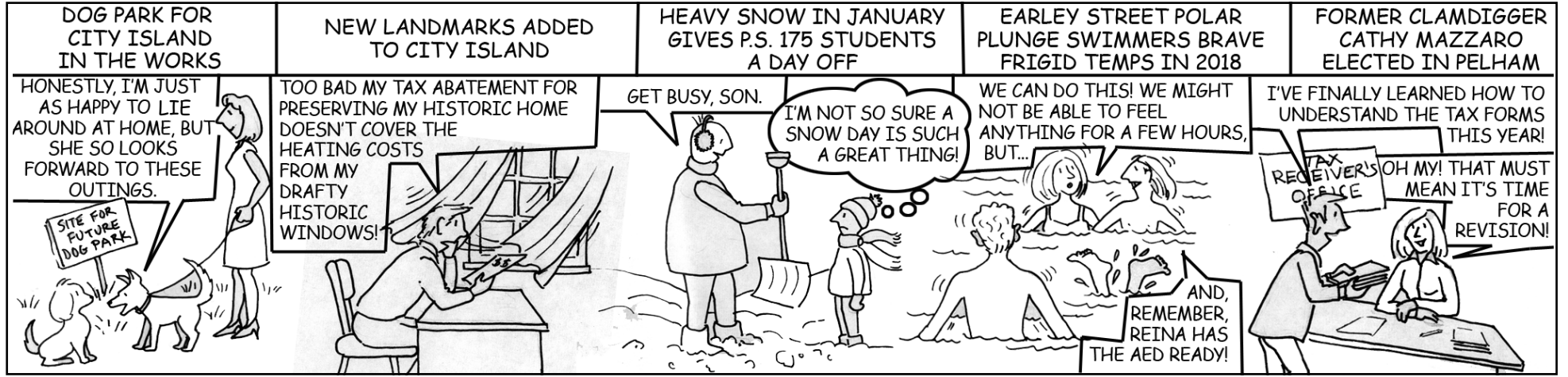
Maria Caruso, who is a member of Community Board 10, is serving as head of

the committee to leading the effort to organize the event, coordinating with a number of volunteers to work with local businesses, prepare materials, cleaning the Avenue and arranging the events to take place during the day. "All the property owners are interested in making the downtown, store-front section of City Island more attractive," she told *The Current*.

One of the proposed projects is the restoration of the *Half Moon* model in front of P.S. 175 that was built for the Quadracentennial in New York City in 2009, as well as refurbishing the small ship that hangs on the wall to the left of the front door of the school. "This will give the kids a sense of the positive place where they live," according to principal Amy Lipson during an interview with Gary Axelbank of thisisthebronx.info.

After the projects are approved, the next step will be to coordinate the tasks for many Viacom volunteers and to invite everyone in the City Island community to help out as well. "We'll be involved for sure," according to Ms. Lipson. "We'll definitely have some kids participating in that day and I know we'll have some teachers who will love to participate, too."

To volunteer and for more information on Viacomcommunity Day on City Island, please send an e-mail to info@cityislandmuseum.org.



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.

Thank You, City Island

To the Editor:

Thank you to all the City Islanders who turned out to support adopted people and their descendants. Many people do not realize that adopted people in New York State are denied access to their birth records, and that their descendants are denied access to genealogical information. This is because of legislation signed in 1935 by Governor Herbert Lehman, who had adopted his children from the notorious child trafficker Georgia Tann of Tennessee. The Lehman adoptions were not acknowledged until 1978, long after the Governor's death in 1963.

Under a theory that was popular at the time, it was thought best that adoptees never know they were adopted, let alone their origins. The law Lehman signed remains the most draconian record-access policy in the United States. Today there is a consensus that adoption should be acknowledged and celebrated, and many adoptees grow up knowing all their family connections. Many Americans find adopted-out family members after DNA testing and family tree building.

Legislation to change NY's policy was blocked from going to a vote by Speaker Sheldon Silver for decades. A bill introduced in the last legislative session was intended to provide all New Yorkers with access to vital records, adopted or not. Many Islanders took the #SimplePieceOfPaper Challenge in support of the access restoration bill, but it was modified before it was put to a vote. During a hearing held by the New York State Assembly Health Committee, three adoption attorneys in private practice, two of whom are now sitting judges from Long Island, testified in opposition to changing the existing law. Sheldon Silver's counsel's modifications to the bill maintained the current requirement that adopted New Yorkers must petition a judge to obtain access to the state's record of their own birth and fulfill additional requirements. No access would be given to descendants of the adoptee. In other words, it became a regressive bill.

After the bill was modified and passed both houses (in the wee hours of the final day of the session), many City Islanders called Governor Cuomo and sent him post-cards, and he vetoed the bill just before New Year's Day. The Governor's veto message said the bill set up a "cumbersome process" and noted the "lack of any identified funding source necessary."

We now ask for Islanders to support the pending bill S5169/A6821, which would give adults who were adopted, and more importantly their descendants, access to vital records: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2017/S5169>. If you want to get involved, write to New-York-State-Equality@gmail.com. For more details on the issue, visit <http://nyadoptionequality.org/>.

Thank you.

Cathi Swett

The Future of Medicare

To the Editor:

Putting on a community event takes a lot of planning and effort, and the informational event on Tuesday, Jan. 16, was no exception. There were many details and it took a lot of dedicated, hard-working people to make it happen. The committee of Lois Wagh, Barbara Zahm, and Barbara Dolensek did a fantastic job of attending to many of the most important details. Each was key to making this event a success. Thanks to Jane Protzman, who designed and printed the flyers. A tremendous thank you, to PSS and Jasin Rimas, who co-sponsored the event and arranged for the video recording and the live stream. We are also grateful to the Grace Church vestry for allowing us to use the church hall.

Our speakers traveled long distances to get to City Island. Thanks so much to Michele Kimball, Frederic Riccardi, and Bob Blancato for sharing their great expertise and to Lois for getting us such expert speakers. And a special thank you to Gary Axelbank for moderating the event.

There are so many others to thank as well. Elliott Glick supplied the sound system; Scavello's on the Island allowed us to use the parking lot. And, of course, many volunteers came hours earlier and stayed hours afterward to move chairs and tables, and to make sure everything was in order.

Lastly, thank you to the City Island community for coming out on a cold winter evening and being a great audience.

Jack Rothman



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Grace Church Hall was filled to capacity on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, with members of the community interested in learning about "The Future of Medicare," a program sponsored by PSS (Presbyterian Senior Services) and City Island Indivisible. The speakers were Frederic Riccardi, Vice President of the Medicare Rights Center, who has helped train professionals in health care for many years; Michele Kimball, president and CEO of Physicians for Fair Coverage, a national non-profit, non-partisan physician advocacy organization, having served for years as state director of AARP Minnesota; and Bob Blancato, member of the board of directors of National AARP, national coordinator of the bipartisan Elder Justice Coalition and executive director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs. The program was moderated by Gary Axelbank of thisisthebronx.info. The program was livestreamed on the PSS Facebook page and will be soon available as a video.

CORRECTION
The photograph of Jen Sortino and Maureen Grogan that appeared on page 15 of the December Current was taken by Joanne Valletta, not Ron Terner.

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2017 Highlights: Some Sad Goodbyes and Happy Hellos!

By KAREN NANI



Photos by JAMES BREEN, RICK DeWITT, MATT PANZA and KAREN NANI

Highlights from the year 2017 featured many hellos and farewells, including the opening ceremony for the new City Island Bridge (photo above), the closing of the City Island Pharmacy (photo below), the new spiritual leaders for both Trinity United Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church, Pastor Dave Jolly and Father John Covington (top right photos), new anti-theft mailboxes (photo, right), St. Mary's Varsity Basketball champs. (right, second from bottom), and Bronx Invitational summer Little League champs, the Gilder Scholarship team (bottom right).



The year 2017 had Islanders welcoming the new City Island Bridge, while saying goodbye to some longtime residents and institutions.

The long-awaited opening ceremony for the new bridge took place on Oct. 29, 2017. The event attracted many Islanders who had been watching the years-long process since 2000, when the old bridge was condemned by the city of New York. Although many residents still regret the loss of the old bridge, the new bridge represented a victory for the community in its battle to change the cable-stayed bridge design imposed on the project by Mayor Bloomberg's administration.

Shortly after the bridge was officially opened to regular traffic, the Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner, Polly Trottenberg, presented one of the finalials to the City Island Nautical Museum, where it will be installed in front of the building at 190 Fordham Street as a fond remembrance of the 116-year-old original bridge.

Although many of the Tutor Perini and DOT workers departed in the weeks following the completion of the bridge (to the dismay of Dunkin Donuts), work on the American Legion Memorial Triangle continued into the new year, along with the dismantling of the temporary bridge, and work on the Catherine Scott Promenade will begin soon. The final stages of the construction of the new City Island Bridge will be part of the 2018 recap next year.

In contrast, many Islanders were sad to learn that the Stuyvesant Yacht Club (SYC)

had been sold and officially disbanded. The City Island Nautical Museum once again became the beneficiary of historic artifacts and treasures to help remind the nautical world of the club's long history.

The club was originally founded in 1890 in Manhattan, but the property on Centre Street was purchased in 1935. SYC had many great years at that location until a devastating fire in 1968 destroyed the club house. Undaunted, club members raised money to rebuild and the most recent clubhouse was dedicated in 1969.

In 2011, Hurricane Irene caused damage to SYC, but it was nothing compared to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. About 20 boats were destroyed and others were damaged, along with the bulkheads and docks. The club foundered and could not recover. The Stuyvesant will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all past members.

Thankfully, boat owners did not have to say goodbye to Consolidated Yachts, which was sold last year, but remains operating as a marina under the direction of the previous longtime owner, Wes Rodstrom.

A surprise goodbye came in March 2017 when the City Island Pharmacy closed after 24 years in business. Owner Joe Miccarelli told the Chamber of Commerce president, Skip Giacco, that like many other independent pharmacies, he could no longer compete with the big chain drug stores and mail-order prescription services. Many longtime customers were shocked by the news and the



lack of advance notice, since the pharmacy was the only one on the Island.

Residents have been without a pharmacy since then, but it has been announced that a new pharmacy will open in the same location on City Island Avenue early this year.

Some goodbyes were a relief to many Islanders. Island resident Frankie Beqiraj was arrested on Pilot Street and charged with conspiracy to distribute heroin, cocaine and oxycodone. The indictment, issued by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York on June 1, 2017, alleged that heroin distributed by Mr. Beqiraj and his co-conspirators resulted in the 2016 deaths of Islander Robert Vivolo, 25, and New Rochelle resident, Leonides Madrid. Mr. Beqiraj

was remanded and remains in jail.

A string of mailbox robberies reported on City Island during 2017 resulted in the replacement of some of the 15 original mailboxes with new ones that are tamper proof. Mailbox "fishing" thieves put bottles with sticky mouse traps or glue on them down the mailbox slots and removed the contents. A number of residents discovered that checks they had mailed had not been received and had been fraudulently deposited in other accounts. Others had their stolen checks "washed" with new names entered on the payable line.

