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YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN: THE CITY ISLAND REUNION 2012

By BILL STUTTIG



Photos by RICK DeWITT

About a thousand people signed in for the second City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field on Aug. 18, 2012. Many volunteers and musicians helped make it a perfect day for those who reunited with family, friends and classmates under sunny skies. The P.S. 17 and St. Mary, Star of the Sea classes of 1969 were particularly well represented, including (top photo, kneeling, l. to r.): Myla Martin, Maureen McEnery, Mike Teti, Susan Pucca, Mary Jane Waring and Joanne Tangorra. Second row: Steven Zabriski, Judy Tomsen, Donna Maffia, Kim Constantine, Kathleen Lynch, Veronica Masterson and (missing name). Third row: Nick Butterworth, Eric Svalgard, Peter Gustas, Bill Stuttig, Thora Svalgard, Eric Rauhauser, Kevin O'Rourke, Dennis Herlihy and John Roche. Congrats to the organizers, Lynn McCluskey and Bob Carmody, along with music coordinator Charlie DiMaggio.

Whether they came from California or Carroll Street, left the Island 40 years ago or never lived anywhere else, about a thousand people for whom City Island will always be home gathered together for the second City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field on Aug. 18, 2012, and reconnected with the people, places and experiences that helped shape much of their identity and their lives.

"This place will forever be home to me," said Joanne Tangorra, who grew up on Kirby Street and left in the late 1970s to pursue a successful career as a writer and editor in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "It was the best place to grow up. The best place in the world, and I miss it every day."

Joanne is one of hundreds who came back to the reunion after attending the first one in 2010, and she spent the day reuniting with dozens of old classmates, neighbors and friends, all of whom share her affection for City Island.

Lori Burke, who now lives in West Palm Beach, grew up here and spent many of her young adult years on the Island. As she put it: "This all started with an idea on Facebook four years ago, and it grew into a viral thing that just gathered momentum to the point that people who never even heard of Facebook were talking about it."

In 2010, hundreds came out for a full day of music, games, food and, more importantly, conversation with old friends.

This time, everyone agreed, it was bigger and better attended, with tents and barbecues, games and music going well into the night.

"I saw many more people than I did the previous time," Lori added. "It is a wonderful thing, and it is a boon to the local economy as well. Look at all the tents and the people here." She added "We all owe a lot to Lynn McCluskey. If Lynn hadn't started this, we would not be here."

Lynn, a southern California resident, flies back here every two years, a week in advance of the event, to help the other dedicated volunteers, such as Bob Carmody, put the final details together. She said that none of this would be possible without dozens of volunteers like herself who spend the better part of a year getting the word out, collecting money in advance to pay planning expenses, and taking care of all the details required to get Ambrosini Field ready for the day-long celebration.

Cathy Ambrosini, the widow of Anthony Ambrosini, for whom the field is named, was one of the first to arrive on reunion day. "This is just wonderful, because I'm sure that everyone who comes here knows that this park is named Ambrosini Field after my late husband, a man who taught sports and sportsmanship to many of the people returning here today. When they come to this reunion, they think of

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THE BRIDGE BATTLE RAGES ON

By JANE PROTZMAN

Many residents of City Island, as well as organizations such as the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce, have been protesting since 2002 the imposition of a huge cable-stayed bridge by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) as a replacement for our 1901 vintage historic bridge. DOT has steadily refused to listen to Islanders complaining about the design, the budget (which has increased from \$32 million to \$149.5 million), and the unsuitability of such a bridge for the community. Thanks to the sharp eyes of the Bronx Borough President's office, DOT may have to face the community after all.

On Wednesday, August 8, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. joined with Comptroller John Liu and Councilman James Vacca to issue a press release indicating that DOT had failed to obtain a ULURP permit (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) to build the new bridge. Obtaining this permit to alter the grading of a city street would involve public hearings with the local Community Board 10 and a vote from the City Council. DOT has presented its proposed plans to the community at least twice in the past few years but has not accepted arguments or comments about the bridge design, nor was a vote ever requested.

Both the *New York Daily News* and the *Post* ran articles on Aug. 9 about this latest development, quoting a DOT spokesman who blamed City Island residents for the increase in budget because they "requested three lanes for a temporary bridge rather than two" and because they "asked the DOT to repair an esplanade near the bridge." The spokesman also pointed out that DOT "received public input at several community meetings."

Residents responding to the newspapers were quick to point out that both the three-lane temporary bridge and the esplanade repair should have been part of the original budget. "DOT should certainly have been aware of the traffic problems on City Island and recognized that the lack of an emergency fire lane would have been a disaster," said Barbara Dolensek of the Civic Association. "And because DOT was planning to demolish the esplanade for the temporary bridge, it follows that they should have included the cost to repair it." She went on to speculate that "these costs were not included in the original budget in order that it look more reasonable in com-

parison to rehabilitating the old bridge. "If DOT had been listening to us, they would have known that most residents objected to the design." When the City Island Garden Club proposed a causeway type of bridge, such as that constructed in Minneapolis over the Mississippi in 2009, DOT ignored the suggestion.

The claim by DOT that the height of the bridge was reduced in response to the community's wishes is only partly true. Gandhi Engineering, the firm that recommended demolition of the existing bridge in 1998, originally proposed a 450-foot cable-stayed bridge and a 250-foot alternative. Local elected officials informed community leaders in 2002 that these were the only two options being offered and recommended the lower of the two, which was subsequently lowered to 50 meters (or 164 feet), nearly 10 times the height of the current bridge. This reduced height resulted in thicker towers, so that the current design resembles football goal posts, or, as one resident put it, "the Honda symbol."

The design, which many residents feel is inappropriate to the historic, low-rise City Island community, is not the only issue, however. Concern has been raised that Gandhi has never before designed any bridge, let alone an original design of this kind. Their proposed cable-stayed bridge design, now over 10 years old, was selected when New York City was hoping to host the 2012 Olympics, but it is no longer a "state of the art" bridge. Many residents feel that a simple but attractive stone and concrete causeway would be cost-effective and more appropriate to the site. The causeway bridge in Minneapolis, for example, was delivered under budget, ahead of schedule, likely because much of it was built off-site, like the recently refurbished Willis Avenue Bridge in New York City. If a causeway were situated alongside the existing bridge instead of on the same footprint, the extra expense and disruption of traffic caused by a temporary bridge would not be necessary.

The primary issue for residents, however, is that of budget. New York City is covering only a small fraction of the cost, as is New York State, but the Federal government is providing \$100 million for the project, and that is still taxpayer money no matter where it comes from. Unless, of course, the money is really coming from Honda, which of course raises all sorts of other concerns!

BRIEFLY...

REMEMBRANCE AND MEMORIAL CEREMONY at the 9/11 Cross in Pelham Cemetery on Oct. 3, 2012 at 1 p.m. Please join members of AARP Chapter 318 of City Island to remember those lost on 9/11 and the first responders. We will also honor our troops, who defend us and protect our freedoms. All are welcome.

ANNUAL HUTCHINSON RIVER CLEANUP scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Put the date on your calendar and check this website for details, www.hutchinsonriverrestorationproject.org, or call 718-885-9653.

BOY SCOUTS START NEW SEASON. Be part of Boy Scouting on City Island. All boys who are ready to be active and challenged, and who are between 11 and 17 years old, are welcome to join Troop 211. The first meeting is Friday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, on Bay St. and City Island Ave. For more information, e-mail troop211ideas@yahoo.com. Start your journey this fall!

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP will take place on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the City Island Bridge and adjacent Orchard Beach area. Sponsored by the American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy, this event is intended to enlist volunteers to remove and record the amounts and types of litter found and study the results. Many volunteers are needed. For further information, please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

"THE LARAMIE PROJECT" by Moises Kaufman, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group as a staged reading on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. Reservations can be made by calling 718-885-3066 or by e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

AUDITIONS for the City Island Theater Group's November production of George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner" will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m., at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. Production dates for the play are the first three weekends of November.

Police Chase Motorcyclists and Control Summer Traffic

By PAUL NANI

Police from the 45th Precinct and traffic agents came together again during the summer of 2012 to deal with the perennial weekend traffic on City Island. This included agents stationed at the major intersections along the avenue, as well as at the circle and the City Island Bridge.

In response to Islanders' complaints, the 45th Precinct also set up traffic stops targeting motorcyclists, who routinely violate the fire lane rules and speed down City Island Avenue. One stop on July 27 resulted in numerous summonses, confiscations and a wild chase of fleeing, unlicensed motorcyclists.

The consistent police presence on summer weekends goes back to a joint effort in 2009 by the City Island Civic Association, local elected officials and the New York City Police Department to address the long-standing issue of traffic congestion on the roads in and around the island.

The effort begins on Mother's Day every year, but the traffic detail doesn't get into full swing until the end of June when the school safety officers can be reassigned to supplement the efforts of traffic agents. It is important for City Island residents to know that traffic agents do not report to the NYPD's Bronx Borough Commander and can only be requested. Therefore, they are not always available to cover City Island every weekend depending on the traffic needs elsewhere in the city.

With the support of Captain Russell Green of the 45th Precinct, police are also assigned to support the efforts of the traf-

fic agents, especially when it comes to DUI and motorcycle checkpoints on the City Island Bridge.

The motorcycle problem raises its noisy head every year, and residents have expressed alarm at the dangerous showboating of the cyclists. Bill Stuttig told *The Current*: "I saw a motorcyclist lose control of his bike while popping a wheelie, and the bike went careening into a sidewalk near Grace Church. If somebody was walking there, they would have been seriously injured. It is a little disconcerting when I am walking my dog on a crowded Sunday night and see this reckless showboating, when you know that if any of these clowns lose control, you have no defense except to hope that they don't hit you."

After a successful program in June, another checkpoint was set up on the City Island Bridge on July 27. According to the 45th Precinct's Community Affairs Officer, Diana Beato, 70 motorcycles were stopped, eight were seized, five summonses were issued and three arrests were made.

During the police check, some motorcyclists tried to flee the scene. Neighbors on Terrace Street and King Avenue were surprised to find police chasing these suspects on the street and, in some cases, into their backyards.

Johnathan Jeter, 32, from Queens, and Angel Montanez, 40, from the Bronx, were charged with reckless endangerment, resisting arrest and criminal trespass. Jose Lebron was also charged with driving with

a suspended license, according to Officer Beato.

The traffic enforcement extends to residents as well. Captain Green told the Civic Association's traffic committee that tickets have been issued to many Islanders who also violate the fire lane, speed on City Island Avenue and run red lights. He reported that on occasion, Islanders will complain about being ticketed with such

comments as "but I live here." He reminds residents that they are subject to the same traffic laws as off-Islanders.

If you have traffic concerns, voice them at the next Civic Association meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25, or send a message to the traffic committee at city.island.civic@mac.com. You can also send an email to the 45th Precinct at cao45pct@aol.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during the summer of 2012. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 3 – ASSAULT
- 1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
- 1 – EXECUTION OF A SEARCH WARRANT
- 1 – DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE
- 2 – RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT (MOTORCYCLE)
- 2 – RESISTING ARREST
- 1 – DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE (MOTORCYCLE)
- 1 – AUTOMOBILE STRIPPING

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from June 21 to Aug. 20, 2012.

6/21 – Police are investigating a report of assault at 11:30 p.m. on Bridge Street. An unknown male allegedly struck a female with a closed fist following a verbal dispute.

6/22 – At 9 p.m. on City Island Avenue, two off-Island males were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

6/29 – At 11:15 p.m. on City Island Avenue and Pell Place, police arrested an off-Island male and charged him with criminal possession of a weapon. Police stopped the driver after he threw a bottle out of the window of his vehicle. Following a search of the vehicle, a gravity knife and other weapons were found.

6/30 – An off-Island male was arrested and charged with assault on Carroll Street at 1:08 a.m. The perpetrator allegedly punched the complainant in the jaw, causing injury.

The victim was taken to Jacobi Hospital.

7/1 – An off-Island female was charged with DWI after crashing into three parked cars at 2:30 a.m. on City Island Avenue and Bridge Street.

7/5 – Detectives are investigating a case of grand larceny. A Minneford Avenue resident reported that four checks had been forged and cashed from the owner's accounts without permission. The victim was told to close the accounts, and the incident was reported to the Fraud Department of the bank involved.

7/8 – Police are searching for the driver of a vehicle that struck a bicyclist on City Island Avenue at 1 p.m. and then fled the scene.

7/27 – On City Island Avenue at Bridge Street, two off-Island male motorcyclists were arrested and charged with reckless endangerment and resisting arrest. Another male was arrested for unlicensed operation of a motorcycle (see story this page).

7/27 – On Minneford Avenue, an Island male, 52, was arrested following positive results from the execution of a search warrant by police.

7/30 – At 11 p.m. on Pell Place and City Island Avenue, an Island male was arrested and charged with assault stemming from an incident on July 13. The defendant allegedly punched and kicked an off-Island male.

8/13 – At 3:40 a.m. on City Island Avenue, two males were observed removing parts of a vehicle for which they had no paperwork. One male was arrested and the other fled the scene.

8/16 – Police are investigating an incident of petit larceny on Hawkins Street at 6 p.m. The owner of a vehicle returned to find that unknown persons had broken the passenger window and removed items from the vehicle.

8/19 – An off-Island male was arrested at 2:15 a.m. on City Island Avenue and Bridge Street. The driver was stopped for failure to turn on his headlights and found to be driving with a suspended license. A search of the vehicle by police also revealed a gravity knife and the defendant was charged with possession of a weapon.



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Pelham Cemetery Names New Officers and Trustees

By BARBARA HARRISON



Photos by BARBARA HARRISON

The remains of Caleb Carman of the United States Navy, who died January 26, 1880, after the Civil War, rest in Pelham Cemetery in the Samuel Pell plot. Pictured at the headstone are his great-grandchildren Islanders Charles (left) and David (right). Caleb was a sailor on *Monitor*, known for its battle with the *Merrimac*. Two of Caleb's sons built Stepping Stones Lighthouse. Caleb's headstone is actually made of metal, perhaps iron, and on the reverse is a relief of a Civil War soldier.

