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One Dollar

NEW YEAR BRINGS CHANGES AT P.S. 175

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and Courtesy of P.S. 175

After 22 years, the portable classrooms at P.S. 175 (top photo) will be removed. Also new in 2024, a Sharks basketball team has been formed consisting of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from the City Island school. Shown above are the enthusiastic hoopsters and their coaches: Standing (l. to r.) Coach Jason Tamari, Joshua Garcia, Vincenzo Casale, Ava Cautillo, Ashly Garcia, Azariah Maisonet, Dylon Vazquez, Anthony Germany, Jordan Clark, Khalil Murphy, Andy Nunez, Kaiden Rodriguez, Rafael Nunez, Terrell Gibbs Jr., and Coach Jesse Cowan. Kneeling: Augustus Esposito, Genesis Velazquez, Charlee Kiesler, Terrance Howell, Noah Burch, Jayden Medina-Kong and Elroy Sewer Jr. Not shown: Eli Burch.

As 2024 begins, there are plans for some positive updates to City Island's only elementary school, P.S. 175, including changes to the physical structure and after-school programs.

After 22 years, the portable classrooms behind the school will be removed. "They are no longer being used and have outlived their lifespan," Principal Julie Porras told *The Current*. The free-standing units housed up to four classes of second- and third-graders over the years.

Constructed to reduce overcrowding, the trailer-style units were put in place in 2002 and accommodated a total of 116 students. Each unit contained two separate classrooms with seating for 29 students apiece. "The plan is to house grades 2 and 3 in the units and connect them with an attached walkway to the school gym," said Ena Ellwanger, principal of P.S. 175 at the time.

According to Mrs. Ellwanger, the new units were fully equipped with their own heat, air conditioning, windows, bathrooms and intercom system. "They are metal structures that sit on the ground and are similar to units currently being used in public schools throughout the city."

The effort to obtain these units began in 2001 and was spearheaded by James Vacca, district manager of Community Board 10 at

the time. Funding was obtained by Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, who allocated \$400,000 for the project in the 2002 capital budget. Another \$300,000 for the project was obtained from Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano's office.

"These units are designed to help relieve the overcrowding, not to expand the size of the school," Mrs. Ellwanger explained to the community in 2001. The student enrollment at the time was over 400 students in grades K to 8. As the size of the student population shrank over the years (a trend experienced in many school districts) and the main building underwent renovation, the portable units were no longer needed.

Along with the removal of the portable classrooms, P.S. 175 has received approval from the School Construction Authority (SCA) to replace the playgrounds in the schoolyard with new equipment and surfacing. Ms. Porras explained that both the main playground as well as the separate kindergarten play area will both be renovated beginning in 2024.

Ms. Porras and Parent Coordinator Tina Gisante are enthusiastic about updating the playground equipment. When the new building was constructed at 200 City Island Avenue in 1975 on the former site of Nevins Shipyard, there was no playground in the

schoolyard. The schoolyard was first renovated in 1993 by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) with a grant from SCA and donations from Island businesses and residents. Playground equipment was erected in the main schoolyard and a separate "pirate ship" play area was later added outside the kindergarten classrooms. Both these origi-

nal structures were replaced in later years, and it is time for another update to the equipment and playground surface in 2024, Ms. Porras explained.

Finally, Ms. Porras announced that there is once again a youth basketball team

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JOSE REYES SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Jose Reyes was convicted in January 2024 for the murder of Lizbeth Mass (above) on City Island in 2021.

On Jan. 18, 2024, a jury in the Bronx Supreme Court found Jose Reyes guilty of second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon in the killing of Lizbeth Mass on April 14, 2021, on City Island. He was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the murder conviction and 15 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision for possession of the firearm. Both sentences will run concurrently.

According to Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, "The defendant shot the victim, Lizbeth Mass, three times in the middle of her shift during a fit of jealous rage. Lizbeth was beloved in her community and was senselessly killed. After a 15-day trial, the jury reached a guilty verdict, and the defendant will now spend decades behind bars for the death of a working mother."

According to the investigation, two years ago on the afternoon of April 14, 2021, the defendant went to the construction site at 636 City Island Avenue where Ms. Mass, 52, worked. He became angry when he saw her boyfriend at the site, left the scene and returned on a bicycle. The boyfriend was concerned that Reyes would harm Ms. Mass, so he followed Reyes in his car and saw him shoot the victim three times, once each in the back, leg and hip, with a revolver taken from the City Island home of the defendant's employer. The boyfriend hit the defendant with his vehicle and, with others, held Reyes until the police arrived. Ms. Mass was taken to Jacobi Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead about an hour after the shooting.

The District Attorney's office reported that the case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Burim Namani, Counsel in the Homicide Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Adam Thomas of Trial Bureau 30, under the supervision of Christine Scaccia,

Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.