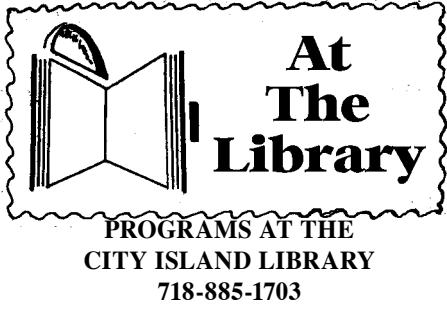
In January 2017, Mayor Bill Di Blasio kept his promise and put funding in his capital budget for the renovation of Rodman's

Continued on page 7



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FEBRUARY 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.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Beats and Tone Jam: Learn how music artists/producers make the hottest trap, hip-hop, pop and EDM songs. Learn about and play real (and virtual) drum machines, synthesizers, effects and beat machines, and even apps on iPad Minis to combine and build your own original beats to use in our live jam session! Monday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m.

After School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Feb. 2: Book Face Photos; Feb. 9: Wii and Board Games; Feb. 16: Make Your Own "Wreck this Journal"; Feb. 23: Wii and Board Games.

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Bronx Memoir Project: A literary program produced by the Bronx Council on the Arts. It cultivates and collects memoir fragments written by Bronx residents, which are published as a paperback book at the end of the program cycle. Saturday, Feb. 3, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Unwind Your Mind: Are you a caregiver for someone 60 years of age or older? Please join us for our Circle of Care Lounge, a support group for family caregivers. Participants will share tips, ideas and challenges while offering each other encouragement. Presented by PSS Circle of Care. Every Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 16 participants; registration required. Thursday, Feb. 8 and 22, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah on Monday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-to-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: Feature movie titles, varying in length. At

1 p.m. Feb. 10: "The Dark Tower"; Feb. 17: "The Beguiled"; Feb. 24: "Atomic Blonde"

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



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

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
149 Reville Street	\$480,000	10/05/17
73 Bay Street	\$245,388	10/11/17
59 Reynolds Street	\$550,000	10/26/17
86 Marine Street	\$495,000	10/30/17
35 Bay Street	\$510,000	11/02/17
369 City Island Avenue	\$417,000	12/01/17
62 Tier Street	\$375,000	12/06/17
2 Rochelle Street	\$920,000	12/22/17
Two-Family Houses		
167 Rochelle Street	\$302,500	12/01/17
416 City Island Avenue	\$302,500	12/01/17
Condominiums		
170 Schofield Street	\$99,950	10/20/17
68 Island Point	\$728,000	12/19/17
4 Windward Lane	\$550,000	12/22/17
Coop		
30 Carroll Street, #C	\$245,000	12/08/17
Commercial		
570 City Island Avenue	\$1,000,000	10/04/17
81 Pilot Street	\$70,000	10/06/17
270 City Island Avenue	\$875,000	11/25/17
414 City Island Avenue	\$302,500	12/01/17
Land		
660 City Island Avenue	\$474,999	10/18/17

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



Monica and Elliott Glick will be performing "Love Songs for Valentine's Day" at the Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham Manor on Tuesday, Feb. 13, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The program is open to the public. Admission is \$10 for non-members.

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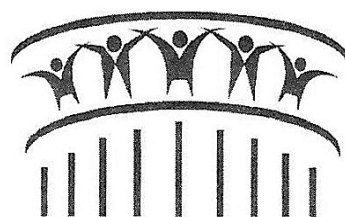
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Bartow-Pell Events

Victorian Valentine Workshop, Saturday, February 10, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Show that you care—not with a boring store-bought card but with a handmade, full-of-charm, sure-to-woo original creation. Learn about the history of valentines and the printed “scraps” used to make them in the 19th century while you craft your own memorable card. A fun workshop for the whole family. Registration required. Cost BPMM Members: \$8; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$10.

Valentine’s Day Concert, Sunday, February 11, 4 p.m. Join us for a concert in the parlors with classical guitarist Jay Kauffman. Hailed for a guitar wizardry that is fluid, expressive, and richly varied in compositional technique, Kauffman’s critically acclaimed performances are not to be missed! Reception and light refreshments will be served immediately after the performance. Cost: BPMM Members: \$20; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$25.

Bartow’s Literary Elevenses, Saturday, February 17, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Museum Guides Laura DeRiggi and Caitlyn Sellar as they lead an historical-fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Contact BPMM for the current book being explored. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration requested.

Natural Areas Conservancy Walk & Talk, Sunday, February 25, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Natural Areas Conservancy for a guided walk through the coastal and forested areas of New York City’s largest park. This diverse 2,700-acre park has plentiful forest and wetland natural areas and is home to significant wildlife. Ecologically speaking, Pelham Bay Park is the southern tip of New England and has characteristics quite distinct from the rest of New York City. Tour leader and ecologist Helen Forgione will show you how to identify trees in winter and interpret signs of wildlife, with a special eye toward owls and tracks. Included in the tour will be findings from the Natural Areas Conservancy’s two-year study documenting and analyzing forests and wetlands in New York City parklands. The walk and presentation will begin and end at the historic Bartow-Pell Mansion—with hot

chocolate! Please be prepared with warm clothes, snow-ready walking shoes and water.

Pysanky Workshop, Saturday, March 3, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Learn the time-honored art of creating intricately patterned Ukrainian Easter eggs, and make your own using a wax-resist technique at this hands-on workshop. Instructor Alesia Kozicky has been making pysanky all her life and has taught for over 25 years. Her work has been widely displayed, including at the Library of Congress and libraries throughout Westchester. Hot wax and permanent dyes are used, so dress accordingly. Ages 12 and older. Please bring a bag lunch. Registration required. Cost BPMM Members: \$15; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$20 (includes admission to the museum and materials fee).

Bronx Opera Company, March 4, 4 p.m. Get acquainted with opera. Here’s your opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of an art form that has withstood the test of time. Michael Spierman, Artistic Director of the Bronx Opera Company, has put together a wonderful program featuring three members of the Bronx Opera Company accompanied by solo piano. Free with museum admission.

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park. For information or to register, call 718-885-1461 or visit www.bpmm.org.

Pelham Picture House Events

The Picture House in Pelham (thepicturehouse.org), a not-for-profit community-based movie theater, has several February offerings. The theater is located at 175 Wolfs Lane in Pelham.

There will be an Improv performance on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 1:30 p.m. The performance features their high school Improv troupe, and it costs \$5 a ticket for the general public.

Feb. 19–23 are the dates during which you might need something to occupy your elementary school children during the school break. The Stop Motion Animation camp is available for the whole week, or for just a few days, if you prefer. Each day there will be something new. Kids in grades K through 2 will get to know the basics of stop motion technique, while kids in grades 3 through 5 will be able to put together slightly more advanced projects. Camp begins at 9 a.m. each day and dismisses at 12 noon. An extended day is also available, so children can bring a lunch and stay for popcorn and a movie. Extended day ends at 2:30 p.m. E-mail education@thepicturehouse.org if you have any questions.

Films scheduled thus far include My Friend Dahmer (Feb. 2 through 8); Jumanji (Feb. 16 through 22) and Oscar Shorts (Feb. 9 through March 1).

Decorated Pines

By JANE PROTZMAN



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN

These white tags on the young pines in Pelham Bay Park are not decorations but are designed to protect the trees from deer.

Have you noticed the unusual decorations on the newly planted white pines as you leave City Island and drive toward Orchard Beach? Peter Lechnir, the Bronx Forest Restoration Project Leader from the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, explained to me that they are bud caps, which have been put in place to prevent deer from eating the new buds. The seedlings will continue to grow if the top-most buds are not damaged, even if the deer browses the other needles. The deer population, which exceeds 40 in Pelham Bay Park, is looking for anything green in the cold and

snowy conditions.

The Forest Restoration Project has applied more than 2,000 bud caps to 480 white pine seedlings. If this were not done, many of the new trees might not survive the winter. The bud caps are made from 4 x 6-inch pieces of paper stapled carefully around the buds and some of the needles, enabling new growth to emerge from the opening at the top. This technique has been used in state forests for many years. It is inexpensive, environmentally friendly and easily applied. These trees were planted by volunteers as part of the One Million Tree Initiative.

Recap

Continued from page 5

Neck Firing Range, including sound abatement. Based on the plan, Islanders hope to say “goodbye” to the noise from the range within the next four years.

Islanders welcomed a new commander of the 45th Precinct, Captain Carlos Ghonz, who had been with the 46th Precinct in the West Bronx. He was selected to replace Deputy Inspector Danielle Raia, and he quickly made a positive impression on City Island by attending Civic Association meetings and increasing community policing efforts and traffic control.

Residents welcomed and supported the candidacies of Islander John Doyle and former Islander Mark Gjonaj for New York City Council. Mr. Gjonaj won the election on Nov. 7. Islanders bid a thankful goodbye to longtime councilman and friend Jimmy Vacca, whose seat Mr. Gjonaj will take over.

Islanders also said goodbye to broken sidewalks when a flurry of repairs by the Department of Design and Construction were completed on the avenue and several side streets during June. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also fixed the drain on Orchard Beach Road to remedy the annoying puddle that appeared after every heavy rainfall.

Residents did welcome the purchase and planned renovation of the building on City Island Avenue between Hawkins and

Carroll Streets. The new owner, longtime resident Richie DePierro, plans to renovate the ugly façade and attract some new businesses to the storefronts. Some other new storefronts came to City Island Avenue, including Complexions of City Island at the corner of Ditmars Street and Grindstone Construction and Property Care at the north end of the Island, next to Dunkin Donuts.

Applause rang out to the City Island Theater Group’s three successful 2017 productions: “Prelude to a Kiss,” “The Philadelphia Story” and “A View from the Bridge.”

Happy hellos greeted new babies born to Island families, including Tabitha Ribaud, Emma Jean Denehy, Asher Rubenstein Swanton, Zoey Eleanor Glick and Kurt Richard Simon.

Parishioners from both Trinity United Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church welcomed new spiritual leaders in 2017, Pastor Dave Jolly and Father John Covington.

Joyous wedding bells rang in 2017 for Islanders and their new spouses: Zach Mirabito and Heather Falletta, Frank Cebek and Mara Hubbard Smith, Matthew and Lisa Rodstrom, Danielle Lyons and Kevin Farrell, Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack, Melissa Anna Dzenis and Joshua Rene Garcia, John Peters and Elizabeth DelGrosso, and Valerie DellaCerra and Freddy Colon.

Island parents welcomed home their new basketball and baseball heroes after St. Mary’s Boys Varsity basketball team won the championship at the OLA Holiday Tournament and the City Island Little Leagues’ Gilder’s Scholarship team won the 2017 Bronx Invitational summer league tournament.

Islanders did bid tearful goodbyes to many clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in 2017, including Josephine Lotrionte, Herbie Hild, Elizabeth (Lily) Bryant, Dr. Norbert Sander, Danny Barry, Ivio Mazzella, Carl Henry Olsen, Marlene Vogt, Betty Barry, Dorothy Docherty, Jay Howard and Carol Stewart.

The Island Current was there to cover these stories, events and people. We continue to be grateful to our readers and advertisers, whose support keeps *The Current* flowing into 2018, our 47th year!