As it has done annually since its incorporation on May 5, 1881, the Pelham Cemetery Association held a meeting of its board of directors and lot holders, when those who own graves or plots or have relatives interred at Pelham Cemetery convene to review the past year and plan for the next. The meeting held on Tuesday, July 24, drew many more attendees than usual.

Several issues affecting the organization and the community needed to be addressed. Complaints had been received regarding the care and maintenance of the grounds and plots at the cemetery (see *The Island Current*, July-August 2012). Rumors were spreading that the cemetery was "full" and

that no plots or graves were available. New board members were needed to replace longtime trustee William Clancy, who died in July, and the president, Charles Vincent, and his wife, Holly, the Association's secretary/treasurer, are relocating to Florida. In addition, past president/superintendent John Ulmer and his wife, Linda, the Association's new secretary, felt that the group needed "younger blood," since they were, in their words, "dealing with the limitations of getting older."

Charles Vincent opened the meeting by stating that the Pelham Cemetery Association is a not-for-profit organization and must comply with and abide by the New York

State Cemetery Board's Rules and Regulations through its administrative arm, the Division of Cemeteries of the Department of State.* These rules, he noted, are stringent and impact everything the cemetery association can do from size of graves and maintenance of the property to communications and the reporting of finances.

Mr. Vincent explained that the recently dismissed superintendent was extremely lax in his responsibilities, which caused the complaints from relatives and owners who had paid for perpetual care for graves. A new superintendent, Raymond Carotenuto, who works at St. Peter's Cemetery, has excellent credentials and has been hired and entrusted with the care of this special piece of Island history. Superintendents, who are on call virtually 24 hours a day for funerals, requests for setting stones, grave purchases and so on, receive a salary, as well as a monthly stipend for maintaining the grounds, headstones and monuments. Since he was hired, improvements are already noticeable.

Linda Ulmer reported that the board voted to nominate Virginia Gallagher, currently a trustee, to the office of president. Babette Martin was appointed treasurer, also a salaried position, and Linda Ulmer was appointed to fill the office of secretary. Trustee nominations are Amy Breen, Annemarie Goonan, William Stuttig, Joseph Goulden, Debra Ulmer and Franz Helmke. Bill Clancy Jr. is stepping in for his father. These positions, as specified in the not-for-profit incorporation papers, have a three-year term and no term limits, but they have traditionally been for life or until a resignation is accepted.

There are more than 2,000 graves in Pelham Cemetery. A grave is 3 feet by 10 feet and may hold one body and two cremains (the term used for the urned ashes of the deceased); two bodies or four cremains; or three bodies, in very rare circumstances, and no cremains. In addition, there are smaller cremain graves available. These limits are set forth in the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

A single grave may be purchased for \$5,000 with a \$2,000 fee for perpetual care on the plot. A cremains plot may be purchased for \$3,750 with a \$1,000 fee for

perpetual care. There are charges for interments as they occur. Grave owners may sell their plot back to the cemetery for the price they paid but may not sell it to anyone else. The superintendent is the contact person for grave purchases.

Meeting attendees also learned about attempts to grow the cemetery through landfill expansion in the late 1980s, attempts that were vetoed by the City Island Civic Association. In the mid-1990s, the cemetery successfully claimed access or right-of-way to the cemetery through Fordham Place and the east end of Tier Street. This access was sorely needed to accommodate vehicles to repair the sea wall protecting and maintaining the grave sites. The association owns the riparian, or underwater, rights to 400 feet extending into in Long Island Sound. Recently the cemetery considered a cremation wall project, but it was dropped for lack of interest. Pelham Cemetery is non-denominational and, in 1964, the land was consecrated for Catholic burials.

Plans for the future of the Pelham Cemetery Association include the development of an informative website, perhaps with the list of burials since 1922. Records before that date, other than information on the actual headstones, were destroyed in a fire and no longer exist. Information on the rules, regulations and purchase information would also be included. Also, a committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of creating a not-for-profit "Friends of Pelham Cemetery" organization that would have the capability of engaging in fund-raising efforts.

The late John McNamara, a local historian, noted at the centennial anniversary of the association that "a walk through City Island's cemetery is like a trip back in time. Quaintly carved tombstones have the same names given to some of the Island's streets... military titles dating back to all the wars this country has been in... seafaring ranks that smack of long voyages." May they all Rest in Peace.

* For those interested, you may visit www.dos.ny.gov/cmty/index.html and view *Legal Memorandum CE01 and CE02 Cemetery Regulation in New York State and Responsibilities of Officers, Directors and Trustees of Cemetery Corporations*.

CON ED'S "WEAK LOOP"

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

During the week of July 16, there were at least three power outages on City Island, most of them affecting the west side of the island, or "the weak loop," as one Con Edison worker called it. The first outage, on Monday the 16th, lasted four hours and affected the Pilot Cove Senior Residence, which has a generator that allows the elevators to work but not the air conditioning units in individual apartments.

The second outage, on Wednesday, July 18, lasted about two hours and again put a few local businesses on hold, including the IGA and The Art of Beauty, along with the same residents who had suffered the outage on Monday. There were other, intermittent outages, caused presumably by the high temperatures, since none of them took place during or after thunderstorms.

The first two outages took place during the period when Con Ed union workers were not on the job and when managers were handling repairs as well as other

maintenance duties. One of the workers told a resident that it was often difficult to pinpoint the cause of outages on City Island because of the long distance that power had to travel from New Rochelle. He even acknowledged that Con Ed could probably not handle the increased number of new housing units being planned by various developers who await an improved housing market to begin construction. He suggested that City Island have its own substation, although he agreed that this would be both unsightly and costly.

Council Member James Vacca is very concerned about this situation and insists that an air-conditioned cooling center, supported by a generator, be set up on City Island as soon as possible so that residents of Pilot Cove and others at risk could have a place to go during outages. In the meantime, he is exploring various alternatives with Con Edison to improve the situation on City Island and encourages residents to alert Con Ed and himself when outages occur.

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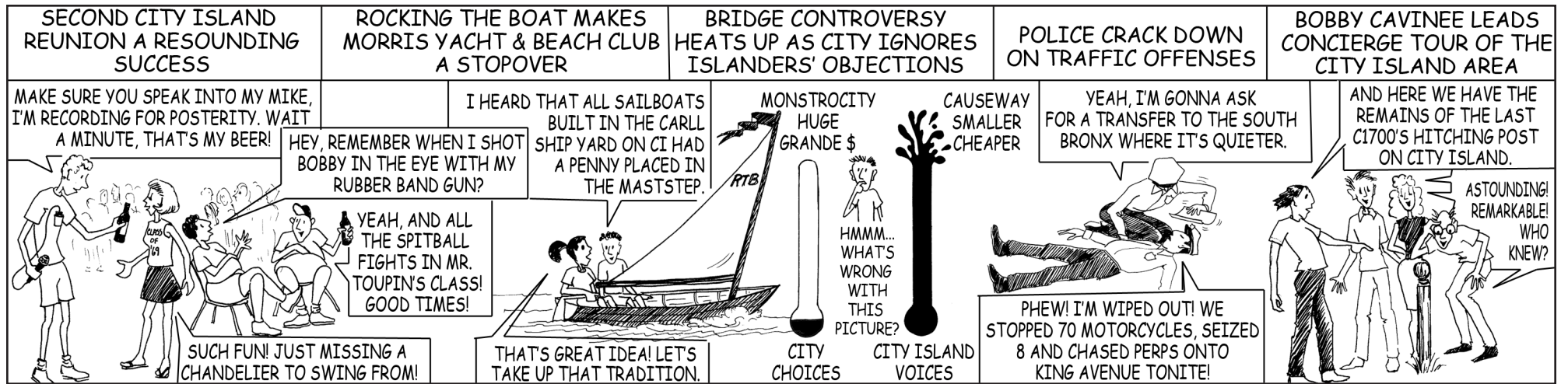
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Remembering Bill Clancy

To the Editor:

Today I heard of the loss of Bill Clancy, a City Islander I had the pleasure of knowing for most of my adult life, as he lived right across from the boat club.

A few months ago, he called me and we spoke on the phone, reminiscing about the Island, the boat club, the family boat (the *Chief*) and their summertime fondness for partying till sunset, all the while rendezvousing with other City Islanders right off of Beach Street.

He was such an uncommonly dear man that I cannot begin to imagine how deeply stung his family must feel at his passing.

He wrote a sweet note to me a few months ago, and I would like to quote him: "I always viewed my family relationship with Grants Boat Club and you and yours with great love and affection. As I said today, it was much more than a club relationship. More akin to a little village or a family. City Islanders who did not partake in the boating world missed a lot. The nuances and subtleties of one's life and surroundings are so important, so lasting, so pleasant to recall. We were all blessed." That was so Bill.

Sincerest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

Fay Jordaens

Hail and Farewell

To My Fellow City Islanders:

I am writing to you on behalf of the entire Clancy clan to tell the story of my dad, Bill Clancy, who passed away in July very suddenly from heart failure, which came as a great shock to us all. But upon reflection, I must say that he died the way he lived—full force. He was a dynamo, involved in a thousand good causes, and in the end no one could deny that he lived an excellent life, one worthy of a few lines. Let me share some of the highlights of my father's life, since he was a great character and friend who touched many of us here on City Island and beyond.

Bill's father was an Irish immigrant, from Limerick, and as a father of two who worked in the critical war industry in City Island's boatyards, he was deferred from the draft but went into the Army anyway. He felt that, as a new American, he would be ashamed not to serve in World War II. His selflessness and sense of service were no doubt imprinted on his sons.

Molded by this example, Bill began life much like any other kid on City Island. From his earliest days, Bill volunteered in the community: he played the bugle in the Legion band, sang and acted in Patchwork (City Island's original theater group) and worked at a variety of jobs. One of his first paid jobs was at the City Island A&P, which included delivering groceries by boat to the lighthouse keepers of Stepping Stones and Execution

lighthouses. His career as a bugler lasted for decades, culminating in a nationally ranked drum-and-bugle corps called the Skyliners. Later in life, Bill joked that he could play the kazoo (and he often did), but he was also an ace bugler and trombone player.

Bill also loved sports, probably his first true passion in life. He played baseball (coached by Ambro Ambrosini) and football (coached by Bob Lachman). At college, Bill found that his six-foot, 165-pound frame was not ideally suited for college football, so he took up lacrosse. As a mid-fielder, he played well into his 20s and played as a semi-pro with a precursor of the New York Saints on Long Island. An avid sports fan, he loved the Giants (both of them), adopted the Mets after the baseball Giants defected and never lost faith in the Rangers. One of his favorite bits of memorabilia was a puck covered in sports tape and signed by the Stanley Cup-winning Rangers team in 1940.

Bill was a good student and excelled at math, a subject that he often applied later in the construction business. He always said that his love of math came from the nuns at St Mary's, who pushed him into it. Most of us have forgotten that Bill suffered from a semi-debilitating stutter for much of his life. His teachers pushed him toward a profession that would require more logic than speaking, but little did they know that logic would often not apply in Bill's life and that talking with people was one of his favorite things. After 40 years, he was finally cured by City Island's own Ray Weis, who aside from being a killer DJ is also a highly talented speech pathologist.

Bill's 50-year career as a carpenter was launched by his work at Nevins and Minneford. Forty-two of those years were in the union, downtown and in Westchester, but Bill always said that he never met more talented, or eccentric, men than he did while learning to build virtually anything (including a few boats) in those old yards. His sons grew up listening to an endless litany of tales about the workers at Nevins and Minneford. Bill Fetzer, the general superintendent of Minneford back then, was like a folk hero in our house, one of the few people Bill ever credited for having formed him into the professional builder he became.

Just as his career at Minneford got started, Bill was drafted into the Army. He was assigned to West Point as a trainer for the West Point lacrosse team (a fact we could never forget in our dozens of trips to West Point visiting son no. 2, Mike, West Point Class of '93). Midway through what promised to be a quiet two-year draft enlistment, Bill stumbled into the West Point Superintendent, a little-known general named Westmoreland, who thought it would be good for some of his young troops to go to the Army's Airborne School. So Bill became a paratrooper; when the Soviets erected the Berlin wall, the Army sent every combat soldier they could muster to Europe. Bill left by ship from the Brooklyn Army Terminal and joined the 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as a surveyor with the combat engineers. We think he always regretted not going to Vietnam, but his battle was to be on the home front, one he was destined to fight for the next 50 years as a champion for veterans.

All Bill's achievements pale, however, when compared to his decades of community service to City Island, but the American Legion was the most significant of all his contributions. He served as commander of the Leonard Hawkins Post on City Island several times and held higher ranks in the county and state. He helped organize the Boy's State Program and led efforts to raise awareness about our POW-MIAs, efforts that culminated in the POW flag being added to flagpoles across

the country. Bill tirelessly lobbied our elected officials on behalf of veterans and helped countless veterans in their transition out of the service right up to their VA burial rights. He made an annual pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., where he led platoons of legionaries, hunting down our politicians until they had at least heard out our veteran advocates.

On a personal level, Bill always loved the water, a love handed down from his own father, who had been an Abbey Salmon Fishermen on the Shannon River in Ireland. Bill had many boats throughout his life and wrote an annual article on the New York Boat Show for *The Island Current*. That tradition began in the earliest days of *The Current*, and I'm happy to report that the mantle has been passed on to yours truly, number 3 son, Greg. I must admit to having some misgivings about working under an editor-in-chief (even one who is currently emeritus), as draconian as the reviled Sally McCheap. All kidding aside, one of the items found in Bill's house was a check, signed by Judy Rauh, for expense reimbursement for the boat show in 1987. The amount was \$25 dollars, but Bill never cashed it. He never really wanted expenses, but he loved having an excuse to tease his very dear friend, Sally McPherson, longtime editor of the newspaper. He loved writing the Boat Show article every year and had asked me to pick up the mantle one day. Sadly, that day is here, but happily the Boat Show article will live on.