According to the Department of Design and Construction, Ms. Mass worked as a construction flagger for Northeast Remsco Construction, Inc., the contractor for the water-main replacement project that had been on the Island since the summer of 2019. Liz, as everyone called her, had worked for the company for several years, according to one member of the crew, and was well liked, not just by her colleagues but also by Islanders who saw her regularly and were always greeted with a smile.

Mr. Reyes, known as Eddie, worked as a handyman and had been doing odd jobs on City Island for several years, according to an Island resident who often used to see him here working for a retired policeman who lived on Reynolds Street. He was observed in recent months bringing lunch to Ms. Mass, and on April 14, when he met with her, she introduced him to Dwayne Walker, age 58, whom she introduced as her boyfriend. Mr. Reyes then rode his bicycle away from the scene and returned to the Legion Triangle with a 44-caliber Smith and Wesson gun. Perhaps not coincidentally, a retired police officer on Reynolds Street reported that a gun had been stolen from his house.

There were several reasons why this event was such a shock for the City Island community. There had not been a fatal shooting on City Island in 24 years, and the incident shocked everyone who saw or heard the shooting or were caught in the massive traffic jam created when police, fire and emergency vehicles responded to the scene. Many Islanders were deeply disturbed by the video of the incident recorded by the Argus camera on the bridge that was published on line by the news media after the incident. Flowers were left on the Legion Triangle, where she died, by co-workers, Island residents, the Civic Association and family members, and City Island Rising raised \$2,500 for a memorial bench in Catherine Scott Promenade.



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND RISING
City Island Rising led by John Doyle (above right) raised funds to have a bench placed in Catherine Scott Park in memory of Lizbeth Mass. A ceremony dedicating the bench was held in April 2022.

BRIEFLY...

LUCKY PTA CARD PARTY: The 2024 P.S. 175 card party's theme is "Count Your Lucky Stars." Everyone is invited to join the fun on March 15 (close to St. Patrick's Day) at Scavello's on the Island, 101 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Parent Teacher Association at P.S. 175 works hard to raise money to cover expenses and enrichment programs for the students. Donated prizes will be raffled off, and they need every cent to maintain the kinds of programs that set the school apart. For tickets and information, go to www.cityislandpta.org.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES are being sold by City Island's Troop 1814 and will be available until April 14. On Sunday, March 10, the scouts will be selling cookies in front of Dominick's Market from 12 noon to 4 p.m. and at Bay Plaza Mall on Sunday, March 17, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. You can also purchase cookies online by credit card through the digital cookie page www.tinyurl.com.troop1814cookies, and cookies will be shipped. You can also support the troop by making a donation. All donations go to New York City food pantries.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP is presenting a delightful comedy, "Becky's New Car" by Steven Dietz, on Friday, March 1; Saturday, March 2; Friday, March 8; and Saturday, March 9, at 8 p.m., as well as on Sundays March 3 and 10, at 3 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$25 for seniors and students. Please note that tickets can only be purchased on line (cityislandtheatergroup.org) or as walk-ins at the time of the show.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS to be in the next exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, which will run from March 9 through March 31, with an opening reception on March 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. Deadline for artwork is March 3. For further information, call 718-885-1403.

CITY ISLAND FERRY LOGO CONTEST. Submit a design for a chance to win a \$200 gift certificate to your favorite City Island restaurant. To enter, e-mail your design to CityIslandRising@gmail.com, and include your name, address and telephone number. To learn more and to sign up and support a City Island ferry, go to yescityislandferry.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT on March 31 at 1 p.m. in Hawkins Park sponsored by City Island Rocks and Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2024. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - LOST PROPERTY
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 - ASSAULT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 - AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATOR

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Jan. 24 to Feb. 20, 2024.

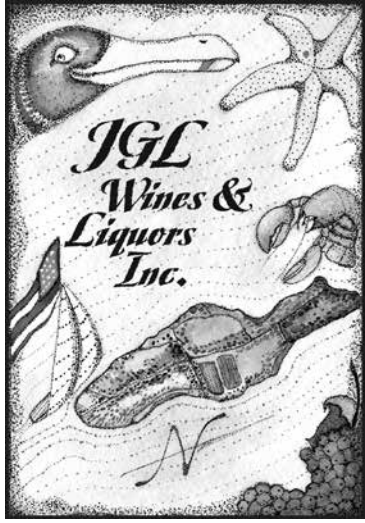
2/3 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 26, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on City Island Ave. at 12:28 a.m. Defendant was seen parked in a vehicle with the engine running and lights on with an improperly displayed temporary paper plate. Upon further investigation, police found that the defendant's driving privilege had been revoked.

2/12 - On Kirby Street at 9:30 a.m., an off-Island male reported lost property. Complainant stated that he checked on his boat and discovered the boat license plate missing.