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Photos by EMILY BENDLER, RICK DeWITT and MATT PANZA

Even though the new lighted banners across the avenue have been taken down, memories of the 2017 holiday season linger. On Dec. 12, Rabbi David Markus, with help from Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, lit the menorah in Hawkins Park and entertained a Chanukah gathering at Kaleidoscope afterwards (top two photos at left). St. Mary of the Sea Church held its joyous concert of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 17, followed by "The Good News Flash" on Dec. 20, a Christmas presentation by the students of Religious Education under the direction of Teri Kurtz, Monica Glick, Janet Cerrato, Fr. Augustus Onwubiko and Theresa Panza (top two photos at right). Trinity Methodist Church's pageant on Dec. 17 told the story of the nativity and the wise men following the star (bottom right photo). Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School presented a beautiful pageant on Christmas eve featuring Marcus, Christine and Rachel Lopez-Pierre; Melvin, Sophia and Emilio Aponte; Tyler and Haley Bendler; Paul, Joseph and Sarah Goonan; Eileen Marcus; and Chandra Menon (bottom left photo). Between these celebrations, Chamber board member Paul Klein went above and beyond to make sure all the lights on the holiday tree in Hawkins Park were working (lower right photo).



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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 3, **City Island Little League Registration**, A-Game Sports, 856 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801, 9 to 11 a.m. Online registration is available at <http://www.cityislandLL.com> and will be open until Feb. 25.

Tues., Feb. 13, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

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

MARCH

Fri., March 23, **Designer Bag Bingo** sponsored by the PTA of PS 175, 6:30 p.m., Morris Yacht Club, 25 City Island Avenue.

City Island Republicans

Petitions for federal offices will be going out next month. The county dinner will be held in late March or early April. Details to follow.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

City Island Power Squadron

The power squadron (the local U.S. Power Squadron, America's Boating Club) meets at the City Island Yacht Club on the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join us. Past Commander Ed Shimansky received District 4's nomination for the Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching. National winners will be announced later in 2018. Dennis Gormley was honored for 50 years of service to the City Island Sail Power Squadron by District 4.

The Safe Boating Course will be offered again in the spring. E-mail CISPSMail@gmail.com if you would like more information about this and more advanced classes, meeting events or membership benefits.

Squadron Secretary on behalf of
Commander Troy Sill

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 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. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory *Oneg*, refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Temple services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea.

Feb. 2: Community-led

Feb. 9: Rabbi David

Feb. 16: Community-led

Feb. 23: Rabbis Shohama and David

On Sunday, Feb. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. join our Meet the Author program about "Bubby's Stories: Belarus to the Bronx." The author, Roslyn Rothstein, presents her book and a slide show about family, immigration and politics, with a book signing to follow. Suggested freewill offering \$10. Check the website for a snow date in case of bad weather.)

Saturday, March 31, from 6 p.m. to

completion will be the Passover Seder Second Night, fully catered with all the trimmings—soup to nuts.

Saturday, April 7, 7 to 11 p.m. Come celebrate with us at our Gala Dinner Dance commemorating our 84th year at the Pelham Bay/ Split Rock Golf Course clubhouse. If you have silent auction items, please call Paul Klein at 718-885-3090.

TBE invites the City Island Community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreesha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served after sessions. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

Oneg sponsorships: An oneg is an offering of refreshments after Shabbat services. Onegs are often sponsored by people celebrating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorial, etc.); you can also sponsor an oneg just because you feel like it. Onegs can be a joyful moving community celebration. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or e-mail her at violetsmi@aol.com.

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

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our monthly holy hour will take place on Friday, Feb. 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our coffee hour will take place in the rectory after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 11. Come enjoy light refreshments with your fellow parishioners.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m.

Rose Dietz

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Susan O'Keefe Vaughan, Bronx County President, and ALA Unit 156 members distributed holiday gifts to the Bronx VA Hospital Gift Shop on Dec. 3 along with other Legion units. The gifts and visits were well received and much appreciated. Thanks to all members who donated wrapping paper and assisted in wrapping the gifts.

On Dec. 5 the ALA Unit 156 had their annual Trim a Tree Party. We continued our Pick a Veteran project in which we donate and distribute a small gift, baked good and holiday greeting to our veterans.

A great time was had by all at the Annual Holiday Legion Party in December. Many thanks to the Legion Post and SAL members who organized this event, and special thanks to Freddie Lando, who entertained us. As the New Year approaches, we'd like to take this time to give a warm thanks and appreciation to our Legion men and SAL members who assist the Auxiliary in various ways during the year as we unite as one Legion family.

The ALA Mid-Winter Conference was held in Albany, NY, on Jan. 19 and 20. For information, contact Laura Booth, president, at Laura.booth2@aol.com.

Feb. 10 is the ALA Annual Poppy Poster Contest. Please contact Meaghan Clancy at meaghanklancy@hotmail.com if you would like your child, school or youth group to participate.

The ALA Unit 156 is planning its first Paint Night on Saturday, March 3, at 7



On Dec. 17, 2017, Cheryl Riordan coordinated the City Island Girl Scout Troop 1115 Bake Sale at the Community Center on Fordham Street. It was a sweet success that raised \$600 for troop activities.

p.m. at the Leonard Hawkins Post. Each attendee will receive a 16 x 20 canvas and supplies. There will be an open bar and coffee and cake are included, but please bring your own snacks. Reservations are required; the cost is \$35 for Auxiliary members, \$40 for non-members. We are limited in space (40 to 50 people), so please get your reservation in early. Please contact Joanne Valletta at 718-885-3239 or e-mail jcute53@aol.com.

The next ALA meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars for the St. Patrick's Dinner on March 11.

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Joanne Valletta

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Trinity United Methodist Church's annual Lenten Bible Study begins Feb. 18. It runs for five consecutive Sundays and ends after March 18. This season's study is of the New Testament "First Letter of Peter." George Cavalieri, Lay Servant of Trinity, will lead and instruct the group according to the subjects as presented in the Biblical texts. The gatherings are held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please put the Annual Easter Sunrise Service on your calendar for April 1.

At Trinity's home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister, Reverend David Jolly.

The Budget Shop is open. Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

2018 dues (\$30) are now due. New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates established by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative.

The Pig's Knuckle party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. Sign up at the Post.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays. We will be having a clothing bag sale: half price on shoes, boots and bags. Also we have many treasures for Valentine's Day. Come in for complimentary coffee and crumpets.

Arlene Byrne

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, Feb. 4, at 12 noon. Dues (\$55) are past due. Please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

The following are dates and upcoming events: Feb. 4, at 12 noon American Legion regular post meeting; Feb. 24: Pig's Knuckle Party from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. This event is hosted by Squadron 156; \$30 per person; please sign-up and pay in advance.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Put Sunday, March 4, on your calendar for "A Taste of Italy" at its finest with entertainment provided by accordion player Joseph Gelsi and guest tenor Freddie Lando. Experience fine wine tasting and a lecture for the discerning wine lover. Sample imported cheeses, exotic pastas and exciting virgin olive oils. Products will be available for purchase at wholesale prices. To register for this Community Center fund raising event, check out the details below.

Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

COMING UP

A Taste of Italy: Sunday, March 4, from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. or 4 to 7:30 p.m. The cost for members is \$25, for non-members \$30. To register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or thevitalforce@gmail.com. Payment must be received on or before Feb. 20, 2018.

Craft Fair and Workshop: Saturday, March 24, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Welcoming all adult crafters who like to create with card making, paper-scrapping and mixed media. Demali Handcrafts sponsors this get-together for crafters. It costs \$35 for a space where vendors can sell crafts and offer classes. For information, please contact Desiree Demali at 914-562-5857 or e-mail demalihandcrafts@aim.com.

Narcan Training: Saturday, Feb. 17, at 3 p.m. Doreen Gallagher Wall, RN, and Chris Hennessy present this excellent program and provide Narcan to participants who can rescue friends, relatives or neighbors who have overdosed. For more information, see City Island Resolute Against Opioid Addiction on Facebook.

NEW PROGRAMS

AA: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to this open meeting.

Belly Dance: Saturdays at 2:30. Join Ezma and Amira for this unique fun-filled

dance experience and enjoy the benefits of feeling fit and limber. For more information, e-mail danceamira@gmail.com.

City Island Knitting Club: Fridays 7 to 9 p.m. Come on by and have fun with friends and learn a new winter social hobby. Bring \$20 for your first set of needles and yarn. No reservations needed. For information, contact Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or dcaton@gmail.com.

City Island Indivisible: Sunday, Feb. 11, at 5 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7. Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights, and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information, like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

SCHEDULE OR TIME CHANGE

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Saturdays, Teens/Adults at 4 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register now for the winter session of this exciting art program for children ages 7 to 12. Students will explore drawing, painting and sculpture and various artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Picasso. To enroll, contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or ceasardante@optonline.net.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail 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.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesdays and Thursdays after school classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, 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. All skill



On Tuesday, Jan. 9, Bronx Rotarians held their meeting at Rosary Hill in Thornwood so that they could spend time with member Bea Castiglia-Catullo (seated, wearing sunglasses) who is in hospice care there.

levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolexperience.com.

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.

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 T.V. 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: The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables. It will begin again in the late spring. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, Feb. 5 and 19 at 7 p.m. Explore French cuisine this month. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. 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. For information, call 917-721-1419.

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

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join our unofficial WW meetings while we build up membership to become official. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: 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.

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

The Rotary Club of the Bronx

Our beloved member, Bea Castiglia-Catullo, founder of R.A.I.N. Senior Services, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Bea, who celebrated her 101st birthday on Nov. 1, 2017, is a Third Order Secular Franciscan and has a deep, abiding faith. She has always put herself in God's hands and says that when He wants to take her home, she is ready to go. She has thus refused surgery.

For her remaining time, she has been transferred to Rosary Hill in Thornwood, a hospice care facility. She has also requested that the Club hold one meeting a month at Rosary Hill with her. The first of these was

held on Jan. 9 and members were thrilled to see that Bea seemed very much like her old self.

Fourteen members attended the meeting (in spite of the Sisters' request to keep the number to ten!), and Lenny Caro, former long-time President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and current Community Relations Director for the Bronx campus of Mercy College, was inducted as a new member.

Bronx Rotary friends Michael Spierman, Director of the Bronx Opera Company, and soprano Leslie Swanson also attended in a show of love and respect for this wonderful woman who we are so proud to say has always called us all her family.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

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.

Highlights

In addition to our Aging Mastery Program (see below):

Feb. 13: Special Valentine's Day lunch and party, with Mark Doyle

Feb. 19: Closed

Aging Mastery Program

As part of PSSLIFE! University program, we are pleased to announce that we are the first in the area to offer an innovative new ten class health and wellness program to residents 60 and over. The Aging Master Program (AMP) was developed by the National Council on Aging. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in and reap the benefits of this cutting-edge program. We are currently recruiting adults ages 60+ to participate in the 10-class program. Not all classes are required, but we encourage you to attend at least seven.

AMP is a fun, innovative and person-centered education program that empowers participants to embrace their gift of longevity by spending more time each day doing things that are good for themselves and for others. The program encourages mastery and developing sustainable behaviors across many dimensions that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being and that increase societal participation.

February and March Classes:

Feb. 2: Community Engagement (Katrina Dinham)

Feb. 9: Advance Planning (Michelle Arnot)

Feb. 16: Healthy Eating and Hydration (Toni Marinucci, MS, RDN)

Feb. 23: Medication Management (TBD)

March 2: Falls Prevention (Susan Rosendahl-Masella)

March 2: Advance Planning. Tentative; please call ahead.