Bill also loved to read. He enjoyed history, and politics best off all, with a smattering of arcane trivia and engineering on the side. He had a great sense of humor and was often teased for being funny, even when he didn't mean to be. Most of all, however, Bill loved people. There was nothing better than a cold beer and a good long chat with friends. It didn't matter if you were the mayor, a millionaire or just a Joe down the street—he never judged, and he treated everyone the same. He usually tried to give them all some advice (the mayor and the millionaires most of all), but mostly he was just a good friend, and everyone who crossed his path was better off for it.

Many people have asked us over the years if Bill was as good a dad to us as he was a friend to them. My response is this: think of the best father you can imagine, and that was Bill. He always had time for us; he always had advice for us; and he always had a mission for us to work on together. We spent our winters walking through Pelham Bay Park and our summers on his boat, the *Kitty Clyde*. When we weren't goofing off, we were doing jobs, usually volunteer ones. He included us in everything and always made it fun.

He was immensely proud of Bill Jr., who went on to found a successful business; of Mike, a West Point grad and 20-year Army lieutenant colonel; and of me, who spent five years in the Marines before becoming a prolific creator of small human beings. Recently, we were privileged to watch this cycle repeat itself as Bill interacted with his four grandsons, Patrick, Matthew, James and Geir. Bill's fatherly impact extended far beyond his own boys, however. Whether through Boy Scouts, the Sons of the American Legion or just hanging around, many City Islanders looked up to Bill as a second father, an uncle or a big brother. In the words of Jim Livingston, he was our Pop. Little did the Clancys realize just how many people felt that way until now.

Bill is survived by a vibrant clan of relatives, who live all over the place, but most of all, Bill is survived by a countless number of friends. He was our leader, our captain and our friend. We will miss him sorely, but we will keep in mind that he did live a long and wonderful life. He would not have tolerated anyone crying over him, and so we won't. Instead, we

will remember him with a smile, and we will soldier on as he would have—happy, selfless and proud of who we are.

Greg Clancy

Reunion Thanks

To the City Island Community:

There is no question that the City Island Reunion 2012 on Aug. 18 was a great success. This didn't just happen. A lot of people put in a lot of time to help make the reunion as wonderful as it was.

The coordinator was the tireless Lynn McCluskey (California), and she was helped by co-coordinator Bob Carmody (City Island) and the music coordinator, Charlie DiMaggio (Texas).

The many volunteers included Jane Ferris, Marguerite Trombetta, Lori Burke, Joanne Valetta, Monica Murphy, Cathy Cebek, Jackie Roche, Sue D'Allesandro, Bill Cus, Candy Mancuso, Maryanne Dolphin, Pat Dolphin, Mike Pryor, John Di Stefano, Judy Tomsen, the Rev. Angela Puco, Lisa Minetti (sail painting), Laury Hopkins (face painting), Rich DeWitt (photography), Steve Michaels (sanitation), Jeff Bremen (stage builder and security), John Monahan (stage), Marcy Brennan (electricity) and Kelly Carmody of The Clubhouse (stage and hydrating crew).

Support was also provided by the City Island Civic Association (\$250), Amanda Bear Party Rentals (discount on tents), Robbie Vogel (sound), Billy Lee (lights) and Mark Piri (lighting assistant).

The wonderful music came from Nick Butterworth, Elliott Glick, Barry Gunzel, Blue Collar, The Potato Heads, Matt Louis Project, Troy Willy and Sunstone (Texas).

After praying for the sun at 10:30 a.m., the rain stopped at 10:35, and the day could not have been better. There were smiles and tears all day long, great music and dancing, and wonderful food. It was tons of fun, which continued all along the Avenue into the night.

Thanks to John Tomsen and the City Island Little League for use of club house; to Keith and Charlie Krieg and Seth for the volleyball setup and Tony from Filomena's Pizza for the barbecue station.

See you all in four years!

Bob Carmody

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New York's Greatest Secret: Manhattan Concierges Explore City Island

By KIM PIOTROWSKI



Photos by KIM PIOTROWSKI

Manhattan hoteliers, concierges and travel agents were treated to a special day of sightseeing on June 25, 2012, organized by the City Island Chamber of Commerce and led by Maria Caruso of Bistro SK. The goal of Concierge Day was to show Manhattan vacationers how much to experience in the City Island area. Islander Robert Cavinee was the official tour guide for the group, which traveled by the Bronx trolley to the Nautical Museum, Orchard Beach (top right photo) and Bartow-Pell Mansion (bottom right photo).

When you hear the acronym CIA, you probably think of the secret government organization, but think again. City Island and its immediate surroundings, or City Island Area, were recently given the same nickname, and appropriately so, since this CIA remains an undiscovered part of New York City, even to many New Yorkers.

In the interest of attracting more visitors to this hidden part of the Bronx, Manhattan hoteliers, concierges and travel agents were treated to a special day of sightseeing on June 25, 2012, organized by the City Island Chamber of Commerce and led by Maria Caruso of Bistro SK. The goal of Concierge Day was to show Manhattan vacationers that there is much to experience in New York City, if you dare to venture off that other island.

Concierge Day started with an early pick up at the deluxe Pierre Hotel in midtown Manhattan by the Bronx Seaside Trolley, and the first stop was the Split Rock Golf Course clubhouse on Shore Road, an impressive structure that opens up onto a sprawling manicured lawn that is open to the public for breakfast and lunch.

That visit was followed by a private tour of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum just across Shore Road, a bucolic landmark estate comprising a mansion, gardens and a carriage house where special events and programs take place all year long. The visitors were especially impressed by the stunning elliptical staircase and the genuine Native American wigwam. Today, the estate is a preserved glimpse into 19th-century life, a lone survivor of architecturally important houses in Pelham Bay Park demolished by Robert Moses when he created Orchard Beach, where the group

made a quick unscheduled stop to view the "Riviera of New York City."

A perfectly timed lunch at Sea Shore Restaurant provided a welcome respite with a smorgasbord of wholesome dishes from the sea accompanied by a selection of wines.

Housed in a former schoolhouse, the City Island Nautical Museum is a jewel for lovers of maritime history told through lore and legends, photographs, memorabilia and ephemera that emphasize the importance of the CIA and its role in the nautical timeline. Visitors were impressed with the exceptional nautical library with newspapers, seafaring reference books and yachting magazines dating back to the early 1900s.

After the museum visit, guests were encouraged to explore the shops and businesses along City Island Avenue, including the laid-back atmosphere of the Starving Artist Café; Kaleidoscope Gallery, where City Island Gold (a local honey) and other gifts may be purchased; and the artistic treasures at the Fe Fi Faux art studio, Early Ruth Antiques and the Focal Point Gallery. After the shopping spree, Maria and her husband, Stephane Kane, hosted a mid-afternoon treat of mussels and chilled French wine at the centrally located Bistro SK.

The Bronx trolley then whisked the Island revelers to the Island Current Fleet dock for a late afternoon cruise to Belden Point and back. Even with the city skyline off to the west, it was easy to forget you were in New York City. The group was joined by Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving Services, who provides classes and certification in scuba, specializes in exploring wrecks, and participates in search and rescue, night and ice diving. Clearly, City



Island remains very much a marine community.

Michelle French, owner of the Samuel Pell house that once housed Le Refuge, provided the perfect setting for a closing cocktail reception, where one could overhear exclamations such as "This was awesome!" and "Who knew!" There was an enthusiastic exchange of business cards between industry colleagues, many of whom were delighted at having discovered this part of the city.

As an effort to promote tourism and draw visitors to another part of the city, Concierge Day was a great success, and both the familiar and the new are sure to be on the menu for next year. Fiorello LaGuardia,

who spent the summer of 1936 living in the Bartow-Pell Mansion, said it best when defending his transition to the Bronx that hot summer by explaining that "the reason I came here was because I wanted to make New Yorkers realize that this is a big city, that it does not all center in Manhattan."

Kim Piotrowski is an artist inspired by organic forms and textile patterns. She studied in Italy and received two master's degrees from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. A proud mussel-sucker, Kim is a recent transplant from the too-hip section of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and is learning to sail in her free time.

PELHAM BAY PARK TREE WORK

By MARIANNE ANDERSON

The Parks Department recently began the second phase of invasive-species removal work at Rodman's Neck. The contractor will work in two locations along both sides of City Island Road between the City Island Bridge and the traffic circle. This work is part of the MillionTrees NYC re-forestation work that has been taking place all around the park for nearly five years.

All work will be overseen by Parks Department's Natural Resources Group. On the south side of the road, work will continue from the areas cleared last summer, and selective removals of invasive species will take place in the forest understory between the ball fields and the NYPD Firing Range. On the north side of City Island Road, removals will take place along the woodland edge adjacent to the bike path.

The areas selected for restoration are within a larger complex of on-going natural areas management sites within Pel-

ham Bay Park. These sites are overrun by invasive species such as porcelainberry, oriental bittersweet, mile-a-minute, and multiflora roses. Removing these invasive, non-native vines and shrubs will enable Parks to reforest the area with native trees and shrubs over the next few years. This natural areas restoration work is a vital step to improve the overall quality of forest in the park, thus enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

MillionTreesNYC, a cornerstone of Mayor Bloomberg's vision to establish a healthier, more sustainable New York City, is a public-private partnership between the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project, through which one million trees will be planted and cared for throughout the five boroughs by 2017. Since MillionTrees NYC was launched in October 2007, more than 600,000 trees have been planted.



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

The City Island Farmer's Market, 644 City Island Avenue, opened by Islanders Paul Prilucik, Bill Wolf and John Weis, is offering fresh produce and bakery goods on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Produce Shed at the Market is also open during the week from 4 to 7:30 p.m. For information, visit www.cityislandfarmersmarket.com or call 718-568-5332.

Dragons Path Academy, 229 City Island Avenue, is offering back-to-school specials in its martial arts after-school program. Fee is \$99 for one month of martial arts classes if you register by Sept. 10. Free uniforms for new members.

Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, will be celebrating 38 years on City Island with an exhibition that opens on Friday, Sept. 7, with a reception from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are an artist and would like to participate in this exhibit, please call 718-885-1403. All work has to be framed ready to hang; there will be a \$20 hanging fee and a 30 percent commission taken off the asking price. Visit www.focalpointgallery.net.

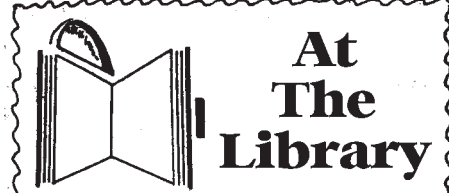
In September, **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) sees the return of Rubber Soul, the Beatles tribute band, on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. as part of "The Artist @..." series at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club (10 Centre Street); \$15 per person. Saturdays also include a "blues party" with Bennett Harris (Sept. 8), acoustic jazz with Brian Conigliaro (Sept. 15), and City Island's own Chris Wertebaker and friends Joel Kaminer and Steve Elliot (Sept. 22); all shows begin at 8 p.m. For a complete schedule, visit www.StarvingArtistOnline.com. During August, Starving Artist owner and songwriter Elliott Glick was a call-in guest on the Military Internet radio station, HooahRadio.com. Glick's CD "Once Upon A Time" has been featured on the station for over a year; among the most requested tracks, according to DJ Bette Carl, are "Heat of the Moment," and "I Look for You."

Effective July 1, 2012 City Island resident **Ed Heben**, decided to return to the individual private practice of personable, quality orientated general public accounting, taxation, business valuations, forensic accountings, damage calculations, fiduciary accountings, and litigation support services at economical professional pricing. Ed's new venue and contact information is as follows: Edward D. Heben CPA, P.C. c/o PMG, CPA's LLP, 135 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504. Telephone 914-273-8300X121 • Facsimile 914 273-8301 • cell phone 914-925-1120. Business Email: eheben@pmgcpa.com. Personal Email edhcpa@yahoo.com. Be sure to revise your contact and referral source records accordingly.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
663 City Island Ave.	5/24/12	\$395,000	Commercial
91 Bay Street	5/24/12	\$460,000	one-family
12 Landing Way	5/30/12	\$440,000	condo
246A Bowne Street	6/5/12	\$355,000	condo
96 Bay Street	6/15/12	\$350,000	one-family
75 Pell Place	7/10/12	\$337,000	one-family
150 Hawkins Street	7/10/12	\$268,500	two-family
15 Landing Way	7/19/12	\$515,000	condo
625 King Avenue	7/27/12	\$598,000	one-family
152 Tier St.	8/18/12	\$230,000	condo



City Island Branch Library Events for September 2012

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

September Children's Programs

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Bilingual Birdies: Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 11 a.m. Newborn to 5 years.

Special Children's Program: Please check our fliers or call for the latest information on this month's special children's program.

September Young Adult Programs

Board Games: Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Music Video Choice: Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

"Yu-Gi-Oh"!: Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Game On: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Tweens and Teen Lounge: Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Special Program: The Science of Pizza: How pizza is made. Check it out! Thursday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m. Ages 12-18.

September Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Ongoing Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Ongoing Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance. A flash drive to save your work is highly recommended.

Introduction to Facebook: Find lost friends and make new ones. Call branch for which Friday this program will be presented.

Lectures: Professor Victor Maestro presents: The Bronx and 9/11. On this, the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, hear Prof. Mastro make the connections between the people of the Bronx and 9/11. Saturday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m.

Jeremy McCue presents: Who is Your Favorite President of All Time? An audience participation lecture on who is your favorite president and why. Feel free to express yourself. Saturday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m.

Please check our fliers for any additional adult programs such as film or lecture for the month of September.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue & Bay Street. Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancelations. You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

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Bartow-Pell Events

Before photography became widely available, silhouette portraits were quick, easy, and affordable. Elegant ladies, family scenes, charming children, and more reveal a compelling slice of life from the golden age of this art form. From Sept. 7 to Nov. 18, BPMM will have an exhibition, called "Shade and Shadow," of a small selection of British and American silhouettes from the museum and four private collections.