2/17 - An off-Island male, 38, was arrested and charged with DWI on City Island Avenue at 9:07 p.m. Police observed defendant traveling north on City Island Avenue. An officer conducted a traffic stop for an unsafe lane change and upon further investigation found that defendant's license was suspended and that the defendant had a faint odor of alcohol on his breath.

2/17 - Police from the 45th Precinct made multiple arrests at a commercial establishment

on City Island Avenue at 1:36 a.m. An Island female, 31, was charged with assault after she took a chair and threw it at an off-Island male, 31, causing minor laceration to his chest. When a bartender asked the Island female to leave the location, she refused. She was charged with assault when she punched a female victim, who was escorting her out, on the right side of the face. An off-Island male, 26, was also charged with assault after striking an Island male, 50, who was walking toward the bar. Then an off-Island male, 25, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief after he broke a wall sconce with sticks from a sidewalk sign that was also destroyed. Damage estimated at \$300.



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Many discussions about everyday relationships, everyday life and Becky's being conflicted about what she wants her car to look like ensued during rehearsals of "Becky's New Car" by Steven Dietz. Pictured are cast members (l. to r.) Steven Bendler, Maria Provenzano (director), Laura Lee Botsacos, Tsuyako Sandy Dunn, Imani Logan and William Kozy. See BRIEFLY on page 2 for more information.

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Photo by KAREN NANI

The School Construction Authority has approved replacement of the existing playground equipment and surface behind P.S. 175, including the main playground in the schoolyard (above) and the kindergarten play area.

P.S. 175 Changes

Continued from page 1

on City Island. Late in 2023, a co-ed team of P.S. 175 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 was formed and began competing in the Middle School Basketball Association. The team is coached by Jesse Cowan, a paraprofessional teacher at the school. Coach Cowan organized a Sharks team (the unofficial nickname of P.S. 175 students) that has a roster of more than 20 boys and girls. "We field 15 players each game and have a 10-game schedule against other schools in District 11, including P.S. 19, 83, 127 and 186."

City Island has been without youth basketball since 2019, when the century-old St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program folded. The last moderator of the program,

Islander Bill Whelan, told *The Current*, "We are at the end of the program due to lack of interest. The remaining players from Bantam third- and fourth-graders and Tyro fifth- and sixth-graders went to play at Our Lady of Assumption (OLA), St. Mary's sister parish in the Bronx." The program was able to survive for a few years after the closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in 2013, but it could not be sustained without more support from parents and coaches.

The P.S. 175 team is part of the after-school program funded by New York Edge and Ms. Porras is grateful for the enthusiastic leadership of Coach Cowan (nickname "Cowman"). "We hope to make the play-offs," he told *The Current*, and many Islanders who wore City Island basketball jerseys over the years will certainly cheer them on.



Photos by JUDY JUDSON

On the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 10, Islanders were upset to see the Welcome to City Island sign, installed years ago by the Garden Club of City Island, had broken and fallen to the ground. Shortly thereafter, however, John Scanlon and two of his employees at Pelham Bay Home Center repaired the sign and put it back in place (above l. to r.) : Tashel Scanlon, John Scanlon, Bruce Bowes.

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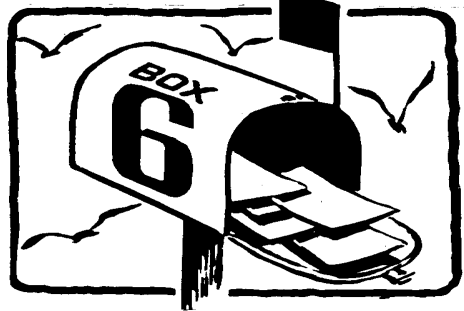
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WELCOME TO CITY ISLAND SIGN REPAIRED		GIRL SCOUT COOKIES GO ON SALE		PLETHORA OF 1950s SANTA DECORATIONS RESURFACE		P. S. 175 EXPERIENCING MANY WELCOME CHANGES	
I DIDN'T LIKE SEEING THE CITY ISLAND SO SPLIT UP.		WELL, THANKS TO MR. SCANLON, THE TWO HALVES ARE REUNITED WITH A SEAMLESS REPAIR!		THERE ARE APPARENTLY A LOT OF THOSE SANTA CUTOUTS AROUND AND NOT JUST ON C.I.!		I KNOW! BUT ONLY JAY MCCARTHY WAS ABLE TO GET THE PLANS FOR THE REINDEER AND SLED TOO!	
AND ALL THIS IN AN ELECTION YEAR!		I KEEP BUYING THE THIN MINTS FROM YOU EVERY YEAR BUT I DON'T GET ANY THINNER!		THEY'RE TAKING AWAY THE MOBILE CLASSROOMS BECAUSE OF THE DROP IN THE STUDENT POPULATION.		MAYBE FEWER KIDS, BUT MORE OF THEM ARE INTERESTED IN BBALL, SO, OUT GO THE CLASSROOMS AND IN COMES THE SHARKS TEAM! HOORAY!	