March 9: Sleep (TBD)

Continued on page 17

CREM Study

Benefits include:

- free computerized brain training at our clinic
- \$135 compensation
 - transportation provided
- refreshments at each session

Eligibility for participation:

- Age 70 or older
- English-speaking
- Can walk without an assistive device

Interested in getting paid to participate in a research study looking at the benefits of cognitive training in older adults?

We are studying the effect of "brain games" on brain functions related to mobility and treatment strategies which may delay or reverse brain changes.



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718-839-7344



Written by Aaron Sorkin

Aaron Sorkin has mastered the triple crown of writing—for the Broadway theater, cinema and television. He began his career with the dramatic courtroom thriller, **A Few Good Men** (1992), which had a successful run on Broadway and was subsequently made into a movie. In Sorkin's first screenwriting effort, Tom Cruise plays Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee, a Navy lawyer who has never seen the inside of the courtroom. He wants to plea bargain, rather than defend two stubborn Marines, Lance Corporal Harold Dawson (Wolfgang Bodison) and Private First Class Loudon Downey (James Marshall), who have been accused of killing a fellow Marine, Private William T. Santiago (Michael DeLorenzo), at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Also on the legal staff are Lieutenant Sam Weinberg (Kevin Pollak) and Lieutenant Commander JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore). Kaffee and the prosecutor, his friend Captain Jack Ross (Kevin Bacon), negotiate a bargain, but Dawson and Downey refuse to go along. They insist they were ordered by Lieutenant Jonathan James Kendrick (Kiefer Sutherland) to perform a "Code Red" on Santiago, who was thought to be a screw-up. In the film's most memorable scene, Kaffee takes a huge risk by calling Colonel Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson) to the stand in an effort to uncover a conspiracy. Sorkin was inspired to write the play after a phone conversation with his sister Deborah, a Navy lawyer on her way to Guantanamo Bay to work on such a case.

In **Malice** (1998) a suburban Boston college dean Andy Saffian (Bill Pullman) and his wife, Tracy (Nicole Kidman), become entangled with an old classmate of Andy's, an arrogant trauma surgeon Dr. Jed Hill (Alec Baldwin), who becomes their tenant in the large Victorian home they are renovating. Complexities abound as Andy becomes implicated in a campus serial rape investigation, and Jed performs emergency surgery on Tracy. There was a behind-the-scenes battle between Sorkin and the director Harold Becker in which Sorkin refused to write a sex scene between Kidman and Baldwin. In a recent interview, the screenwriter indicated this was the least favorite of his films.

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

Set in the 1980s, **Charlie Wilson's War** (2007) is based on the true story of U.S. Representative Charlie Wilson (Tom Hanks), Texas socialite Joanne Herring (Julia Roberts) and CIA agent Gust Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who formed an unlikely alliance. Their mutual goal was to increase funding for Afghan freedom fighters in their war against invading Soviets, and their efforts led to Operation Cyclone, a program to organize and support the Afghan mujahideen during the Soviet-Afghan War. The film was directed by Mike Nichols.

The Social Network (2010), a Best Picture, Actor and Director nominee, is the story of Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), the world's youngest billionaire. There is irony in his creation of Facebook, the most widespread social network on the planet, because he is a man with excruciating, pathologically poor people skills. While at Harvard, he and his best friend, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), begin the project. Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake), developer of Napster,

convinces him to move to California to ensure success. The film begins with a significant conversation between Zuckerberg and his girlfriend, Erica Albright (Rooney Mara), but much of the story is told retrospectively through the viewpoint of two major lawsuits against Zuckerberg—one by Saverin and another by Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (both twins played by Armie Hammer). Pacing is an outstanding virtue of the film, which won Sorkin a Best Screenplay Oscar. Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross's superb musical score won for Best Soundtrack. Seeing the DVD with subtitles is a tremendous help in catching all nuances of the dialogue.

Moneyball (2011) is based on the true story of Billy Beane (Brad Pitt), a former professional baseball player who became the general manager of the Oakland A's. When he has an epiphany convincing him that all of baseball's conventional wisdom is wrong, he hires Ivy League grad Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), and together, they start recruiting bargain players based on mathematics (using a statistical analysis known as sabermetrics). They choose players whom the scouts call flawed, although all of them demonstrate an ability to get on base. This challenges old school traditions, much to the consternation of all the Oakland A scouts, especially Manager Art Howe (Phillip Seymour Hoffman). Beane's success is ultimately recognized by an offer from Boston Red Sox owner, John Henry (Arliiss Howard).

Another area of fascination for Sorkin in the media arena is the rise of Apple computers. Michael Fassbender stars in the title role as **Steve Jobs** (2015). Along with his co-founder, Steve "Woz" Wozniak (Seth Rogen), and Armenian-born marketing director, Joanna Hoffman (Kate Winslet), they get ready to unveil the first Macintosh in 1984. Jobs must also deal with personal issues related to ex-girlfriend Chrisann Brennan (Katherine Waterston) and their daughter, Lisa (Makenzie Moss, Ripley Sobo, and Perla Haney-Jardine depicting Lisa at various ages). The film follows Jobs being fired and re-hired and all the complexities generated by this multifaceted character.

Sorkin made his feature directorial debut in 2017 with **Molly's Game**, which he also wrote. The film, which was nominated for Golden Globes for Best Screenplay and Best Actress, is based on a true story starring Jessica Chastain in the title role as Molly Bloom, a beautiful, former Olympic-class skier who had to establish a new life after sustaining an injury. She wound up running the world's most exclusive high-stakes poker game for 10 years, and her players included Hollywood royalty, sports stars, business titans and, finally, unbeknownst to her, the Russian mob. The latter ultimately put her in the sights of the FBI who arrested her in order to pressure her into providing testimony against many of the players. Her only ally was her criminal defense lawyer Charlie Jaffey (Idris Elba), who learned there was much more to Molly than the tabloids led people to believe. Kevin Costner was on hand as Larry Bloom, Molly's formidable father. This film combines many of Sorkin's themes of choice: true stories, the law, addiction and power.

Television

Sorkin began his impressive TV writing career with the series **Sports Night** (1998–2000). Peter Krause and Josh Charles star as Casey McCall and Dan Rydell, co-anchors of a late-night sports cable program. Executive producer Dana Whitaker (Felicity Huffman) is an on-again, off-again love interest of Casey's. The show also stars Robert Guillaume as managing editor Isaac Jaffe, Sabrina Lloyd as senior associate producer Natalie Hurley, and Joshua Malina as associate producer Jeremy Goodwin. TV Guide ranked the series #10 on their 2013 list of 60 shows that were "Cancelled Too Soon."

Based on his film **American President**, **The West Wing** (1999–2007) is Sorkin's most popular and awarded show. It takes place inside the White House, following liberal president Jeb Bartlett (Martin Sheen), and his team, including chief of staff Leo McGarry (John Spencer), deputy chief Josh Lyman (Bradley Whitford), communications director Toby Ziegler (Richard Schiff), speech writer Sam Seaborn (Rob Lowe) and press secretary CJ Cregg (Alison Janney). Also in key positions are the personal aide to the President, Charlie Young (Dule Hill), the president's secretary Mrs. Landingham (Kathryn Joosten) and the Deputy Chief's Secretary Donna Moss (Janel Maloney). Sorkin wrote the first four seasons, which were the best. The series is inspired by political events, with the demands the office makes on each of the characters. Later roles were played by Lily Tomlin, Mary-Louise Parker and Marlee Matlin. My favorite guest star was Emily Procter as Republican lawyer Ainsley Hayes, who is hired by the president, much to the consternation of his staff. The


final season is a fascinating study of a presidential election with Alan Alda and Jimmy Smits in key roles as candidates.

Running only one season, **Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip** (2006–2007) is a behind-the-scenes look at the production of a "Saturday Night Live" type comedy show. The show stars Bradley Whitford as executive producer Danny Tripp and Matthew Perry as head writer Matt Albie. The big three entertainers on the show include devout Christian and Matt's ex-girlfriend, Harriet Hayes (Sarah Paulson), Midwesterner Tom Jeter (Nate Corddry) and Yale School of Drama alumnus Simon Stiles (D. L. Hughley). Studio 60 is the flagship show of the National Broadcasting System, with Jordan McDeere (Amanda Peet) as the newly hired president of Entertainment Programming and Jack Rudolph (Steven Weber) as her boss, the NBS chairman. Cal Shanley (Timothy Busfield) is the director of Studio 60. Many of the story lines are quite compelling.

The Newsroom (2012–2014) is a political drama that takes us behind the scenes of the fictional Atlantis Cable News (ACN) channel. The program revolves around anchor Will McAvoy (Jeff Daniels); his new executive producer, MacKenzie McHale (Emily Mortimer); newsroom staff Jim Harper (John Gallagher Jr.), Maggie Jordan (Alison Pil), Sloan Sabbith (Olivia Munn), Neal Sampat (Dev Patel), Don Keefer (Thomas Sadowski); and the head of ACN, Charlie Skinner (Sam Waterston). Jane Fonda appears sporadically as Leona Lansing, Media Company owner. The show uses current events to demonstrate issues of concern, in this absorbing drama.

And until next time, be warm and safe, and happy viewing. . .

Grace Episcopal Church




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~ Friendly

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is celebrated every
Sunday at 10 AM

Church School
meets the 1st & 3rd
Sunday of the
month at 10 AM

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TRAVELERS

PROGRESSIVE





Summer 2018 Junior Sailing Program Huguenot Yacht Club



Full day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. sailing & racing instruction for kids & teens 8-16 years old. Lunch & pool time included.

Week of June 26th:

Intro to Sailing Class or Racing Clinic
(A great chance to try out the Program!)

July 2 - July 20: Session I

July 23 - Aug. 10: Session II

(Choose one or both 3-week sessions)

Open House & Registration

Sunday, March 4th, 1 - 4 p.m.

Early birds save 10% on tuition when you register at the open house or online by March 4th. Siblings save 10% on second child's tuition.

**Offers cannot be combined per application; max discount is 10% tuition savings.

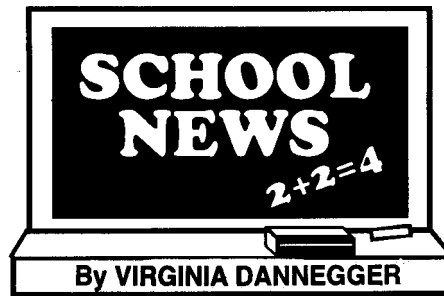
Full Program Details, Prices & Photos:
www.juniorsailingclubhouse.com

The HYC is located @ Harbor Lane West, New Rochelle
(914) 636-6300 (near Glen Island Park)
jrsailing@huguenotyc.com



Photo by KAREN NANI

King Avenue children and their dogs enjoyed frolicking in the snow after the Jan. 4 snowstorm, which closed New York City public schools for the day.



By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten students attended a performance of "Mistletoes" at Queensboro College by Arts on Stage. Second graders, as part of their work in social studies, visited the Skyscraper Museum, the NYC Transit Museum and the Queens Museum of Art. The fourth grade saw the movie "Coco"; the fifth grade went to the NY Hall of Science; sixth, seventh and eighth grades went to the movies to see "Wonder"; the seventh grade went to St. Paul's Church; and the seventh and eighth grades went on their Reward Trip to Whites-tone Lanes.