First Friday, on Sept. 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., you can enjoy the magic of the mansion at night and the fresh-voiced harmonies of singer/songwriters Hannah & Maggie. View the new exhibition, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. Then hop on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley to explore City Island. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$8 adults, \$5 seniors & students; members free.

Get strong and flexible, de-stress and have fun with yoga taught by certified Anusara® instructor Ann Casapini in a serene, sunlit space in the fall series of yoga in the Orangerie, on Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; and Nov. 2, 9, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. A beginner level class is also suitable for those who want to deepen their practice in a steady, mindful approach. Class size is limited to 12. Registration and pre-payment are required. Cost \$180 for series of ten classes; members \$150.

On Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m., BPMM's Local Author Spotlight series will feature Richard Zacks, who will discuss his widely praised book "Island of Vice," about Teddy Roosevelt's tenure as New York City police commissioner. E. L. Doctorow calls the book "a delicious municipal history. Impeccably researched, excitingly told." A book signing and reception will be held after the presentation. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$7 seniors and students; members free.

Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, make your own silhouettes at a fun family workshop! Using a simple technique, participants young and old will create greeting cards and frameable pictures with cut-out profile self-portraits while learning about 19th-century silhouettes in the fall exhibition. Suitable for ages 7 and up. Registration requested. Space limited. Cost \$12 adults; \$8 students; members \$8.

On Friday, Sept. 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., exhibition curator Margaret Highland will give a members-only tour of the current exhibition of British and American silhouettes. Learn from the expert and enjoy coffee and pastries. Members only.

Registration requested. Free.

A member cocktail reception will be held on Friday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m. Call for details.

Saturday, Sept. 29, from 12 to 4 p.m. will be Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day. Enjoy free guided tours at quarter past the hour.

Sunday, Sept. 30, from 1 to 3 p.m., antique and unique cars will rally to benefit BPMM. Bring a picnic and see and be seen in your wheels. Registration required. Cost \$30 donation per car. Call or e-mail for details.

The First Friday, Oct. 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., enjoy the magic of the mansion at night and the classic bluegrass sound of the Birdhive Boys. Tour the mansion, stroll the garden and enjoy light refreshments. Then hop on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley, which makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island and back. Registration requested. Cost \$8 adults, \$5 seniors & students; members free.

Saturday, Oct. 6 and Sunday, Oct. 7, will be Historic House Trust Festival and OpenHouseNY Weekend with free guided tours by costumed docents from 12 to 4 p.m. Tours start at quarter past the hour.

Saturday, Oct. 6, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., it will be High Time for Low Tea. Enjoy a true Victorian low tea in the mansion's Orangerie served by docents in period dress. Learn about low versus high tea, tea history and etiquette, all while delighting in delicious, traditional tea-time treats. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. Registration required. Cost \$20 per person; members \$15.

And on Sunday, Oct. 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., chef, writer, and James Beard Award-winning cookbook author Judith Choate gives a fascinating talk on "The Versatile Vegetable." After the talk, enjoy pumpkin baked goods from Judith and our own children's garden. Registration requested. Free.

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Photos by RICK DeWITT

Many volunteers and musicians helped make the 2012 City Island reunion a resounding success.

CI Reunion

Continued from page 1

Anthony and they remember him, and I think that's great. I will be coming back here as long as I am alive."

Former Islander Bill Cus recently moved back to the East Coast, near Philadelphia, after living in the western states of Arizona, Colorado and Minnesota for more than 14 years. He said he saw his recent move east as a chance to attend the reunion and be part of the effort of putting it together. "Today I am back home with family and friends," Bill said. "It is really great to be here. This is really special because City Island will always be one big family forever."

Ricky Vogt, a longtime resident of the Island who moved to Hopewell Junction, New York, said that the reunion is a highlight of his year, "People come here I haven't seen in 30 years—all the people I grew up with. It is always a pleasure to come back."

The day was filled with handshakes, hugs and kisses for those who were well remembered. But the story of the day was also told in the glimpses at vaguely familiar faces, followed by curious glances downward at the nametags. Only then did you realize that you had just run into someone you may not have seen since grammar or high school. But still the memories came flooding back, and your first conversation in more than 40 years went on for more than an hour.

That was the magic of this day, and it was replayed time and time again.

"I haven't been back on the Island in over 20 years," said John Roche of Corning, New York, "and it is really nice being back and seeing old friends. Unfortunately, some of them are not with us anymore, but I'm glad I did this and came here today." Kathleen Lynch-Siano, who has lived in Florida for the past 35 years, said: "When you come back here, you never grow up, and you never grow old and you always come home. It is all about friends, the

people you went to kindergarten with and other old friends. This is very special and unique."

Michael Cantor left the Island as a young man in 1976 and now makes his home with his family in Virginia. "It is great to be back on City Island," he said on reunion day, "visiting with all the people I used to know and love. It feels good. It is a very comforting feeling being here today."

Nick Butterworth, a musician living in Chester, New York, who was part of the musical entertainment for the day said: "This is our 'Little Rascals.' This is where we grew up. It is our playground, and it's like family here."

Longtime City Islander Vincent Panzarino, who came to the reunion all the way from Reville Street, said: "This is the best community I have ever known, the best family and friends and the most genuine people. This reunion is like 'Woodstock' for my community but even better—a gathering of old friends who really love each other."

Thora Svalgard, who left the Island as a young girl, returned with her brother Eric to experience the day after hearing from him how great it was two years ago. "It feels great to be back on City Island. I came back here with my husband for a quick visit recently, and I went to see the old house where I grew up. The man who bought the house from my father still lived there, and when he saw me standing outside, he recognized me after all these years—only on City Island!"

Michael Teti from Atlanta, Georgia, made the trip for the second time in two years with Pat, his brother and fellow City Island native. "I come back to the City Island reunion every two years for the experience of being a kid again. You enjoy coming back to see people who no matter what has happened over the years. They see you and they welcome you and they love you. No excuses or apologies are necessary. You lived here, and it doesn't matter what has happened over the years. You are accepted and you are always welcome. That is very special."

Rocking the Boat on City Island

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and courtesy of ROCKING THE BOAT

Members of the youth organization Rocking the Boat sailed their wooden boats to the Morris Yacht Club on Aug. 8, 2012. The organization teaches students how to construct full-size wooden sailboats from start to finish (second photo). In August the students spent four days sailing 35 miles in three of these hand-built wooden boats (inset). After Steve Breines of the Morris welcomed the group and its founder, Adam Green (top photo, left), the teens got to work pitching their tents for the overnight camping stay (bottom photo).

The building of wooden sail boats may be absent from our island these days, but it is alive and well in the South Bronx, thanks in part to connections with the boating community on City Island.

Rocking the Boat is a non-profit organization that challenges underprivileged youth to develop self-confidence and skills. Each year, students work in a professional-grade boat-building shop to construct full-size traditional wooden sailboats from start to finish, including sailing them from the Bronx River to Long Island Sound and back.

In August 2012, 25 high school students spent four days sailing 35 miles in three of these hand-built wooden boats from Hunts Point to Calf Island, a small island preserve off the shore of Greenwich, Connecticut. They made an overnight camping stop along the way at the Morris Yacht Club on City Island and shared their experiences with some Island sailors.

The program's founder, Adam Green, loved returning to City Island with his students. Mr. Green, a native of Manhattan, spent time during his childhood on Pete Seeger's Hudson River sloop *Clearwater*, which was often docked in City Island in

the 1970s. "We have several connections to City Island," he told *The Current*. "Some of the sails for our boats are made with help from Doyle Sailmakers on Fordham Street." The organization also keeps a 30-foot Pearson sailboat at the Minneford yacht yard.

Mr. Green got the idea for Rocking the Boat while he was volunteering at an East Harlem junior high school during a semester off from Vassar in 1995. He led 10 students in the construction of an eight-foot dinghy that they launched at the end of the semester in the school's swimming pool.

After college, he formed the first boat-building program for high school students based out of Hostos Community College in the South Bronx. He took a year off to develop Rocking the Boat into a sustaining youth program, and he honed his own boatbuilding skills as an apprentice on the *Clearwater*.

The program took off, and it now serves 2,500 students and community members annually with environmental and boating programs, including a team-building rowing program, on-water efforts to restore the

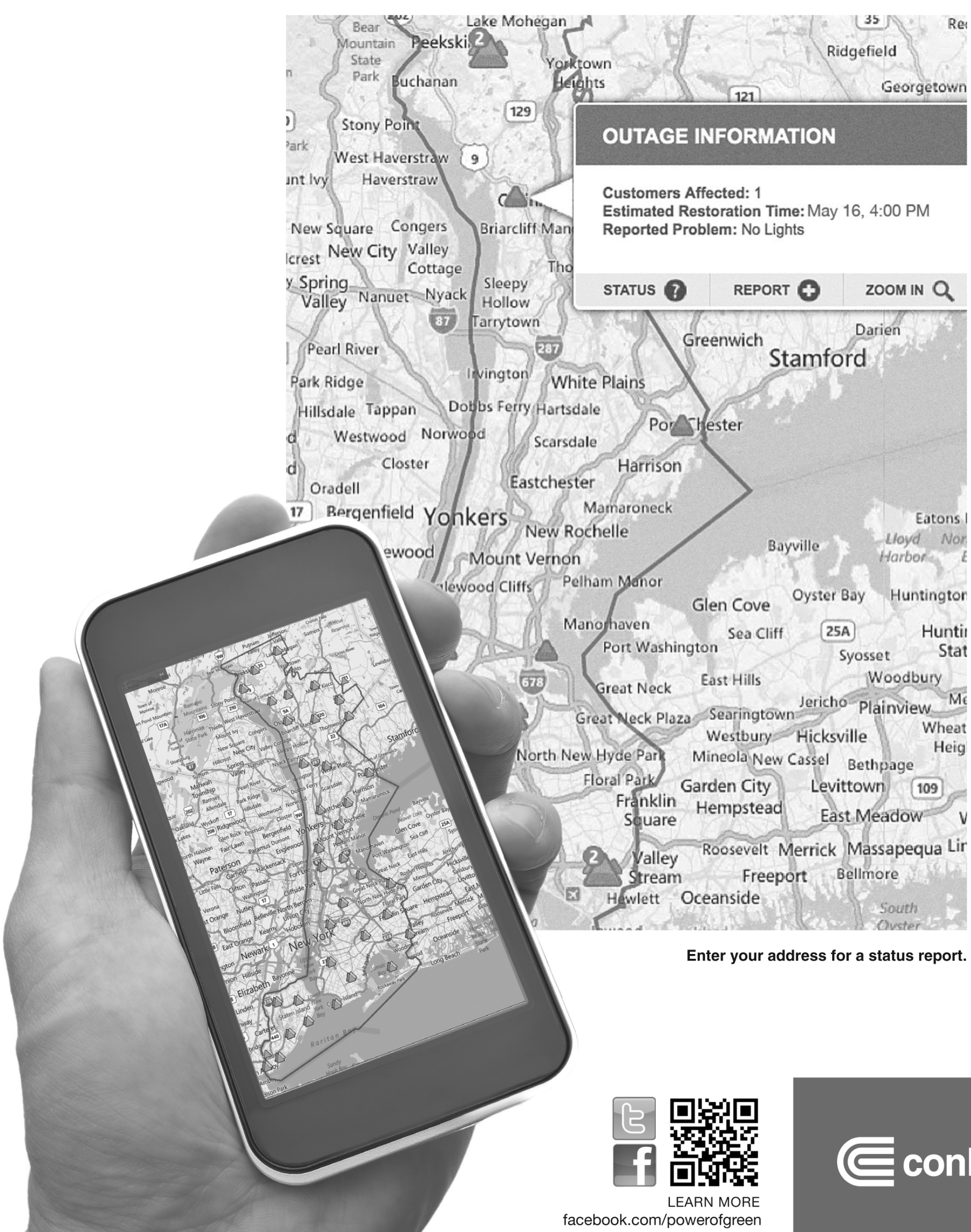
Continued on page 13

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Grace Church Offers Friday Fellowship Meetings

By JOANNE BROGAN

Grace Episcopal Church is pleased to announce they will start to hold Friday Fellowship Nights, which will feature events or talks of interest to the entire City Island community. The first meeting will be on Sept. 14, when several City Island organizations have been invited to talk about the work they do to make the Island a better place to live. Come and learn something new about them. There is no charge and refreshments will be served.

On Oct. 12, the meeting will be a benefit evening in which everyone can help prepare 400 sandwiches for those in need. A representative from POTS (Part of the Solution) will attend, so that this will be a great opportunity to learn more about the organization and the amazing work it does to help our Bronx neighbors. Just bring yourself, the ingredients will be provided.

Local chef and former Next Food Network Star contestant Michael Proietti will demonstrate how to prepare some holiday appetizers and a yule log for dessert on Nov. 30. Please attend and learn how to prepare some new goodies for your holiday table.

On Dec 14, a local CPA will give us

year-end tax tips to help residents work finances to your best advantage before the year is over.

On Jan. 11, the Grace Church parish will be preparing Super Bowl recipes. Learn how to make Bruce's almost world-famous chili, Brenda's hot wings, Joanne's asparagus roll-ups, a spinach dip and a delicious dessert. Come hungry and be ready to help with the prep.

Every parent will benefit from the meeting on Feb. 8. This presentation will be a lecture by John Scardina on "Parenting as a Spiritual Journey."

On March 8, we will all be ready for spring! Come hear some tips from Han Yu Hung Sanderson of the New York Botanical Garden. Grace Church is promising some surprises that will benefit your garden at this meeting.

April 12, Genealogy Night, will bring a lecture by Barbara Dolensek on the history of the Horton family and a genealogy lecture about the Hortons by Philomena Dunn, president of the Westchester County Genealogical Society and independent researcher. If you have ever intended to start searching your family roots, this meeting will show you some records you can use to find them.