The "Hollyrock Game Show" returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Seventh- and eighth-graders continued their traditions of "Eight Plus 1 Equals Holiday Fun" and "7 Plus K Equals Happy Holiday" in which each of our seventh- and eighth-grade classes teamed up with a first grade or kindergarten class to do a holiday craft. Students in all four grades loved the experience, which will continue to be repeated in the years to come.

Finally, on Dec. 21, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended our year on a high note!

January was just as exciting. Our fifth-graders are preparing for their spring performance of "The Grunch," and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production! The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program has resumed for sixth- through eighth-grad-

ers. Students are participating in a variety of activities, including computers, athletics, games and homework help.

Our arts programs continue to thrive. The music teacher, Mrs. Schwartz, accompanied our glee club to Pilot Cove for a fabulous holiday performance, which was a great experience for both our students and the residents. The drama teacher, Mr. Bloom, continues to prepare our fifth grade for the spring performance of "The Grunch," as well as working with students in other grades to expose them to the dramatic arts. Visual artist Regina Farrell continues her work with students in painting, drawing, collage, chalk pastels and sculpture.

Community service projects are geared toward teaching students that we can all contribute in positive ways to our small City Island community and to the world as a whole. These projects will take place in all grades with eighth-graders once again doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-graders' Rewards Trips program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month!

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits!

Important kindergarten registration news: Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year continues. This process is done solely online. Please see the Department of Education website for more information (<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/Kindergarten>). Should further assistance be needed please call the school at 718-885-1093.

December Citizens-of-the-Month were Jacob Portella (kindergarten); Matthew Cullen and Mason Algarin (first grade); Olivia Ferro and Lili Lakotas (second grade); Jake Penny and Robert Delaney (third grade); Illia Gudilov (fourth grade); Joshua Soto and Mikayla Murphy (fifth grade); Kylie Archambault (sixth grade); Matthew McGaughan and Lia Schnatz (seventh grade); Filomena Baker and Joseph Peloso (eighth grade).

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Obituaries

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

Giles Edward Rae

Captain Giles E. Rae, 82, died peacefully at his home on City Island on Jan. 1, 2018.

He was born in the Bronx on April 9, 1935, and graduated from Fordham Prep in 1952. He graduated from Fordham University in 1956 with a degree in physics and the New York Institute of Technology with a master's degree in business administration.

He was an Air Force ROTC officer and received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1956; he spent four years in active service on the West Coast and nine years in the reserve. He was honorably discharged with the rank of captain.

He married Eleanor Jean Prätzen on June 16, 1956. He enjoyed travel, meeting new people and watching sports. He was also a devoted animal lover and Yankees fan. He and his wife were instrumental in starting the Hutchinson River Restoration Project and the annual fall clean-up event. Later in life, he spent much of his time working at his computer and buzzing around City Island in his powered wheelchair. He also enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; his three children, Cynthia Rae Tallett, Susan Rae Lanser and Giles John Rae; eight grandchildren, Ian, Hawley, Sara, Dylan, Andrew, Giles Allen, Wes and Lauren; and his sister, Joan Rae. Giles was preceded in death by his parents, Giles Mansfield and Mary Agnus Rae.

A military funeral was held on Jan. 5, 2018, at Calverton National Cemetery. The family is planning a celebration of his life in April. Memorial donations may be made to the James Peters Veterans Administration and the Hutchinson River Restoration Project.



Carol M. Stewart

Carol Marie Stewart, a longtime City Islander, died on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, at the age of 92.

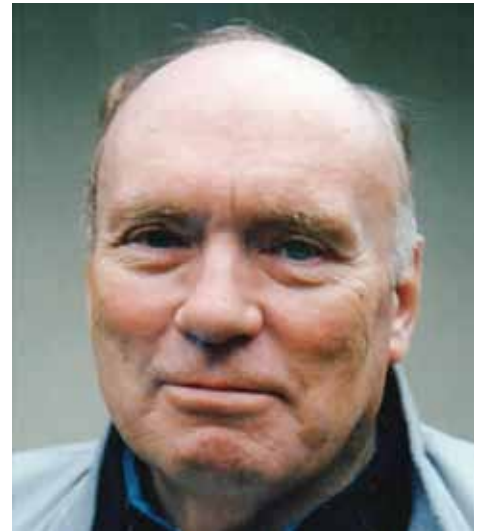
Born on Jan. 13, 1925, in Jersey City, NJ, to John T. and Elsie Stewart, Carol moved with her family to City Island in 1933. The youngest of four sisters, she graduated from P.S. 17 in 1937, attended Hunter High School and graduated from Hunter College.

Carol worked for the Equitable Assurance Company on Sixth Avenue in New York before retiring in the early 1980s. She was a world traveler and visited many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. She also traveled through most of the United States, Hawaii and Canada. An avid photographer, Carol documented her trips with photographic slides and movies, and she did the same for family events. Thanksgiving dinners were always followed by family home movies and slides or slides from Carol's most recent trip.

She was very active at the Trinity United Methodist Church and served as a Sunday school teacher, trustee and treasurer for many years. She was an expert baker, and her baked goods were treasured at church fairs, especially her famous coffee cakes. At Christmas time, Carol baked countless amounts of shortbread

and assorted sugar cookies, which were enjoyed by all her family and friends. Carol also served with the City Island Historical Society as a trustee and treasurer, and with Pilot Cove as a trustee.

Carol was predeceased by her parents; her sisters Helen Foley, Doris Nye and Ruth Pinnow; nephews James, John and William Foley; and nieces Elizabeth (Nye) Barry, and Linda Nye. She is survived by nieces and nephews Carolyn (Foley) Peters of Huntsville, AL; Donald Pinnow of Milwaukee, WI; Ruth Ann (Pinnow) Schwartz of Dayton, NV; Diana (Nye) Murphy of Grandview, MO; Joanne (Nye) Rogé of Montauk, NY; and William and Thomas Nye, both of City Island, plus numerous grand nephews and nieces. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, at Trinity United Methodist Church.



James J. Tierney

James Tierney, former Island resident, passed away from a long illness on Nov. 25, 2017, at the age of 89 at Keystone Rehabilitation Medical Center, in Kissimmee, FL.


James was born on July 19, 1928 and grew up on King Avenue on City Island. James fought in the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. After coming home, he became an officer in the New York Police Department. He retired in 1978 from the Emergency

Service Squadron 2 as a sergeant. He spent his last year in Orlando, FL, with his son James.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Emerald Society, the Ancient Order of Hibernian's, Sergeants Benevolent Association and Superior Officers Association Retired.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ethel, and his two sons Kevin and Bruce. He is survived by his son James, daughter-in-law Michele and four grandchildren, Brendan, Willow, Kevin and Eammon.

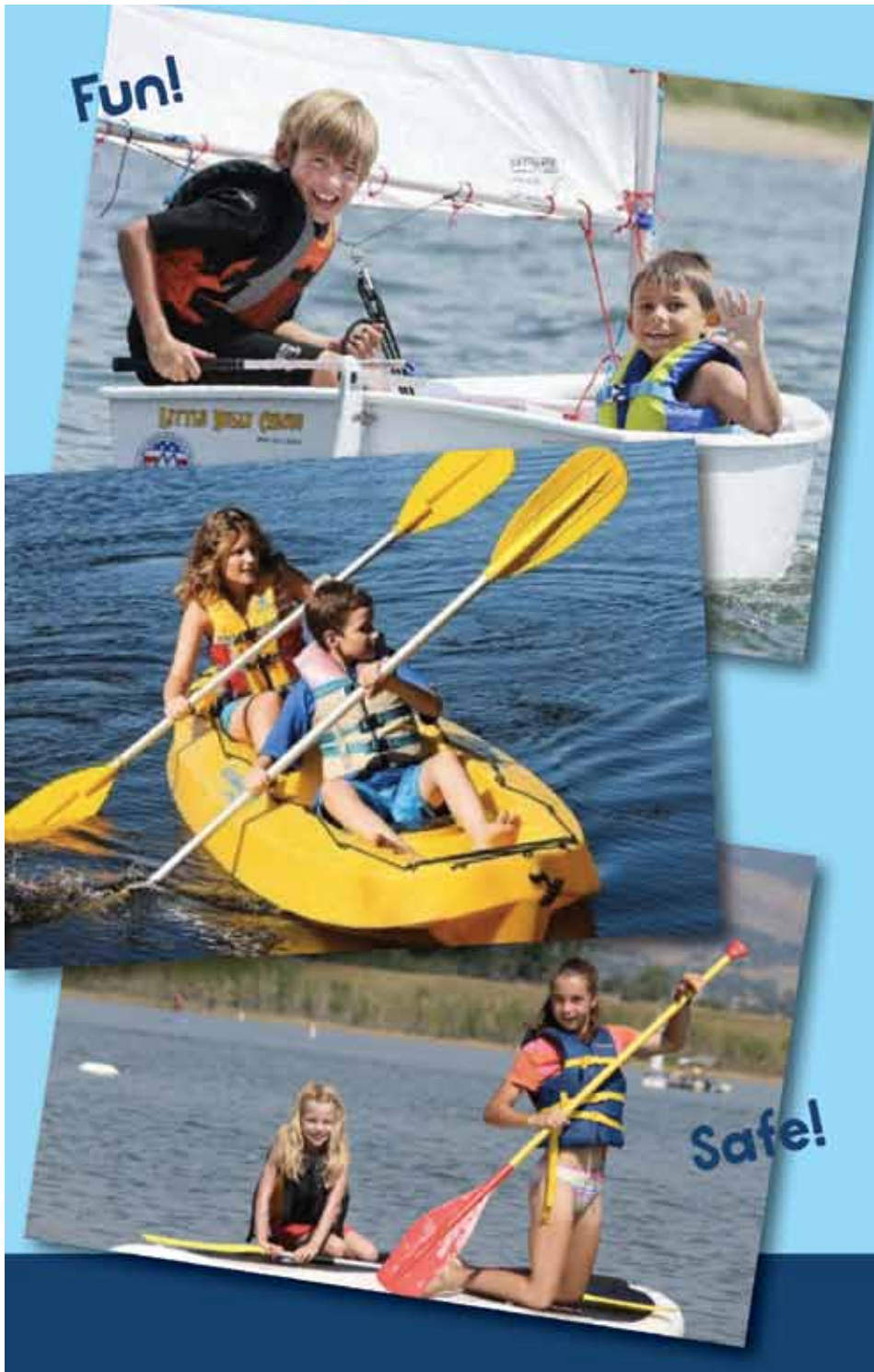
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Session I (Intro & Race Clinic)	June 26 - 29
Session II	July 2 - July 20
Session III	July 23 - Aug 10

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

FEBRUARY 2018							
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0608	-1.00	1158	8.40	1845	-1.53	Thu 01
02 Fri	0035	7.96	0701	-1.04	1252	8.24	Fri 02
03 Sat	0126	7.94	0754	-0.91	1345	7.94	Sat 03
04 Sun	0217	7.81	0848	-0.65	1440	7.54	Sun 04
05 Mon	0312	7.59	0944	-0.30	1539	7.12	Mon 05
06 Tue	0410	7.34	1043	0.05	1642	6.76	Tue 06
07 Wed	0511	7.15	1144	0.32	1744	6.51	Wed 07
08 Thu	0612	7.05	1244	0.48	1845	6.42	Thu 08
09 Fri	0058	0.87	0710	7.05	1341	0.50	Fri 09
10 Sat	0153	0.94	0804	7.14	1434	0.44	Sat 10
11 Sun	0244	0.90	0854	7.27	1522	0.32	Sun 11
12 Mon	0330	0.79	0940	7.40	1605	0.20	Mon 12
13 Tue	0411	0.67	1021	7.49	1644	0.10	Tue 13
14 Wed	0446	0.53	1054	7.53	1717	0.03	Wed 14
15 Thu	0511	0.38	1114	7.56	1741	-0.03	Thu 15
16 Fri	0530	0.19	1126	7.63	1754	-0.13	Fri 16
17 Sat	0557	-0.01	1153	7.73	1818	-0.25	Sat 17
18 Sun	0015	7.68	0632	-0.16	1229	7.76	Sun 18
19 Mon	0051	7.85	0712	-0.24	1310	7.70	Mon 19
20 Tue	0132	7.95	0756	-0.20	1355	7.53	Tue 20
21 Wed	0218	7.93	0845	-0.07	1445	7.25	Wed 21
22 Thu	0308	7.81	0939	0.15	1540	6.92	Thu 22
23 Fri	0404	7.62	1042	0.37	1642	6.62	Fri 23
24 Sat	0508	7.44	1212	0.45	1756	6.47	Sat 24
25 Sun	0009	0.68	0621	7.38	1356	0.18	Sun 25
26 Mon	0159	0.51	0752	7.52	1503	-0.28	Mon 26
27 Tue	0315	0.04	0911	7.84	1600	-0.74	Tue 27
28 Wed	0414	-0.47	1011	8.14	1651	-1.09	Wed 28
MARCH 2018							
01 Thu	0508	-0.87	1103	8.32	1740	-1.28	Thu 01
02 Fri	0558	-1.11	1152	8.33	1825	-1.27	Fri 02
03 Sat	0017	8.22	0646	-1.15	1240	8.18	Sat 03
04 Sun	0102	8.17	0733	-0.98	1326	7.89	Sun 04



A Sight and Sound of Trinity United Methodist Church

The holidays on City Island would not be the same without the bells of the Methodist church. While some may take note of this remnant of a bygone era with a snicker or sneer, we choose not to apologize. On the contrary, we hear them and are reminded of the good fortune we all share in calling City Island home. John Denver said it best in a song: "it's the little things that make a house a home," and we would count the church bells of Trinity United Methodist as among the myriad little things that set our neighborhood apart from the rest.

Many of us grew up telling time by the bells of the Methodist church. Those days are long gone. Even longer gone are the days when the bells were used as a fire alarm. In the latter part of the 19th century, when City Island was still part of the town of Pelham, local fire commissioners solicited the assistance of the Methodist church's "janitor or any of his assistants" in the event of a fire. With the approval of the church's trustees, the janitor's new job would be to ring the bell and sound the alarm. The code that had been established was five rapid strokes of the bell to indicate fire, a short pause, then either another one, two, three or four strokes to let the volunteer firefighters know where the fire was located, City Island having been divided by the commissioners into

four zones or subdistricts.

From the local paper at that time, *The City Island Drift*, we know the Island was divided in the following manner: "from the northern point of City Island to the center of Ditmar Ave., shall be known as the First Sub-district; from the center of Ditmar Ave., to the center of Fordham Ave., shall be known as the Second Sub-district; from the center of Fordham Ave., to the center of Scofield Ave., shall be known as the Third sub-district; from the center of Scofield Ave., to the southern point of City Island, shall be known as the Fourth sub-district."

The cross atop the steeple where the bells reside, was erected by Vic Anderson, Charlie Coniglio, Donald Varian and Carl Schvelgard in the 1960s. The story we got was that the idea for a cross came up as Vic was repairing the roof of the church. Carl was the carpenter and used sturdy, weather-resistant teak for its construction. Donald and Charlie were the sheet-metal mechanics and lined the cross with copper. They also added a lightning rod that had been secured from one of the shipyards.

What remained to be done was the hoist, which we were given to understand required the combined efforts of Vic, Charlie and Donald. Our source, Mrs. Genevieve Varian, was invited to the top just before the big hoist, and the views, she said, were breathtaking. We can only imagine!

A Current Review

"Orchard Beach: The Bronx Riviera" by Wayne Lawrence

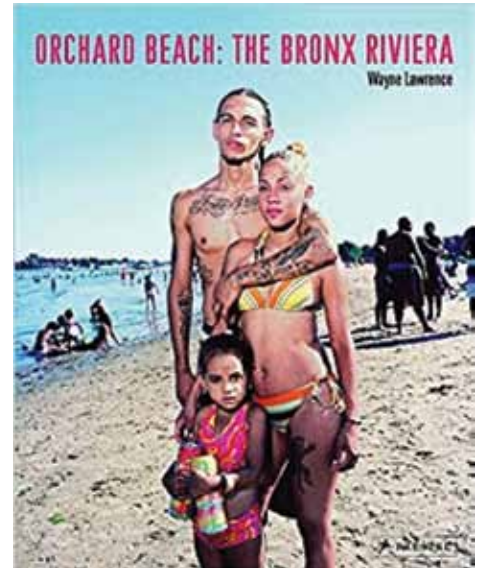
By GARY MAKUFKA

If a photograph is supposed to represent a thousand words, this book is a dictionary. Brooklyn-based Wayne Lawrence took many amazing photos of ordinary, and not so ordinary, people at random at Orchard Beach over a six-year period. He began by wanting to see for himself why Orchard Beach was considered one of the worst beaches in the city, but what he found instead was a pure connection.

He decided to leave "a body of work that my children and yours could ponder long after we're gone. I wanted to find a way to confront issues of race and class using a visual language that would speak to everyday people . . . and I committed on that day to let the work be a reflection of the love, cultural pride and generosity of spirit I witnessed there." The book's introduction was written by David Gonzalez, who experienced the beach growing up.

Each person's portrait tells a unique story, which amounts in the end to one big family. Regardless of their individual backgrounds, all the people in these images have more connections to one another than differences.

One wonders how the photographer was able to persuade complete strangers to pose for a book. How did they know this Wayne Lawrence was for real? It's not common for strangers to ask permission to photograph



other strangers, but all these portraits are large and crystal clear. You can feel their presence as their colors reach out to grab you and pull you onto the beach itself, warm, relaxing and in good hands. Many have unusual tattoos and clothes; all were randomly photographed and willing to display themselves to the public in a book.

This is not a history of the beach, but a visual guide to some of the people who call Orchard Beach their home away from their home, their Riviera.

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IN THE GARDEN

By DON BOYER



Photo by Don Boyer

The Xeriscape Garden

Over the past year, I made the acquaintance of City Island residents Sally Hagy-Boyer and her husband, Don Boyer. Sally is an artist, a conservator and a library associate at the New York Botanical Garden, and Don is the curator of herpetology at the Bronx Zoo. One day we were talking at length about gardening, and Sally shared with me Don's love of desert gardening and a number of photographs. Their garden in California took me by surprise. It was so well established and beautiful that I thought an article about it might be just the thing for a chilly February read. I hope you enjoy it.

I grew up in Baltimore surrounded by the lush green gardens of summer and the cold stark contrast of winter. I do appreciate the beauty of the East Coast and its dramatic seasonal changes, but I was more powerfully drawn to a totally different environment, the deserts of the American Southwest. As a kid visiting greenhouses, I was fascinated by the cactus and succulent plants, and soon I had a small but growing collection. After college I moved further and further west until my wife and I settled in San Diego, CA, and bought a home.

San Diego has a Mediterranean-climate profile. In addition to the Mediterranean Basin, this type of climate is also found in most of California, in parts of Australia, in South Africa, in sections of Asia, and in central Chile. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and mild winters, with most of the annual precipitation falling between December and March. In this type of climate, one can grow a myriad of plant species outdoors. To my delight, many of the plants from the desert regions of the world thrive in a properly prepared garden landscape. When we purchased our home in 1997, one of the selling points for us was a huge Canary Island dragon tree on the property and a large backyard.

The backyard has a west-facing uphill slope and was pretty much a blank slate with very little landscaping, though covered in grass. When I was a kid, one of my responsibilities was mowing the lawn, and I vowed as an adult to have a home without grass. The early years were spent eliminating grass and terracing parts of the slope that ultimately would become a multi-level meandering garden. I gradually cut out the terraces with a shovel and moved and mounded soil where I wanted it. I then added railroad-tie steps connecting the terraces. The next step was adding rock boulders (local San Diego rock, volcanic, pumice) and top dressing with gravel. The previous owners had moved all the natural rock from the landscape and stacked it on the side of the house. I proceeded to haul all of this rock back up the slope. This process took several years to complete and at times I felt like Sisyphus from Greek mythology (he was punished by Zeus to endlessly roll a large boulder uphill). I often enlisted the help of my family, friends and my always willing brother who lived down the street.

Once the main landscape layout was established, I began to install some of the larger plant elements. This included various species of South African tree aloes, cardon cactus, barrel cactus species, agaves, prickly pear cactus, desert adapted palm trees and Australian bottle trees. The Southwestern U.S. has a number of nurseries that special-

ize in cactus and succulent plants, and I was a frequent visitor. These plants often propagate easily from cuttings, so friends often provided additional material. With larger elements in place, I could backfill with a huge variety of other smaller cactus and succulents. One of my favorite floristic regions of the world is South Africa, where the succulent plant diversity is outstanding!

There are numerous species of the following plant families that I used: Liliaceae, the lilies; the Crassulaceae, also known as the stonecrops; Portulacaceae, the purslanes; Mesembryanthems, the ice plants; Asclepiadacids, the milkweeds; and Euphorbids, the spurges. Forgive the taxonomic names of these families of plants but contained within each is a fantastic diversity of size, shape

and color. Even the common names sound strange, such as the kokerboom, the boojum tree, the carrion flowers and sheep's livers!

I planted hundreds of species! There is a tendency to overplant for instant landscape results, and I enthusiastically fell into that trap. Over time I learned more about the aesthetics of what worked and what didn't. The garden design came from my own imagination but was based in part on what would appear to be natural placement of hardscape (rocks and gravel) and plant elements even if the plants were from many different regions.

There is a gradual shift in the climate to hotter and drier extremes especially in the Southwestern U.S. Xeriscaping (plant-

ing drought-tolerant gardens) has become more popular than ever, and it makes sense for water conservation. Many of these plants have spectacular eye-catching blooms and an endless variety of textures and sculptural appeal. We still own our home and visit at least once a year. As our garden matures, it grows more and more beautiful. Working in it has brought me huge satisfaction and peace of mind. Living on City Island surrounded by water, parklands and a peaceful community feels like home now. Once again watching the fall show of colors is a real treat, but one day I hope to retire and return to our Southern California home and begin working in the garden again.