On May 24, a professional organizer, Jackie Mastropolo of Spaces Organizing Solutions, will kick start spring cleaning in your home!

The June 14 meeting will feature a talk on "Health for Summertime" with important tips on skin care, nutrition, fitness and wellness.

Grace hopes to see many Islanders at these meetings. For more information, please call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713 or e-mail JoanneOk@aol.com.

"We Don't Grow Children Like That Here."

By MARY MCINTYRE



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The window at 282 City Island Avenue was unveiled on Friday, Aug. 24, to reveal a dramatic interpretation of "The Laramie Project," to be presented in September by the City Island Theater Group.

The City Island Theater Group is expanding an already strong repertoire with its first production of a staged reading. "This is an exciting, new venture that we hope will both entertain and challenge our loyal audiences as well as attract new CITG theater-goers," said Nick Sala, the group's president. "It offers us a wider variety of material to work with." With scripts in hand, a minimal set and minimal costume changes, 19 actors will present a dramatic reading of "The Laramie Project" on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22, at 8 p.m., as well as on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. The Sunday reading will be followed by a brief conversation with the actors.

"The Laramie Project" is the story of the brutal beating and murder of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay student at the University of Wyoming in 1998. The incident set off a nationwide debate regarding hate crimes and homophobia and spurred the movement for hate-crime legislation. A month later, Moises Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project of New York City went to Laramie, and over the course of one year they conducted more than 200 interviews with residents of the town of Laramie. This play is a combination of the interviews and the interviewers' personal

journals and notes. Moises Kaufman did not aim to focus on the assault but "rather on the community where such an act could happen," creating a cross-section of American views on homosexuality, religion and class.

Elizabeth Paldino of the CITG, who is director of the production, told *The Current*: "Even though 'The Laramie Project' is based on an event that took place almost 15 years ago, it still resonates today. It is not just about a hate crime or homosexuality; it is about how people are treated just because they are different. Laramie was just a small town tucked away in Wyoming. It could happen anywhere, even on our small, sheltered island."

The cast includes Nic Anthony Calabro, Danny Conover, Rose DeMonte, Eileen Fox, Sarah Harrold, Jennie Leclere, Thomas Losito, Christopher McGowan, Emily McSpadden, Susan Rauh, Andy Ravick, Paula Jean Rocheleau, Cathy Romanovitch, Frank Siciliano, Shante Skyers, Katrina Snyder, Lindy Tabano, Susan Velcheck and Denis Zepeda.

As word has spread on City Island about this production, the response has been strong and encouraging. "A brave choice." "Bold, courageous." "I will definitely see this."

All tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made by calling 718-885-3066 or e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

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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

SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 8 and 9, **Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Fri., Sept. 14, **Boy Scout Troop 211 Registration**, 7:30 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church hall at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street.

Thurs., Sept. 20, **Community Board 10**, Providence Rest, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 23, **Thomas Pell Sanctuary Clean-up**, starting at 9 a.m. For information, go to www.hutchinsonriverrestorationproject.org.

Tues., Sept. 25, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Sept. 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chicken with peppers, potatoes and onions.

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Sept. 28 to 30, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Republicans

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post. We will be discussing the upcoming election.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

In early September, we bid good-bye to Fr. Alexander Iheonunekwu, who was with us for the months of July and August. He will return to his parish work as pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Nigeria. We wish him God speed.

St. Mary's School will officially open on Tuesday, Sept. 4, when the faculty will gather for the opening Conference Day. Students will report on Wednesday, Sept. 5. We hope the year will be an enriching and challenging one for all.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, we will hold our annual outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's school yard. This is always a very special occasion, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Sunday, Sept. 16, has been designated as Catechetical Sunday throughout the country. Because of our special evening Mass the previous day, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday the following week, Sept. 23. At the 10 o'clock Mass, we will commission our catechists for the work they will do in our religious education program throughout the year.

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 19, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and grades 4 through 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registrations should be sent to Sr. Bernadette as soon as possible. All students can obtain forms from the rectory or in the vestibule of the church. New students must present a copy of a baptismal certificate if he or she has not been baptized in St. Mary, Star of the Sea.

The following Wednesday, Sept. 26, is Yom Kippur, and all public schools are closed, so there will be no religious education classes.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will reopen officially on Thursday, Sept. 20. Come and check out all the fall selections.

Our monthly holy hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will have its grand opening on Thursday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come see our fall and winter collection of new and gently used men's and women's apparel, children's items, shoes, bags, linens, household appliances, CDs, tapes, records, books, games and an all-new collection of bric-a-brac.

Look for fall specials and Halloween costumes and decorations when you visit.

The remaining September dates for the shop are Sept. 27 and Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by and browse while enjoying a complimentary cup of coffee. Remember that donations are always greatly appreciated.

Arlene Byrne

Hutchinson River Restoration Project News

The third annual Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary Cleanup will be held Sunday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the bus stop on City Island Road at Shore Road. We appreciate adults (no children under 18 please!) who would like to help beautify our river and who might canoe with New York City Parks Department for us. Reservations are advised (call 718-885-9653 or e-mail HutchinsonRRP@aol.com). For more information, visit www.hutchinsonriverrestorationproject.org. If anyone would like to volunteer with a flat-bottomed/small motorboat, please call.

We are very grateful to all who participated in our City Island Spring Fair and June Fund-raiser, especially our sponsor organizations. Here are the (first) names of the winners of various items and gift certificates Adjie (backpack), Rose (Calico Juno), Francine (Buddy's), Richie (Doggie Island), Joe (Burck's marine supply store), Ina (Artie's), Harlan (Lobster Box), Miriam (Crab Shanty), Carmen (Sea Shore), "S" (Art of Beauty), Marie (Sunoco), Judy (City Island Diner), Lela (JP's), Ray (Nail Island) and Marie R (Jack's Bait).

We will have a table at the City Island Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 8 and 9, when you can sign up to volunteer at the cleanup on the 23rd.

Rose Zervas

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island wishes all our friends and neighbors a most happy and healthy, sweet New Year (5773). "Your Shul by the Sea" located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, is unaffiliated, an all-inclusive, egalitarian and spirited congregation, providing an exciting place for observance for Jewish families and individuals who come from many different communities and cultures. We gather together under the leadership of the innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener, associate spiritual leader Reb David Markus and rabbinic intern Eva Sax Boulder.

The temple is proud to announce that it is the recipient of two extraordinary and very generous gifts from the Throggs Neck Jewish Center and the Henry Katz Foundation for Jewish Causes. The Throggs Neck Jewish Center has been in operation since 1924 but recently closed its doors. Together with the Katz Foundation, named in honor of its long-standing rabbi, the Jewish Center, in the spirit of supporting Jewish synagogues and furthering Jewish participation and learning, selected Temple Beth-El with the largest financial gift it has received in its history.

Temple Beth-El's Sabbath services are



Photo by BOB BERENT

Rabbi Shohama Wiener (left) is overwhelmed as she accepts an extraordinary donation to Temple Beth-El of City Island last month. The very generous gift, from the Throggs Neck Jewish Center and the Henry Katz Foundation for Jewish Causes, was presented by its executive director, Rabbi Alan Paul Katz, and Sara Silver, board member and secretary of the Foundation.

Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and are open to all. We use Rabbi Marcia Prager's easy-to-read English prayer book with singable Hebrew. Some Friday nights are congregation-led, so come and participate with Bob Berent, accordionist and drop-in musicians.

Reb David conducts the first Kabbalat Shabbat welcoming the Sabbath with song on Friday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

"Selichot" with Reb David and Reb Eva will be held on Saturday evening, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. to usher in the High Holy Days.

Our High Holy Days services (free to all) begin with Erev Rosh Hashana on Sunday evening, Sept. 16, at 8 p.m. Rosh Hashana morning services start on Monday, Sept. 17, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a children's service at 11:30 a.m.; Tashlich at 12 noon and then lunch at a nearby inn.

Services on the second day of Rosh Hashana (Sept. 18) begin at 9:30 a.m. Each day's service will be interestingly different.

Yom Kippur will start with Kol Nidre at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Yom Kippur's morning service starts at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 26. Yizkor (Memorial Service) will start at 11 a.m., and the evening service starts at 5:15 p.m. (with our traditional Break Fast afterwards).

Contact us about your life-cycle service in our sanctuary or to sponsor an oneg, or to help with our annual breaking of the fast on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Sukkot will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 8:30 p.m.

Simchat Torah will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

For additional information, please contact Paul Klein at Kaleidoscope, 718-885-3090, or visit our website, www.YourShulByTheSea.org.

Bob Berent

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. The Ladies Auxiliary will meet at the Post on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for a start of a great year. On Saturday, Sept. 8, the Sons of the American Legion are hosting an end-of-summer clambake at the Post. Great food, dancing and fun. Details at the Post. Hope to see you on the 4th.

Maryann Occhicone

City Island Theater Group

We are extremely proud to be presenting staged readings of "The Laramie Project," by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, on Friday, Sept. 21, and Saturday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept.

23, at 3 p.m., followed by a brief conversation with the actors, in Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. This is a historic yet, unfortunately, still relevant play about the kidnapping, brutal beating and death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Laramie, Wyoming, in the fall of 1998. The play looks at the community in which this occurred as a cross-section of America at that time. CITG is broadening its repertoire with staged readings in an effort to offer a larger variety of works to its audiences.

Reservations can be made by calling 718-885-3066 or by e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Our last production for the 2012 season is George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner". It is set in a small town in Ohio prior to Christmas, circa 1940. The outlandish radio celebrity Sheridan Whiteside of New York City has been invited to dinner at the home of a rich factory owner in the town. Upon arriving at the house and before entering the front door, Sheridan slips and injures his hip. The overbearing celebrity soon dominates the lives of the residents and everyone else who enters the household.

Auditions will be held on Friday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 9 at 6 p.m., also at Grace Church Hall. Production dates for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" are the first three weekends of November.

Look for our booth at the City Island Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9.

Mary McIntyre

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Martial Arts Movie Night, presented by Dragon's Path Academy: \$5 with concession stand, 7:30 p.m. Last Friday of every month.

NEW CLASSES

Coming Soon: **Zumbatomic**, offered by Sarah Persteins. Zumba for children ages 6-9 and 10-12. Call 718-885-9122 or e-mail sarahfitforlife@yahoo.com if interested.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

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

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

Fit For Life: A balanced cardio and strength training class for all experience levels. Classes offered Monday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122 or e-mail sarahfitforlife@yahoo.com. Classes are \$8.

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

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These yoga stretch poses helps remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, and it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected but are so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, yoga stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners or those who haven't exercised in a while. \$10 per class; call 718-885-0535.

Zumba Gold: A fun filled dance and exercise session with a salsa beat, geared for age 50 and up. Classes are \$4 each. Meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Walk-ins are very welcome, as are spectators interested in seeing what the class is all about. Questions can be directed to

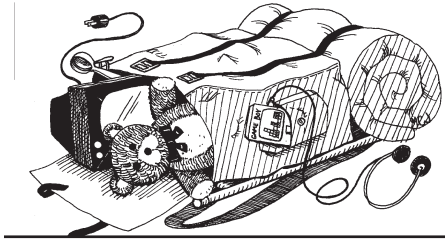
Salacia at 845-358-0260.

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

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels are welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun.

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

Sarah Persteins



American Legion Post #156

We recently lost one of our Post's most active members, dual member Bill Clancy Sr., who died in July. A request has been made by the family and by Post and community leaders to Councilmember James Vacca about having Cross Street renamed Bill Clancy Sr. Lane.

Member Bill Robinson also died recently, as did Auxiliary member Patricia Kelly.

It was discussed at our last meeting that during the reconstruction of the bridge, the monuments at the triangle will temporarily be relocated to the Post.

A reminder that 2013 dues are now due. The amount is \$45.

The annual clambake will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 6 to 11 p.m. There will be music and an open bar. The menu will include Gumbo's famous clam chowder, along with steak, shrimp, clams, chicken and mussels. Chef Gene Valesio, with assistance from Jimmy Livingston and Peter Booth, will prepare the food. The price is \$50 if reserved in advance, or \$55 at the door. The clambake is limited to 100 people, so please sign up soon at the bar.

The 70/30 CeBill Tribute Raffle will go on as planned. The price is \$50.

The 50/50 Servicemen's Club Raffle has been reestablished. Anyone interested should contact Ed Shipp. Annual membership is \$60 per year.

The Pumpkin Sale will take place from Friday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Sept. 30. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Now that football season has arrived, stop by the Post for a drink to cheer on your favorite teams and enjoy our weekend drink specials.

Just a reminder! All old and damaged flags should be deposited in the mail box next to the flag pole in front of the Post.

Thomas Lynch

Sons of the American Legion

Don't forget the annual clambake, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 6 to 11 p.m., and the Pumpkin Sale on the weekend of Sept. 28-30.

We can always use new members. If you are the male descendant or step-descendant, you may be eligible to join the squadron. Dues for 2012 are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off at the Post.

Save the date. The Servicemen's Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Now that football season has arrived, stop by the Post for a drink, cheer on your favorite teams and enjoy our weekend drink specials. We are here for all of your party needs. Members get a discounted rate on reserving the hall. We can accommodate up to 100 people.

Several Legionnaires are on sick call this month. Jack Hartigan is on the mend from a recent fall and has been spotted at the Post. Frank Hoffman is recovering from knee surgery that was also the result of a fall. Brian Sullivan is feeling better after a minor heart procedure.

Chaplain Todd Davis reminds the entire City Island community to check their car's gas gauge before leaving the house.

The SAL Halloween party will be held on Friday, Oct. 26. Details to follow.

Just a reminder that all old and damaged flags should be deposited in the mail box next to the flag pole in front of the Post.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

AARP Chapter 318

The chapter meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our first meetings for the fall will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5, and Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 1 p.m. Plans for the new year will be discussed. Coffee and cake will be served. New members are always welcome.