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PADDY'S ON THE ISLAND

Organization News

Continued from page 11

March 16: Navigating Longer Lives (Patricia Attis)

March 23: Community Engagement (Katrina Dinham)

March 30: Healthy Eating and Hydration (Toni Marinucci, MS, RDN)

February 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: Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Balance Class at 1 p.m. (no class Feb. 22); Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

February Programs: Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m., Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Learn Piano, 10:30 a.m.; Blood Pressure Monitoring 11:30 to 12 noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; Jam Session at 11 a.m., Crafters Corner 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 at 1 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of each month; please call to sign up; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m. (no painting on Feb. 8); Birthday Party Feb. 22; Fridays: Aging Mastery Classes at 1:15 p.m. (see above).

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, Farmer's 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 \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call the driver at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is pleased to present David Lindsay-Abaire's play "Rabbit Hole" to open its 19th season. This is the story of Howie and Becca Corbett's loss and how they and their extended family deal differently with their grief. Cast members are Sarah Eismann, Steven Bendler, Elizabeth Paldino, Carol Dooner and Jaime Arciniegas. Maria Provenzano is the director. Production dates are Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 4 at 3 p.m., and the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10 at 8 p.m., and Sunday March 11 at 3 p.m. After the show on Saturday, March 4, there will be a champagne reception open to the audience. See BRIEFLY on page 2 for more information.

Mary McIntyre

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: Sundays at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome.

We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Grace will hold its famous pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. The Ash Wednesday service will be held the following day at 7:30 p.m.

New to Grace: Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, every Sunday after service during coffee hour.

Sunday School: It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is beginning our third year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. On Jan. 27, we sang at Schaffer Extended Care in New Rochelle. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn



Photo by MATT PANZA

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day was held in the American Legion Post 156 lot on Dec. 2, 2017. Pictured in the parking lot with Commander Peter Del-Debbio and Sergeant at Arms Robert Salerno are members of the Post and the Boy Scouts.

Let's Make Our Families—and Island—Gender-Inclusive in 2018

By JOHN SCARDINA

When I was growing up with Dick and Jane as the main characters in my school reading book—Dick usually building something and Jane watching with her hands clasped behind her back—gender modeling was pretty straightforward. Those who did not conform with the male and female stereotypes, and those were the only choices our culture seemed to offer, stayed out of sight if they wanted to avoid the pain of stigmatization and punishment.

We now understand that gender, a cultural construct that assigns roles to individuals, and sex, a biological trait based upon anatomy and physiology, are different. There is a continuum, a spectrum (like the rainbow, in fact!) of gender possibilities, and our assigned gender (what was recorded on our birth certificates) need not be the same as our identified gender. Some of us, called "cisgender," have our gender expression aligned with our sex. Some of us, called "transgender," have a gender expression that is not the same as our sex. Can our culture be big enough to embrace both types of individuals?

Children can often be gender fluid, and our role as parents can be to provide the opportunity for exploration of many ways to be our authentic selves. How we dress,

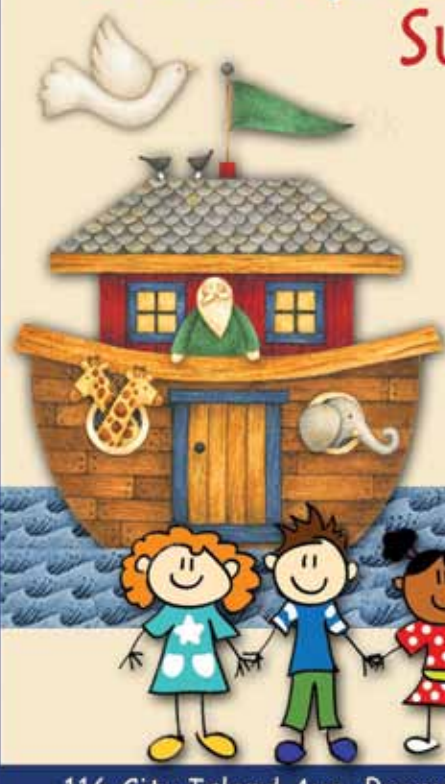
what toys we choose, what sports we pursue, and what arts inspire us can all be free of "one story" gender stereotypes. Some of us will also have children who have "girl brains" and "boy bodies" or "boy brains" and "girl bodies" and thus we will need to find the tools and love and compassion to help these individuals find their own ways of being authentic.

In the end, all parents can treat all children in the following ways to help make our families gender-inclusive:

- say "I love you" often;
- learn as much as you can about gender issues;
- work for equality and inclusion;
- become a protector and an ally of all children;
- listen;
- document your child's awesomeness;
- decorate their room as the child sees fit;
- use gender-inclusive language that avoids binary gender-bias (say "children" instead of "boys and girls" and "friends" instead of "ladies and gentlemen").

Each of us strives for authenticity, to be our true selves and to do our best work with the gifts we have. All individuals deserve the chance to pursue their dreams and goals, and you do, too!

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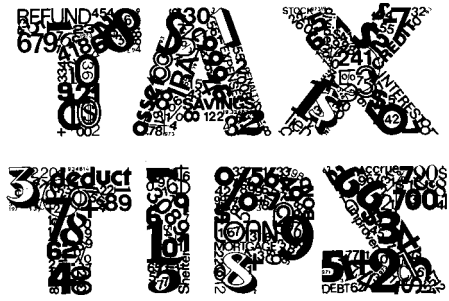
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Important Tax Changes for 2018

It's always a sure bet at New Year's that changes have been made to current tax law, and 2018 is no different now that many of the tax provisions pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) are in full effect. From health savings accounts to tax rate schedules and standard deductions, here's a checklist of tax changes to help you plan the year ahead.

Individuals

In 2018, several tax provisions are affected by inflation adjustments, including Health Savings Accounts, retirement contribution limits and the foreign earned income exclusion. Many others have been revised or eliminated due to the TCJA.

While the tax rate structure, which now ranges from 10 to 37 percent, remains similar to 2017, in that there are seven tax brackets, the tax-bracket thresholds increase significantly for each filing status. Standard deductions also rise significantly; however, personal exemptions have been eliminated through tax year 2025.

Standard Deduction: In 2018, the standard deduction increases to \$12,000 for individuals (up from \$6,350 in 2017) and to \$24,000 for married couples (up from \$12,700 in 2017).

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT): In 2018, AMT exemption amounts increase to \$70,300 for individuals (up from \$54,300 in 2017) and \$109,400 for married couples filing jointly (up from \$84,500 in 2017). Also, the phaseout threshold increases to \$500,000 (\$1 million for married filing jointly). Both the exemption and threshold amounts are indexed for inflation.

"Kiddie Tax": For taxable years beginning in 2018, the amount that can be used to reduce the net unearned income reported on the child's return that is subject to the "kiddie tax," is \$1,050 (same as 2017). The same \$1,050 amount is used to determine whether a parent may elect to include a child's gross income in the parent's gross income and to calculate the "kiddie tax." For example, one of the requirements for the parental election is that a child's gross income for 2018 must be more than \$1,050 but less than \$10,500. For 2018, the net unearned income for a child under the age of 19 (or a full-time student under the age of 24) that is not subject to "kiddie tax" is \$2,100.

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): Contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) are used to pay current or future medical expenses of the account owner, his or her spouse, and any qualified dependent. Medical expenses must not be reimbursable by insurance or other sources and do not qualify for the medical expense deduction on a federal income tax return. A qualified individual must be covered by a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and not be covered by other health insurance except for insurance for accidents, disability, dental care, vision care or long-term care.

For calendar year 2018, a qualifying HDHP must have a deductible of at least \$1,350 for self-only coverage or \$2,700 for family coverage and must limit annual out-of-pocket expenses of the beneficiary to \$6,650 for self-only coverage and \$13,300 for family coverage.

Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs): There are two types of Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs): The Archer MSA created to help self-employed individuals and employees of certain small employers, and the Medicare Advantage MSA, which is also an Archer MSA, and is designated by Medicare to be used solely to pay the qualified medical expenses of the account holder. To be eligible for a Medicare Advantage MSA, you must be enrolled in Medicare.

Both MSAs require that you are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan (HDHP).

Self-only coverage. For taxable years beginning in 2018, the term "high deductible health plan" means, for self-only coverage, a health plan that has an annual deductible that is not less than \$2,300 (up \$50 from 2017) and not more than \$3,450 (up \$100 from 2017), and under which the annual out-of-pocket expenses required to be paid (other than for premiums) for covered benefits do not exceed \$4,600 (up \$100 from 2017).

Family coverage. For taxable years beginning in 2018, the term "high deductible health plan" means, for family coverage, a health plan that has an annual deductible that is not less than \$4,600 and not more than \$6,850 (up \$100 from 2017), and under which the annual out-of-pocket expenses required to be paid (other than for premiums) for covered benefits do not exceed \$8,400 (up \$150 from 2017).

Penalty for not Maintaining Minimum Essential Health Coverage: Under the TCJA, the penalty for not maintaining minimum essential health coverage has been eliminated but only for months beginning after Dec. 31, 2018.

AGI Limit for Deductible Medical Expenses: In 2018, the deduction threshold for deductible medical expenses is temporarily reduced to 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income (AGI). This is retroactive to the tax year starting Jan. 1, 2017 and ends on Dec. 31, 2018.

Eligible Long-Term Care Premiums: Premiums for long-term care are treated the same as health care premiums and are deductible on your taxes, subject to certain limitations. For individuals age 40 or younger at the end of 2018, the limitation is \$420. Persons over 40 but not over 50 can deduct \$780. Those over 50 but not over 60 can deduct \$1,530, while individuals over 60 but not over 70 can deduct \$4,160. The maximum deduction is \$5,200 and applies to anyone over 70 years of age.

Medicare Taxes: The additional 0.9 percent Medicare tax on wages above \$200,000 for individuals (\$250,000 married filing jointly), which went into effect in 2013, remains in effect for 2018, as does the Medicare tax of 3.8 percent on investment (unearned) income for single taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income (AGI) of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 joint filers). Investment income includes dividends, interest, rents, royalties, gains from the disposition of property, and certain passive activity income. Estates, trusts, and self-employed individuals are all liable for the new tax.

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion: For 2018, the foreign earned income exclusion amount is \$104,100, up from \$102,100 in 2017.

Long-Term Capital Gains and Dividends: In 2018 tax rates on capital gains and dividends remain the same as 2017 rates (10 percent, 15 percent, and a top rate of 20 percent); however, threshold amounts are different in that they don't correspond to new tax bracket structure as they did in the past. For taxpayers in the lower tax brackets (10 and 12 percent), the rate remains 0 percent; however, the threshold amounts are \$38,600 for individuals and \$77,200 for married filing jointly. For taxpayers in the four middle tax brackets, 22, 24, 32, and 35 percent, the rate is 15 percent. For an individual taxpayer in the highest tax bracket, 37 percent, whose income is at or above \$425,800 (\$479,000 married filing jointly), the rate for both capital gains and dividends is capped at 20 percent.

Pease and PEP (Personal Exemption Phaseout): Both Pease (limitations on itemized deductions) and PEP (personal exemption phase-out) have been eliminated under TCJA.

Estate and Gift Taxes: For an estate of any decedent during calendar year 2018, the basic exclusion amount is \$11,200,000, indexed for inflation (up from \$5,490,000 in 2017). The maximum tax rate remains at 40 percent. The annual exclusion for gifts increases to \$15,000.