Rosetta Woods

PSS Senior Programs

I am happy to introduce you to Debbie Erosa, the new director of PSS City Island Senior Programs. Debbie has great plans for seniors on City Island. She can be reached at 718-885-0727 or at derosa@pssusa.org. I have enjoyed my tenure as director and I look forward to retirement and to volunteering as coordinator of the PSS City Island Senior Fitness Program.

Here is our program for September.

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for older people. We hope that more seniors will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Sarah on Monday at 10:30 at CI Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Tuesday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday, leaving Pilot St. at 9:30 (must have three walkers); Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Fit for Life with Sarah on Friday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall. Note: To make ends meet a little better, all classes will be \$3, except for Arthritis Exercise which will continue to be free.

Senior Writing Group: Did anybody ever say to you: "You should write that down"? You just told a story about the "olden times." Your friends laughed, they cried, they smiled. Come write your memories with us every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. No charge. Everyone is welcome.

Volunteering: Please think about volunteering for one of our senior programs. We need help in many areas, including clerical and computer, reception, telephoning, visiting and help with parties and events to name a few.

Telephone Reassurance: If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

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

Transportation Services: Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday, Bay Plaza or Stop & Shop; Thursday, Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. Suggested contributions for round trips is \$1 on Island, and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van.

Program Services: Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly

calendar, featuring trips and events such as group theater discounts to such shows as "CanCan" at Westchester Dinner Theater on Sept. 7, or, going to see the Mets play the Nationals on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

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.

The Sunday school learning materials for the new season are titled "Grow, Proclaim, Serve," and the fall lesson will cover the story of Moses.

The Fall Trinity Group Bible Study will begin Oct. 28 and conclude on Nov. 25. The meetings will take place in Trinity Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m. and end at 12:30. The meetings consist of roundtable discussions based on the public readings of the texts under study. George Cavalieri, Lay Leader/Speaker at Trinity, will moderate the group, with others occasionally leading the group as appointed. The study is a continuation of the study that began in Lent and will now complete the New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles.

No preregistration is required, and the New Testament is provided, along with an outline for study. The main purpose of these studies is to promote and provide an opportunity to present the evangel, or the good news of God, to our community and church.

The Budget Corner will reopen soon, full of freshly donated, gently used items. If you have been holding donations for the summer, you will soon be able to drop them off and browse the shop.

Rick DeWitt

Cub Scout Pack 211

The pack hopes everyone had a great summer. Fall will soon be upon us, and we hope that too is great for all. On Sept. 11, the first Tuesday after school starts, we will have registration for the scouts from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Registration is \$65 (siblings are discounted). All boys from the grades 1 through 5 are welcome. We have a very exciting and challenging calendar planned, and we are looking forward to a great year. Come over and check it out.

Angelo Bellocchio

Grace Episcopal Church

Our weekly worship schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m. and evening prayer, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during September:

Sunday, Sept. 2, 9:50 a.m. Lambs babysitting available in the Parish Hall.

Friday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Grace Church hosts a City Island organization get-together as part of the Friday Fellowship Program. All are welcome.

Monday, Sept. 17, 7:15 p.m. Hearts and Hands (a knitting group that provides caps, shawls and lap robes for Calvary Hospital patients). All are welcome to join. Meet at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

Please save the date! Sunday, Oct. 14: Grace Church concert series presents Jeremy Bacon trio (jazz). Cost and time to be announced. Visit the Grace Church website for further details: www.gracecityisland.org.

Scott Meyer



Sissy Spacek: A Selected Filmography

Sissy Spacek has a Hollywood career that spans almost four decades, during which time she received six Oscar nominations and won once. She first came to the public eye in **Badlands** (1973), in which she plays Holly, a naïve amoral teen who runs off with Kit (Martin Sheen), a James Dean-type rebel, after he shoots her father (Warren Oates). They go on a crime spree across the Midwest, leaving dead bodies in their wake. Director Terrance Malick juxtaposes Holly's monotone readings of her sugary romantic diary entries with the bizarre details of their journey.

In **Carrie** (1976) Spacek stars in the title role as a shy teen at the mercy of her religious zealot mother (Piper Laurie) and the taunts of high school students played by John Travolta, Amy Irving, Nancy Allen and William Katt. It turns out that Carrie has uncontrollable telekinetic powers in this dramatic screenplay written by Stephen King.

Spacek won the Best Actress Academy Award for her portrayal of Loretta Lynn in the biopic **Coal Miner's Daughter** (1980). One of eight children born to Ted Webb (Levon Helm), a coal miner raising a poverty-stricken family in Butcher's Holler, Kentucky, Loretta married Dolittle "Mooney" Lynn (Tommy Lee Jones) when she was only 13 years old. A mother of four by the time she was 20, she went on to become one of the first female superstars in country music. Impressively, Spacek sang all the songs herself.

In **Raggedy Man** (1981), Spacek plays

Nita, a divorced mother of two who is trying to survive in mid-1940s Texas as a small-town telephone operator who must endure the unwanted attentions of every scoundrel in the community. Eric Roberts appears as Teddy, a young sailor who becomes both friend and protector to Spacek and her sons. Once Teddy goes off to war, they are left at the mercy of the menacing "raggedy man" played by Sam Shepard, whose intentions aren't what they seem. Henry Thomas appears as one of her sons before he went on to star in **E.T.** (1982).

Inspired by a true story, **Missing** (1982) is a tense political drama set in an unspecified South American country. Spacek plays Beth Horman, whose husband, Charles (John Shea), an American activist, goes missing while there. Beth is stonewalled when she tries to find out what has happened to him, and she is joined in the search by Charles's father, staunchly patriotic Ed Horman (Jack Lemmon). The film went on to win an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, as well as nominations for Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress.

The River (1984) stars Mel Gibson and Sissy Spacek as Tom and Mae Garvey, struggling Tennessee farmers. Their farm is located next to a river that both nourishes their land and constantly threatens to overflow and destroy their crops. Tom faces the dilemma of having to work as a strikebreaker in a steel mill to keep the farm from foreclosure. Scott Glen is on hand as Joe, the local bank manager, with whom Mae has a platonic flirtation. This was another of Spacek's Oscar-nominated roles.

Violets are Blue (1986) stars Kevin Kline as Henry Squires, a small town newspaper editor. After 15 years, his high-school sweetheart Gussie Sawyer (Spacek) returns to town on vacation. He is envious of her success as a news photographer, much to the consternation of his wife, Ruth (Bonnie Bedelia).

The Long Walk Home (1990), the story of a troubled era in American history, is set in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. When Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, the ensuing boycott is a decided inconvenience

for Miriam Thompson (Spacek), a well-to-do white woman and her maid, Odessa Cotter (Whoopi Goldberg). Miriam realizes for the first time just how privileged, sheltered and self-centered her life has been. Complicating matters, her husband, Norman (Dwight Schultz), joins the Klanlike White Citizen's Council, at the behest of his racist brother Tunker (Dylan Baker).

Blast from the Past (1999) is a delightful comedy, in which Calvin Webber (Christopher Walken), a brilliant but paranoid scientist, and his wife, Helen (Spacek), move into their bomb shelter for 35 years, beginning in 1962. There they raise their son, Adam (played as an adult by Brendan Fraser). When they unlock the door and send him up to the surface to gather supplies, they hope he will also find a wife with whom he will repopulate the world. Completely lost above ground, Adam enlists the help of bitter, cynical, street-smart Eve Rustikov (Alicia Silverstone). His sunny disposition, seersucker jacket and fine manners ultimately captivate her.

Based on a true tale, **The Straight Story** (1999) chronicles a trip made by 73-year-old Alvin Straight (Oscar nominee Richard Farnsworth) from Laurens, Iowa, to Mt. Zion, Wisconsin, in 1994 while riding a lawn mower. Alvin hopes to mend his relationship with his ill, estranged, 75-year-old brother, Lyle (Harry Dean Stanton). Leaving his mentally challenged daughter (Spacek) at home, Alvin sets out to cover the 300 miles to his brother's house. Actor Farnsworth was actually riddled with cancer during the filming, which adds a great deal of poignancy.

In **The Bedroom** (2001) is the heart-wrenching story of Matt Fowler (Tom Wilkinson), a respected New England family physician, who with his wife, Ruth (Spacek), deal with the tragic loss of their son, Frank (Nick Stahl). This haunting drama also includes Marissa Tomei as Natalie, Frank's girlfriend.

Get Low (2009) is the odd narrative of Felix Bush (Robert Duvall), a hermit who decides that he wants to have a funeral while he is still alive. He enlists the help of Frank (Bill Murray), the local funeral home

director. For the first time in years, Felix sees his former sweetheart Mattie Darrow (Spacek). Bill Cobbs plays the Rev. Charlie Jackson, the only man alive who knows Felix's troubling secret.

In **The Help** (2011), Spacek goes back to a setting similar to the one in **The Long Walk Home**. Featuring an ensemble cast, the film is about a young white woman, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan (Emma Stone), and her relationship with two black maids, Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis) and Minny Jackson (Oscar winner Octavia Spencer) during Civil Rights-era America. Skeeter is an aspiring journalist who finds she no longer fits in at home when she returns from college. She secretly decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids exposing the racism they face as they work for white families. She finds herself at odds with her former friend, Hilly Holbrook (Bryce Dallas Howard), the town's pretentious racist ringleader. Spacek is delightful as Mrs. Walters, Hilly's resentful devious mother.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY

How many of us would anchor our boat in the water as other boats charged us, mere feet from our stern? There's no armored Iron Man suit or Fantastic Four aboard. Men and women with nerves of steel however, you will find on an RC boat. Every race needs a race committee, to set the start line, determine the course and officiate the race.

Since I came to City Island six years ago, there has been a familiar and friendly face aboard the RC boat every Wednesday night for the EBYRA (Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association) and various races I've entered. Eben Hansmire began serving on race committee with the EBYRA in 2006, and since 2007 he has been their Primary Race Officer (PRO).

Eben knows what it's like to see a sailboat headed right for him. Typically, the fastest distance over the start line is closest to the committee boat, and the sweet spot most captains maneuver for. The EBYRA RC boat is named *Favored End*, with good reason. There was a time his RC boat was hit. "There have been quite a few close calls, too. When you're that close to the starting and finishing action, you are definitely in harm's way," he says.

As every racer knows, the start to a race is critical. Each boat vies for the best positioning. You want clean air, rather than receiving bad air (having your wind



Photos by JEN LIN
Eben Hansmire has been the Primary Race Officer for the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association since 2007.

blocked from a competitor's boat). Starting behind the pack can get you off on the wrong foot, or more accurately leg, and it can be hard to recover from. The best seat in the house watching the excitement at the start line is often from the RC boat.

"My interest in race committee work was sparked by Butch Ulmer of UK Sails [on City Island]," Eben recounts. "He showed us how to set a starting line. I began to understand how challenging it can



be keeping all the variables (wind, current, boat performance, weather, etc.) in mind while setting up a race course. These are the same variables that racing sailors have to keep in mind, and it's what makes sailing a sport, and passion, which is as intellectually challenging as it is physically."

Edd Schillay, the EBYRA Commodore, commends Eben: "True to his stellar reputation, Eben goes above and beyond, maintaining the committee boat and always improving his skills in race management. He has been a vital and crucial part of the organization, and it's hard to imagine an EBYRA without Eben involved weekly."

Becoming a race officer means knowing a lot about a lot—from wind variations to tide tables and currents, from racing rules and race management to all the other administrative functions to running a race. In order to receive your officer certification, one has to demonstrate expertise as a race officer and undergo training and testing every four years, typically from "US Sailing" (www.ussailing.org).

Eben first discovered sailing at a Wisconsin Boy Scout camp in 1958 aboard a dingy, or "snipe" boat. "Unlike the modern snipe, the decks of these boats were plywood, covered with canvas and were so heavy that it took four of us kids to get them into the water of the small inland lake." Further experiences as a young man led to sailing in all sorts of weather, and all seasons. "My most exhilarating sail was on an ice boat which my high school friend and his father had built, and took place on the frozen waters of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. We probably hit 50 or 60 MPH but skimming along on the ice, often over rough patches, it seemed like we were

going about 100 MPH!"

Eben not only serves as PRO with the EBYRA, but also at times with City Island's J24 Fleet 61. Leigh Mulroy, who races aboard her J24 *Blondie*, says: "Eben does a great job and makes sound decisions, stands by them without wavering and raises the level of RC at any regatta."

City Island Yacht Club Commodore Brad Stone concurs that Eben is just the kind of PRO every racer hopes for. "He has brought sanity and coordination to the difficult task of race management in our area. From the minutes before a start gun fires to post-race scoring, he sorts through the many variables and decisions with a precision, proficiency and consistency racers really appreciate."

At the start, and finish line to a race, shouts can often be heard from various captains proclaiming right of way: "Starboard!" or "Make room!" or "Move up!" If there is a protest of one boat to another, the RC boat can be called upon to testify at the hearings, since they may have the best view to the offending boat. But the sport of sailboat racing is often characterized by good sportsmanship. John Kolius, Olympic sailing silver medalist in the 1976 Montreal Games and later skipper aboard *Courageous* in the 1983 America's Cup, says of sailing: "Sailing is a good sport. You don't have to beat up the other guy like you do in boxing and football; you just try to outsmart him, and then you go out and have a beer with him."

And after a race, feel free to buy the Primary Race Officer Eben Hansmire a drink, but first let him take off his Superman suit and tuck it behind the bar.

(For all local upcoming races/regattas visit, www.cityislandsailing.com)

Rocking the Boat

Continued from page 7

Bronx River, and ecology tours.

"We completed the three boats anchored off City Island this year: *Triumph*, *Legacy* and *Spartina*. The oak used to build *Triumph* came from a tree from Pete Seeger's house in Beacon, New York," he proudly reported. "The oak for *Legacy* came from a fallen 265-year old tree from the Botanical Garden in the Bronx."