Tax Credits for Individuals

Adoption Credit: In 2018, a non-refundable (only those individuals with tax liability will benefit) credit of up to \$13,840

is available for qualified adoption expenses for each eligible child.

Earned Income Tax Credit: For tax year 2018, the maximum earned income tax credit (EITC) for low and moderate-income workers and working families rises to \$6,444, up from \$6,318 in 2017. The credit varies by family size, filing status and other factors, with the maximum credit going to joint filers with three or more qualifying children.

Child Tax Credits: For tax years 2018 through 2025, the child tax credit increases to \$2,000 per child, up from \$1,000 in 2017, thanks to the passage of the TCJA. The enhanced child tax credit, which was made permanent by Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2017 (PATH), remains under TCJA. The refundable portion of the credit increases from \$1,000 to \$1,400, so that even if taxpayers do not owe any tax, they can still claim the credit. Under TCJA, a \$500 nonrefundable credit is also available for dependents who do not qualify for the child tax credit (e.g., dependents age 17 and older).

Child and Dependent Care Credit: The Child and Dependent Care Credit also remains under tax reform. If you pay someone to take care of your dependent (defined as being under the age of 13 at the end of the tax year or incapable of self-care) in order to work or look for work, you may qualify for a credit of up to \$1,050 or 35 percent of \$3,000 of eligible expenses in 2018. For two or more qualifying dependents, you can claim up to 35 percent of \$6,000 (or \$2,100) of eligible expenses. For higher income earners the credit percentage is reduced, but not below 20 percent, regardless of the amount of adjusted gross income.

Education for Individuals

American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credits: The American Opportunity Tax Credit (formerly Hope Scholarship Credit) was extended to the end of 2018 by ATRA but was made permanent by PATH in 2017. There was no change under TCJA. The maximum credit is \$2,500 per student. The Lifetime Learning Credit remains at \$2,000 per return; however, the adjusted gross income amount used by joint filers to determine the reduction in the Lifetime Learning Credit is \$114,000, up from \$112,000 for tax year 2017.

Interest on Educational Loans: In 2018 (as in 2017), the \$2,500 maximum deduction for interest paid on student loans is no longer limited to interest paid during the first 60 months of repayment. The deduction is phased out for higher-income taxpayers with modified AGI of more than \$65,000 (\$135,000 joint filers).

Retirement for Individuals

Contribution Limits: The elective deferral (contribution) limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan increases to \$18,500. Contribution limits for SIMPLE plans remain at \$12,500. The maximum compensation used to determine contributions increases to \$275,000 (up from \$270,000 in 2018).

Income Phase-out Ranges: The deduction for taxpayers making contributions to a traditional IRA is phased out for singles and heads of household who are covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan and have modified AGI between \$63,000 and \$73,000, up from \$62,000 to \$72,000.

For married couples filing jointly, in which the spouse who makes the IRA contribution is covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, the phase-out range increases to \$101,000 to \$121,000, up from \$99,000 to \$119,000. For an IRA contributor who is not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the deduction is phased out if the couple's modified AGI is between \$189,000 and \$199,000, up from \$186,000 and \$196,000.

The modified AGI phase-out range for taxpayers making contributions to a Roth IRA is \$120,000 to \$135,000 for singles and heads of household, up from \$118,000 to \$133,000. For married couples filing jointly, the income phase-out range is \$189,000 to \$199,000, up from \$186,000 to \$196,000. The phase-out range for a married individual filing a separate return who makes

contributions to a Roth IRA is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains \$0 to \$10,000.

Saver's Credit: In 2018, the AGI limit for the saver's credit (also known as the retirement savings contribution credit) for low and moderate-income workers is \$63,000 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$62,000 in 2017; \$47,250 for heads of household, up from \$46,500; and \$31,500 for married individuals filing separately and for singles, up from \$31,000 in 2017.

Businesses

Standard Mileage Rates: In 2018, the rate for business miles driven is 54.5 cents per mile, up from 53.5 cents per mile in 2017.

Section 179 Expensing: Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the Section 179 expense deduction increases to a maximum deduction of \$1 million of the first \$2,500,000 million of qualifying equipment placed in service during the current tax year. Indexed to inflation after 2018, the deduction was enhanced to include improvements to nonresidential qualified real property such as roofs, fire protection and alarm systems and security systems, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems.

Bonus Depreciation: Businesses can immediately deduct 100 percent of the cost of eligible property placed in service after Sept. 27, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2023, after which it will be phased downward over a four-year period: 80 percent in 2023, 60 in 2024, 40 in 2025 and 20 in 2026.

Section 199 Deduction for Domestic Production Activities: Under the TCJA, the Section 199 deduction was repealed for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2017.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): Extended through 2019, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit has been modified and enhanced for employers who hire long-term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 weeks or more) and is generally equal to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages paid to a new hire. There was no change to this tax credit under TCJA.

Research and Development Tax Credit: Starting in 2018, businesses with less than \$50 million in gross receipts can use this credit to offset alternative minimum tax. Certain start-up businesses that might not have any income tax liability will be able to offset payroll taxes with the credit as well. There was no change to this tax credit under TCJA.

Employee Health Insurance Expenses: For taxable years beginning in 2018, the dollar amount of average wages is \$26,700 (\$26,200 in 2017). This amount is used for limiting the small employer health insurance credit and for determining who is an eligible small employer for purposes of the credit.

Business Meals and Entertainment Expenses: The deduction remains at 50 percent for taxpayers who incur food and beverage expenses associated with operating a trade or business. For tax years 2018 through 2025, however, the 50 percent deduction expands to include expenses incurred for meals furnished to employees for the convenience of the employer. Amounts after 2015 are not deductible. Under the TCJA, in 2018, office holiday parties remain 100 percent deductible. Employee meals while on business travel also remain deductible at 50 percent. For tax years 2018 through 2025; however, the 50 percent deduction expands to include expenses incurred for meals furnished to employees for the convenience of the employer. Amounts after 2025 are not deductible. Further, the deduction for business entertainment expenses is eliminated (only meals at 50 percent).

Employer-provided Transportation Fringe Benefits: If you provide transportation fringe benefits to your employees, in 2018 the maximum monthly limitation for transportation in a commuter highway vehicle as well as any transit pass is \$260, and the monthly limitation for qualified parking is \$260. Parity for employer-provided mass transit and parking benefits was made permanent by PATH.

Although this checklist outlines important tax changes for 2018, additional changes in tax law are more than likely to arise during the year ahead.

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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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Little League plays an important role in the lives of our children. The City Island Little League teaches players the joy of playing baseball while focusing on the values of self-belief and teamwork. The final in-person registration for this year will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 3 at A-Game Sports, 856 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Online registration is available at <http://www.cityislandLL.com> and will be open until Feb. 25.

The League has received many questions about registration starting early. Because there are now five divisions instead of four, players aged 7 and up will be playing both on and off the Island

in interleague play with nearby teams located at Pelham Bay, Waters Place in the Bronx and possibly Castle Hill.

In order to make sure that families have ample notice of the schedule and that umpires are assigned to games, the CILL has agreed to finalize registration by Feb. 25 so that there will be time to select teams the following week and order uniforms.

In an effort to encourage early registration and maximize each player's experience, the League has developed an off-season program and has partnered with the New York Mets where each player receives a ticket and on-field experience for the Mets-Dodgers game on June 24 at 1:10 p.m. Please link to cityislandll.com for more details.

Eligible players are those born between December 2003 and December 2013. T-Ball is for players born between December 2010 and December 2013. All other players will be minors, majors and seniors.

Registration includes an excellently coached program from April 7 to June 20 (male and female ages 12 and under), in which where players learn baseball fundamentals, teamwork and have plenty of fun! Each player receives a ticket to the June 24 Mets-Dodgers game at Citifield on June 24 at 1:10 p.m., which includes an On-Field experience before the game (other family members can purchase tickets at a discounted rate).

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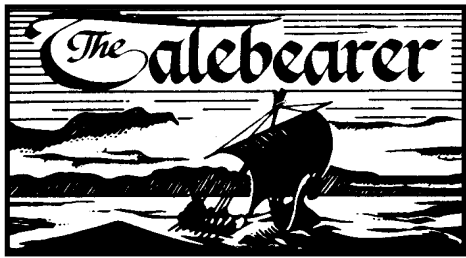
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Very happy birthday wishes to my two beautiful granddaughters, Francesca Strazzera on Jan. 23 and Victoria Strazzera on Feb. 3.

Wishing much love and happiness to Chase Bank's Kevin Furtick and his lovely new bride, Alicia, who were married on Jan. 12. With best wishes from your co-



Kevin and Alicia Furtick were wed on Jan. 12, 2018.



Ethel Lott celebrated her 90th birthday on Nov. 23, 2017.



Veteran long-distance runners Marjorie and David Kos competed in the Havana, Cuba Marathon on November 19, 2017. They chose the half marathon portion of the race because of the heat and humidity. Not knowing the future of the United States relationship with Cuba, they wanted to travel there while they had the opportunity. "We very much enjoyed the city of Havana and the Cuban people," said David. "The course was very interesting and scenic."

workers and friends.

Birthday greetings on Feb. 3 to our son Anthony. Making the day even more special is a birthday party celebration for our granddaughter Tabitha, who turns one on Feb. 5. Love, Mom and Dad Ribaud.

Sending get-well wishes to Sue Chadwick from your friends on City Island.

Wishing a happy and healthy 75th birthday to Gerry McCormick Sr., with love from your family and friends.

Happy seventh birthday to Priscilla Piri. May all your wishes come true. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Mark and Sonny Boy.

Congratulations to King Avenue's Bren-



Photo by MATT PANZA

Karen Nani and the staff of *The Island Current* gathered on Jan. 14, 2018, at the home of editorial board member Barbara Dolensek to mark the start of the City Island newspaper's 47th year. Shown are the best volunteers in the newspaper business holding copies of the record-setting 28-page December 2017 issue (l. to r.): Bruce Weis, Mary Colby, Ginger Dannegger, Tom Smith, Bette Heben, Karen Nani, Melanie Benvenue, Ed Heben, John Sheridan, Marsha Treiber, Eric Buerghers, Barbara Dolensek, Judy Rauh, Margaret Lenz, Mike Rauh, Sandy Dunn, Bill Stuttig, Maria Swieciki, Rose Kolb and Maria Sutherland.



Photo by REINA MIA BRILL

The residents of Earley Street did their annual Polar Bear Plunge on Jan. 1, 2018, despite the extra frigid 9 degrees outside (l to r): Liam Galvin, Lauren Nye, Rupert Deese, and Dan Treiber.

dan Delaney, who was recently promoted to Captain in the FDNY.

Hawkins Street resident Reid Travers (aka "Swampy") will be celebrating his birthday on Feb. 20, and his sister Lori and friends wish him a great day.

Very happy birthday wishes go out to Bay Street's Lucy Zec on Feb. 26 and Virginia DiGregorio on Feb. 1. Enjoy!

The Booth family has a lot of celebrating going on! Birthday candles will be blowing out for Rose Booth on Feb. 4, Laura Booth on Feb. 5 and Angela D'Allara on Feb. 14.

A very warm welcome to Bay Street's newest residents, Heather and Zach Mirabito. Nice to have you here!

And wishing all our friends and readers a very happy Valentine's Day!

Maria Swieciki

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