The energetic young sailors were happy to share their experiences and describe how the wooden boats are built. "We use a steam box to bend one plank at a time. Then they are riveted together," one told this reporter, which brought back memories of seeing the 12-meter yachts, such as *Constellation*,

built at Minnefords in the 1960s.

Mr. Green emphasizes linking everything to environment science. They use a local business's recycling crane to launch the boats; they have helped clean and restore the Bronx River, including bringing back oystering in the river; and they collect data on fish, birds and plant life.

It was the group's second stopover at the Morris Yacht Club in two years, and they were welcomed by board member Steve Breines. "It is a pleasure hosting these kids. They have the right spirit, and the Morris' members are happy to meet them and talk about boating," he said.

The feeling seemed mutual as the young sailors began to pitch their tents for the overnight stay. If you want to learn more about the program, visit their website at www.rockingtheboat.org or call them at 718-466-5799.



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Stepping Stones Lighthouse: From Native American Legend to Preservation

By HOWARD KROPLICK



Stepping Stones Light, Long Island Sound, N. Y.

Photos courtesy HOWARD KROPLICK

Above: Stepping Stones Lighthouse as it appeared in a postcard dating to about 1910. Left: Although the date 1876 is carved on the granite panel of the tower, the lighthouse was not actually completed until January 1877.



house opened and the name was shortened to "Stepping Stones."

History of the Lighthouse

In the 1860s, the expanding shipping commerce on the Long Island Sound resulted in the need for a lighthouse to define a clear channel. The sum of \$6,600 was allocated in June 1866 for a day beacon on the Stepping Stones reef and a lighthouse near Hart Island about 1.25 miles north. When the property on Hart Island proved difficult to obtain, the Lighthouse Board decided to change the lighthouse location to Stepping Stones, and additional funding of \$50,000 was provided on June 10, 1872.

Construction began in late 1875 by A.D. Cook, a manufacturer of deep-well pumps and well supplies, using Irish barge-men and stonemasons from Throggs Neck. (At least two of the builders were City Islanders, sons of Dave Carman's great grandfather Caleb Carman, who is buried in Pelham Cemetery.) The tower's foundation was built directly over a large rock that just broke the surface at low tide. A total of 900 tons of boulders was barged to the site between 1875 and 1878 and thrown together riprap style and encased in rough-hewn blocks. The center of the riprap was leveled for the foundation. Although the year 1876 is carved on a granite panel of the tower, the dwelling was not completed until January 1877. Like the 1875 Hudson-Athens Lighthouse on the Hudson River, the architecture of Stepping Stones represents the brick-and-masonry Second Empire style with a mansard roof and tower, a Victorian design supplanted in the 1880s by the use of prefabricated cast-iron plate construction and conical iron towers. The light was first turned on the night of March 1, 1877, and Findlay Fraser was the first keeper. The original optic was a Fifth Order Fresnel lens that showed a fixed red light; in 1932, the light was changed to a Fourth Order lens with a fixed green light. The lighthouse was updated and modernized in 1944, and in October 1966, the lighthouse became automated when a modern optic that produced a flashing green light was placed in the lantern room. On Sept. 15, 2005, the lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Overwhelmed by high maintenance costs, the U.S. Government enacted the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, which gives away dozens of

the lighthouses every year to groups willing to preserve them and turn them into public attractions. Stepping Stones Lighthouse was deemed as surplus in 2006 by the Coast Guard and offered at no cost to eligible entities, including federal, state and local agencies; non-profit corporations; and educational organizations. Eventually all suitors except the Town of North Hempstead withdrew their applications, deciding it was too big an undertaking, and in 2008, the lighthouse was transferred to the town of North Hempstead, although the U. S. Coast Guard still maintains the functioning beacon. In 2012, with the assistance of the town of North Hempstead, a group of Long Island residents organized to restore and preserve the lighthouse.

Lighthouse Keepers

A couple of notable keepers served at the Stepping Stones Lighthouse over the years. Ernest Bloom, who started his service at the station on April 20, 1910, was awarded the Lighthouse Service's efficiency pennant for the meticulous manner in which he maintained the lighthouse. The pennant was flown next to the Stars and Stripes at the lighthouse.

Stephen Holm served as keeper during the early 1920s and managed to rescue a number of unfortunate boaters. On July 18, 1923, two men ran the sailboat *Mistral* onto the rocks just east of the lighthouse, and Holm managed to rescue the two men and tow their damaged boat to Long Island.

On Feb. 9, 1934, perhaps a remnant of the Devil's fury, the mercury at Stepping Stones Lighthouse hit 14 degrees below zero. Since the Sound was frozen, the keeper, Charles A. Rogers, could not row ashore for supplies, and a few days later, a blizzard dumped 17 inches of snow overnight in the worst storm in 45 years. With only enough food to feed his family for two days, Rogers hung the flag upside down on March 1 as a distress signal. Captain Sioss of the tug *Muxpet* spotted the flag and

gradually broke through the ice to reach the lighthouse. When the captain offered Rogers food, he refused, claiming that it was the Lighthouse Service's responsibility, and requested that the depot on Staten Island be notified of the situation. Shortly afterward, the lighthouse tender *Hickory* was dispatched to Stepping Stones with supplies.

Significance of Stepping Stones

The lighthouse serves as an important navigational aid for approaches to New York City from Long Island Sound. When it was completed in 1877, Stepping Stones Lighthouse worked in coordination with the Great Captain Island Lighthouse (built 1829 in Greenwich, Connecticut) and the Execution Rocks Lighthouse (1850 at Sands Point, New York). A clear channel was defined for New York City's shipping commerce by keeping south of Captain Island and Execution Rocks and north of Stepping Stones. The impact was immediate in the 1870s, as the value of New York City imports increased 63 percent from \$281 million in 1870 to \$459 million in 1880.

Today the lighthouse still guards the approach to New York City's East River, and its light continues to shine as a primary navigational aid, warning ships and boats of a series of "Stepping Stones."

Howard Kroplick is town historian for the town of North Hempstead. He acknowledges several sources for this article and directs interested readers to the following websites: www.uscg.mil/d1/antNewYork/lighthouses/SteppingStonesLighthouse.asp; www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=751; www.longislandlighthouses.com/stepstone.htm; www.cityislandmuseum.org; www.liboatingworld.com/archive/2006/11/SEBW/SEBW_07.pdf; www.katherinekirkpatrick.com/book_1.html; www.hudsonathenslighthouse.org.

Anxiously awaited by residents of New York City and Long Island after four years of construction, the Throggs Neck Bridge opened in 1961. I still remember the thrill of being in a car with my parents going over the bridge for the first time and seeing spectacular views of Manhattan, City Island and my home island, Long Island. But what caught my eye as we traveled on this sparkling new bridge was a small red house in the middle of the Long Island Sound. What in the world was it doing there? Little did I know, over 50 years later, that I would have the opportunity to tour this historic building, climb its tower and tell its story.

Stepping Stones and the Devil's Belt

A Native American legend recalls a battle for Connecticut with Habboamoko, the Evil Spirit, and the Siwanoy of New Rochelle. Fortified with potions and magical powers, the Siwanoy pushed the Evil Spirit back up against Long Island Sound near City Island and Throggs Neck. The Evil Spirit must have felt that his future was pretty bleak until he looked toward the Sound at low tide. He noticed a series of rocks between Long Island and Throggs Neck and promptly "stepped" across these "stones" and fled to Long Island. Angry at the Siwanoy, the Evil Spirit began to heave boulders back across the Sound until they reached all the way to Maine and littered New England with rock formations.

Early maps indicate that in the 1770s, Long Island Sound became known as "Devil's Belt," undoubtedly because of the sudden storms and nor'easters, as well as the Siwanoy legend, and the reefs were called the "Devil's Stepping Stones." That name continued until 1877, when the light-

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

SEPTEMBER 2012									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	
01 Sat	0042	8.27	0707	-0.34	1301	8.30	1928	-0.37	Sat 01
02 Sun	0123	8.07	0745	-0.09	1339	8.18	2008	-0.13	Sun 02
03 Mon	0201	7.79	0817	0.24	1413	7.98	2044	0.20	Mon 03
04 Tue	0236	7.48	0838	0.60	1441	7.75	2115	0.59	Tue 04
05 Wed	0308	7.17	0851	0.91	1509	7.53	2135	0.96	Wed 05
06 Thu	0340	6.90	0923	1.19	1543	7.32	2206	1.28	Thu 06
07 Fri	0420	6.68	1005	1.49	1626	7.13	2251	1.56	Fri 07
08 Sat	0514	6.53	1054	1.75	1717	6.99	2350	1.75	Sat 08
09 Sun	0642	6.51	1151	1.91	1819	6.95			Sun 09
10 Mon	0124	1.76	0754	6.66	1257	1.90	1944	7.05	Mon 10
11 Tue	0230	1.56	0846	6.93	1414	1.67	2047	7.28	Tue 11
12 Wed	0319	1.23	0928	7.27	1519	1.25	2128	7.57	Wed 12
13 Thu	0400	0.84	0958	7.64	1608	0.74	2205	7.86	Thu 13
14 Fri	0436	0.42	1028	8.04	1652	0.22	2243	8.12	Fri 14
15 Sat	0511	0.04	1103	8.43	1735	-0.23	2324	8.32	Sat 15
16 Sun	0548	-0.27	1142	8.76	1817	-0.57			Sun 16
17 Mon	0007	8.41	0628	-0.45	1224	8.96	1902	-0.72	Mon 17
18 Tue	0052	8.36	0710	-0.45	1309	8.99	1949	-0.67	Tue 18
19 Wed	0139	8.17	0756	-0.28	1357	8.85	2041	-0.43	Wed 19
20 Thu	0230	7.84	0846	0.06	1448	8.53	2142	-0.04	Thu 20
21 Fri	0328	7.45	0943	0.51	1546	8.09	2304	0.35	Fri 21
22 Sat	0438	7.07	1101	0.94	1659	7.65			Sat 22
23 Sun	0029	0.55	0623	6.94	1248	1.08	1852	7.46	Sun 23
24 Mon	0141	0.52	0743	7.14	1404	0.88	2011	7.60	Mon 24
25 Tue	0244	0.33	0846	7.49	1507	0.51	2113	7.83	Tue 25
26 Wed	0340	0.10	0941	7.86	1604	0.10	2207	8.04	Wed 26
27 Thu	0432	-0.10	1030	8.16	1655	-0.24	2256	8.15	Thu 27
28 Fri	0518	-0.19	1116	8.35	1742	-0.43	2341	8.14	Fri 28
29 Sat	0601	-0.16	1157	8.39	1825	-0.46			Sat 29
30 Sun	0022	8.03	0640	-0.01	1236	8.32	1905	-0.33	Sun 30
OCTOBER 2012									
01 Mon	0101	7.83	0715	0.24	1310	8.16	1942	-0.08	Mon 01
02 Tue	0136	7.59	0739	0.53	1336	7.96	2012	0.24	Tue 02
03 Wed	0204	7.35	0746	0.78	1354	7.77	2027	0.57	Wed 03
04 Thu	0226	7.14	0808	0.98	1420	7.62	2045	0.83	Thu 04
05 Fri	0253	6.99	0845	1.19	1455	7.47	2120	1.08	Fri 05
06 Sat	0331	6.87	0928	1.43	1538	7.32	2204	1.30	Sat 06



FISH AND FOWL

It has been a somewhat anomalous year for fishing on and around City Island this summer. The blues have been present, but they have not been so in their usual numbers. Or so it seems. The schools of bunker have not been as impressive as in years past either. On the other hand, fishing for bottom feeders seems to have picked up. We have heard from local fishermen about the excellent fluke fishing and have seen for ourselves this summer more sea robins than in all of our other summers put together.

Warmer than usual water temperatures may explain the apparent changes to the fishing here. A recent *New York Times* article left no doubt as to the reality of the water temperature rise. A nuclear reactor in Waterford, Connecticut, had to be shut down temporarily in August because water from Long Island Sound that is used to keep the reactor cool was itself not cool enough. It had long been the expectation that the Sound's water temperature would not exceed 75°F. According to the article, however, on one particular mid-August afternoon this year, the temperature reached 76.7°F.

Another article from the newspapers—this one from the *New York Post*—was about



Have you seen this bird?

guinea hens. We were in the parking area for the ball fields on Rodman's Neck when we came across this oddest of birds. From a distance, it seemed like a wild turkey, but upon closer inspection it turned out to be a guinea hen. These birds, it was reported, are being used to help control deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease, but the article was referring to guinea hens in some of the poshest neighborhoods on Long Island. Christie Brinkley, in fact, has been credited with introducing guinea hens to the fight against Lyme disease as far back as 1990.

How Pelham Bay Park's guinea hen got here remains a mystery, one that we would be delighted to have help solving at jdsstrat@msn.com.

City Island Reflexology

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GRAND RE-OPENING

Mortgage Issues and Solutions

By SEAN O'SULLIVAN

In the good old days, if you had a credit score of 700 or better, you qualified for 100 percent financing when you bought a house. Countrywide in their heyday (before Bank of America had to bail them out) had a mortgage program called "Fast & Easy," which was literally just that. All you needed was a letter from your employer (VOE) instead of tax returns and a letter from your bank (VOD) instead of bank statements.

The two documents were second in importance only to your credit history. The VOE showed your ability to qualify for a mortgage, and the VOD showed your ability to have saved enough money for a down payment and closing costs. Your credit history, of course, indicated that you were responsible in paying your bills in a timely manner.

Since anyone could, and did, complete these letters with whatever information they felt would help them qualify for a mortgage, you can imagine how these loopholes led to the collapse of the housing market.

So now we have gone from the old "Fast & Easy" to what I call "Slow & Treacherous." In addition to a letter from your employer (which is still needed), copies of your last two years' tax returns and your most recent 30 days of pay stubs are also required. When all of that is submitted, the bank or the mortgage broker contacts the IRS and requests a transcript (4506-T) to confirm the accuracy of the paperwork. This leaves no room for error. The same process is also followed with your bank accounts, driver's license, passport, property appraisal, title report, contract of sale, and so on.

The word on the street that banks are not lending is totally untrue. What they are doing is triple proofing every document they get. So the paper reduction act has gone out the window, but the new process works.

So that's the "slow" part of the program. The "treacherous" part takes place during the process of proofing, when a number of things can happen. First, the borrower gets tired of constantly being asked for additional paperwork. The underwriter at the bank gets tired of waiting for it. Delays cause documents to expire, which will lead to the request for more updates and more delays. The seller panics and refuses to grant an extension of the contract. And everyone involved, from the buyer to the seller, the underwriter, realtor, title agent, attorney, and so on, gets tired of the whole thing, and in many cases, the deal falls apart.

There are ways, however, to prevent this from happening. First of all, the borrower should understand that bank statements are good for 30 days, as are pay stubs. An appraisal is good for 120 days, and a credit report is good for 90 days. Most contracts of sale are good for 45 days. Keep careful notes of what you need to collect, the dates of each, and the dates each will no longer be valid.

Borrowers who have been discouraged from bank transactions may find a mortgage broker more helpful. First of all, they do not charge the borrower any fees for application, processing, points, broker, origination, etc.; they are paid by the lender. They deal with lenders on a wholesale basis and handle the complete application from A to Z.

Brokers know from the onset what the lender wants and they know how to dot the I's and cross the T's. So when the underwriter gets the application, it's a complete package right from the beginning.

Look on the Bright Side

The housing market is in a very posi-

tive upward swing. This time last year 100 percent of the mortgage business involved refinancing, but this year 41.7 percent covers purchases and the rest are refinances. Homes and interest rates are almost half of what they were five years ago.

Loans through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) have been helping people become homeowners since 1934. How do they do it? The FHA, which is part of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, insures the loan, so lenders can offer a better deal with lower down payments and closing costs, and easy credit qualifying.

FHA does not have a minimum credit score requirement. The FHA underwriter will evaluate the entire credit profile to determine the borrower's likelihood of repayment. Past credit issues may be overlooked if new credit has been re-established. Other compensating factors may also apply. For example, in place of conventional credit, alternate credit references are accepted, normally four references for 12 months or more. Alternate credit would be references from references from your suppliers of electricity, gas, oil, telephone service, car insurance, cable TV, and so on.

Chapter 7 bankruptcies are allowed if discharged more than two years ago (or one year with extenuating circumstances), and Chapter 13 bankruptcies are allowed with a minimum of one year of on-time plan repayment and trustee approval. FHA does not require a rental or other housing history if it is not available.

FHA loans allow the seller to pay up to 6 percent of the sales price toward the closing costs and on one- to two-family units and condominiums, the down payment may be as low as 3.5 percent of the purchase price. Mortgage loans are available for one- to four-family units, condos, town houses, modular homes and manufactured homes. Unfortunately cooperatives are not allowed.

FHA allows a non-occupying relative to co-sign the mortgage, and the income and assets of a non-occupying relative can be used for qualification purposes.

FHA will provide a loan that allows the

purchase of a house that is in poor condition as well as the cost of fixing it up, with all the costs in one loan. If you already own a home that you want to remodel or repair, you can refinance what you owe and add the cost of repairs all in one loan.

Unlike most conventional loans, FHA does not require you to have cash reserves on one- to two-family unit properties. However, having reserves can help strengthen the overall credit profile.

Sean O'Sullivan spends every summer weekend on City Island with his family on their boat at South Minneford and has done so since 1986. He comes from a fishing village in southern Ireland, and this is as close as he gets to being back home. Over the years, he has worked with many individuals and businesses on the island and counts many residents among his friends. He founded Arlington Financial in 1991; for more information, visit www.ArlingtonFinancial.com.

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Take a Deep Breath and Start Preparing for the School Year

By JOHN SCARDINA

Every fall families with children in school face the same challenge: how to transition from the days of summer vacation to the days of school bells and homework. For families with working parents, going back to school may be a relief—childcare for the summer can be quite daunting and expensive—yet the addition of school anxiety, new teachers and academic rigor provides new territory for everyone.

Some tips to remember:

- Check in with yourself: Am I able to relax? Take a deep breath? Be calm in the face of change? We parents set the tone for back-to-school: will it be well-planned and calm or hectic and last-minute?
- Make sure all health needs are taken care of beforehand. School can be at the cutting edge of experience for your child, and we all want to be in our best form when starting a new endeavor.
- Go over the paperwork you received over the summer, and make sure all forms are filled out and ready to go.
- Check that list of supplies again. No one wants to be the only child without the specific pencil box/calculator/notebook that was requested by the teacher!
- Check for any dress code requirements

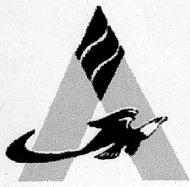
before you go shopping, which will avoid a lot of fights and trips back to the store. Help your child pick out that special outfit for the first day, and maybe have a special outfit for yourself as well. It is indeed a special day for everyone!

- Set up a family calendar (large white-board calendars with dry-erase markers work well) and color-code it for each family member. Keep track of how busy everyone is going to be!
- Be sure you have re-established bedtime and wake-up times. Don't wait too long!
- Make a plan for lunches. Prepare them the night before if possible. Children who are old enough to make their own lunch should do so, and perhaps they can also make lunches for younger siblings. Remember that responsibility at home reinforces responsibility in school and leads to responsibility in life.
- Start to minimize TV time: most of us watch too much TV in the summer, so begin that transition now.
- Have a designated homework place and a schedule for afterschool/homework time. Proper advance planning prevents poor performance.
- Make a resolution with your child for the new school year. "I will not yell in the morning" might accompany "I will follow my own morning checklist without your help." Put the resolutions on the refrigerator door and keep track of how you are doing.
- Remember that childhood (and, indeed, life) is a journey, not a race.

Blessings on the new school year!

City Island resident John Scardina is a school psychologist, parent educator, and child development specialist. Check out his website, www.ThinkLaughLearn.com, and his monthly parent groups at the City Island Community Center.

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HOT SUMMER SNAFUS!



Photos by RICK DeWITT and RONALD KROSS

The sweltering summer of 2012 included record-breaking heat, more than one lightning storm that reportedly ignited a fire aboard a boat anchored off the Morris Yacht Club on July 18 (top photo), and four power outages on the island during two weeks in July. Even the annual Bronx fireworks display on June 29, sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein and borough president Ruben Diaz, experienced a glitch that caused a long pause in the middle of the colorful pyrotechnic show.

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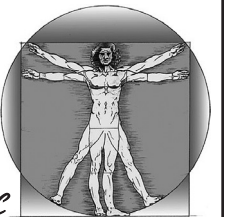


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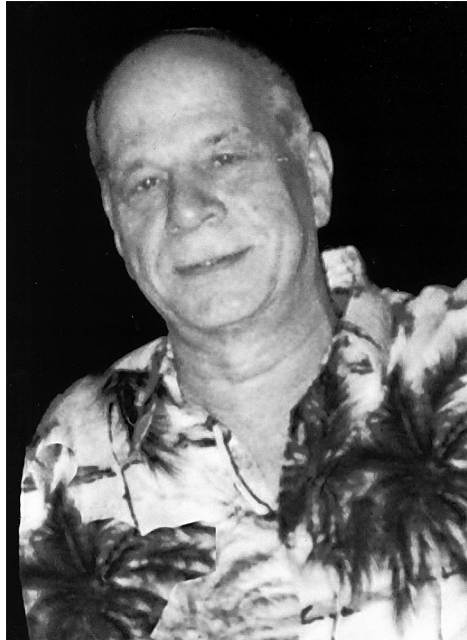
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Obituaries

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Joseph Valenti

Joseph Valenti

Lifelong City Islander Joseph James Valenti passed away in February 2012 at Sound Shore Medical Center due to heart complications. He was 68.

Joe V, as many knew him, was born and raised on City Island to Biaggio and Providence Valenti. He often spoke about how much he loved growing up on City Island, fishing off the pier and listening to the waves crash on the shore.

Joe had a great love for sports and always supported his favorite teams, the New York Mets and Jets. When his sons were young, he enjoyed coaching their baseball teams and volunteering at the Little League field, whether it was coaching or umpiring.

His other passion was the restaurant business and he managed the Crab Shanty on City Island for many years. He treated his customers and his staff as if they were his family.

Joe is survived by his wife, Sharon; his sons, John, Joe and Michael; and his stepchildren, Robert and Michelle. He adored his grandchildren, Carmine, Eric, Bianca, Michael, Bella, Laci, Sophia, Vincent and Robert.

Joe touched many lives and his family hopes to proudly keep his legacy alive.

William Gerald Clancy

Lifelong City Island resident William Clancy, known to everyone as Bill, passed away on July 7, 2012, at the age of 75.

He was born on June 17, 1937, to Bill Sr. (known as Chief) and Ann Clancy (née Sullivan), who were then living on a houseboat on the west side of City Island, although they eventually settled on Minneford Avenue, where Bill spent his childhood years.

A lifelong member of St Mary's Parish, Bill attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School before moving on to Cardinal Hayes High School, where he graduated in 1955. He spent a few years at City College and worked as an apprentice carpenter at the Nevins Yacht Yard, which marked the beginning of his 50-year career as a carpenter. Then he took a job as a journeyman at the Minneford Yacht Yard but was soon drafted into the Army, an experience that changed his life forever.

After he left the Army, Bill came back to City Island and soon became active in the community, working with the Boy Scouts, the City Island Ambulance Corps (CIVAC), COLONY (a fund-raiser organization for Island youth), St. Mary's Church, the Community Center, the Garden Club, The Island Current, Patchwork, Pelham Cemetery, Pride Unlimited, the City Island cleanups and the Bronx Veterans Administration. His greatest contributions, however, were to the American Legion. He was a commander of the Leonard Hawkins Post several times over, as well as Bronx County Commander, NY District Commander and NY State Vice Commander. Shortly before he passed away, he was elected to the post of NY State Commander for 2013.

In his career as a carpenter, Bill served as foreman, superintendent and project manager on dozens of buildings throughout the area. He led the refit of Lord & Taylor's flagship store in Manhattan, built virtually every Abraham & Straus in the region, was the construction superintendent of the Galleria in White Plains, the Short Hills Mall in New Jersey and the King of Prussia Mall in Pennsylvania. He was also General Foreman of all Trades in the Westchester Mall. He rubbed elbows with world-renowned architect I.M. Pei (who joked that Bill always found the problems with his designs) and designer Yves St. Laurent. After one project, St. Laurent personally gave Bill a suit, the same one he was later buried in.

In 1968, Bill married Mary Anne, his wife of 42 years, and they moved to King Avenue, where they raised three sons, William, Michael and Gregory. Mary Anne Mahalage passed away in 2010, but Bill is survived by his sons and their wives, four grandsons, three brothers, 16 nephews, nieces and grand-nephews and grand-nieces, three aunts and about a hundred cousins.

After a funeral service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Bill was laid to rest in Pelham Cemetery.

Editor's note: For more information about Bill Clancy's life, see Greg Clancy's letter on page 4.



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Photo by MARABELLE RIVERIA

The City Island Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla presented Senator Jeff Klein with a certificate of thanks for his help in obtaining signs that the Auxiliary posted along City Island Avenue about its activities. Here (l. to r.) are Vice Commander Mike Raffel, Commander Norm Harris and Senator Klein.

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Keep up the good work to Jane Grasso Dennehy, who was awarded the Ursula Laurus Citation at the College of New Rochelle's 74th Annual Alumnae college weekend in June. The citation is given to honor CNR alumnae and friends who have provided outstanding leadership and have demonstrated by their capabilities, efforts and interests, their selfless and generous devotion to furthering the high ideals and rich traditions of Ursuline education. The citation was presented by Judith Huntington, president of the college.

City Island made it to the Olympics, sort of. Olympic gymnast and Bronxite John Orozco was seen celebrating with his family at Sammy's Fishbox Restaurant before heading off to London to compete. NBC was there to profile the young athlete.

Dawn Moen of Center Street is proud to welcome her new granddaughter, Gia Caterina, born July 3 to Stacie. It was love at first sight for big brother, Matteo. Great-grandmother Nan is thrilled at her arrival too.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5.

Happy birthday on Sept. 5 to the Sail-



Islander Christine Mazzella married Craig DeCollibus at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church in April.

maker's Ann McGuire, with love from the Swieciki family.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson, who all share the same day—Sept. 12.

Winters Street residents Jennifer Serrano and Cedric Johnson welcomed their new daughter, Isabella Severa Johnson, who was born on July 20, 2012, at White Plains Hospital Center. The blessed new arrival weighed in at 5 pounds and 13 ounces. Congratulations to the proud parents and their new baby girl.

Congratulations to Islander Matthew Breines, who was appointed Assistant Admission's Director at the College of New Rochelle in July.



After bicycling across America from Oregon, where they began their journey on June 27, 2012, the Langkamp family arrived back home on Tier Street on Aug. 20, one day behind schedule, probably because they had to stop along the way for memorable photo ops like the one above.

Birthday greetings to Minneford Avenue's Tina Ruggiero, who celebrates her big day on Sept. 28.

Belated July 14 birthday wishes from Debra, Elzy, Ken and the boys go out to Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson.

Much happiness to Christine Mazzella and Craig DeCollibus, who were married on April 21 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Proud parents are John and Liz Mazzella of Winters Street and Maria and Corinder DeCollibus of Setauket, Long Island. A reception was held at the Crest Hollow Country Club and was followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii.

Happy September birthday to Mike Rauh. And yes, he is in training for his 35th NYC Marathon! Go Mike!

Happy birthday to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan, and welcome back to City Island.

Happy second birthday on July 9 to our precious granddaughter, Alana Lydia, with love, hugs and kisses from Nonni and Grampa Ribaud.

Maria Swieciki



Islander Jane Dennehy (r.) received the Ursula Laurus Citation from the College of New Rochelle president, Judith Huntington.

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