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

Playing with Parkinson's

To the Editor,
My brother, Michael Berardi, who had many friends here on City Island, passed away on Feb. 5 this year at the age of 84 of complications from Parkinson's disease.

He was a jazz guitarist, artist and writer whose life was depicted in the documentary film "Playing with Parkinson's," produced by Burrill Crohn.

His determination to continue to make music and art despite being disabled has been an inspiration to all who have seen the film. As a last act of giving, to help others, Michael's family arranged, at his request, to donate his brain for Parkinson's research.

As he himself described his role in the film: "My goal is to take the tremors of Parkinson's and turn them into unique rhythms and sound. My instruments will be the guitar, of course, though not like before, but I'll also bring bowls and spoons, or my pill containers in a bag, or my compromised voice, or almost anything that serves as an extension of Mr. P, for he is as much a presence in this recording as the other musicians."

Mary Lou Lachman

Another Santa Sighting

To the Editor,
The letter in the January/February 2024 issue about the Santa Claus decorations was interesting and opened a trip down memory lane for me. I do not know where the two people mentioned in the letter got their Santas, but I can confirm the origin of mine.

In the fall of 1953, I had just turned 16 and was a junior in high school, when my mother came to me with an idea. She had seen an ad for plans to make a Santa, his sled and reindeer. She asked me if I would make them if she ordered the plans and bought the plywood and paint. I was handy with tools, loved woodworking and handyman stuff. I said sure!

The plans arrived. They consisted of paper layout images of each item. You could then trace the images onto plywood. Once the outline was on the plywood, I could cut the plywood to the exact image, and then sand it. The hat, eyes, nose, rosy cheeks, mouth, beard and the rest of him were all traced from the paper image onto the plywood Santa image. Each area was clearly identified with the color it was to be painted. That's why the Santas all look alike, except the one waving his left hand. If that Santa had been made from plans like mine, the maker probably just flipped the paper template over.

I made the sled and reindeer the same way. When the pieces were complete, my mom had the whole scene displayed over the holidays on our front porch at 550



Former Islander Jay McCarthy (above in 1953 and below in 2024) created the same Santa decoration owned by several current Island residents.

Minneford Avenue.
After my parents passed away and the property was sold in 1969, my wife, Barbara, and I took Santa with us to Larchmont, and eventually with our two sons to Florida.

Through the years, old Santa got a little worse for wear around his boots from the rain, and I had to reinforce that area (I guess I didn't use marine plywood back in 1953!), and I repainted him while I was at it. However, he's still standing strong and will be around for many years to come.
J. F. "Jay" McCarthy

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To Celebrate
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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK, MATT PANZA and RON TERNER

The biggest snowstorm so far this year hit New York and City Island on Feb. 13, 2024. About five inches of snow blanketed Island streets and houses. The avenue and side streets were cleared in time for Valentine's Day celebrations the next day.



A Man for All Seasons: Cory Fontana

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The following is the latest in a series of business profiles of long-time advertisers in The Island Current.

During the middle of the 20th century, City Island was as much a summer community as it was a boat-building center, and many off-Islanders came here to enjoy living on or near the water of Long Island Sound. During the 1940s, two couples enjoyed spending summers on the Island—Sarah and David Appleboom and Lizzie and Morris Chernoff—in bungalows overlooking Long Island Sound behind a two-family house on Minneford Avenue that was eventually purchased by the Chernoffs and winterized for year-round occupancy. Little did any of them realize that their great-grandchild, Cory Fontana, would live in that house and become a hard-working clam digger with more than five different careers, some of them running at the same time.

Cory was born in 1963 to Valerie Chernoff Fontana, the daughter of Harry Chernoff, proprietor of Reliable Cleaners on City Island Avenue, and Frank Fontana, whose parents, Sam and Anita Fontana, ran a very successful bridal shop that operated for over 70 years. Cory attended P.S. 17 and P.S. 175 on City Island, before going off the Island to New Rochelle Academy in 1975. Admittedly not much of a student, Cory loved working, and his first boss was Sam Chernin, who had opened a clam bar in 1965, where Cory's mother was a waitress and Sam was the cook. Cory worked as a salad boy and performed many other chores for Sam, and eventually he worked at all of his restaurants—on City Island, at Orchard Beach, at Turtle Cove and in Florida.

In 1982 Cory began dating another



clam digger, Nancy Rodstrom, and they were married in 1987. The couple moved to Florida, where Cory managed a few of Sam Chernin's restaurants, but they moved back to City Island in 1992 to one of the family cottages, just in time for the "Storm of the Century" that December. Eventually they moved into the main house, where they raised two daughters, Sabrina and Samantha. The couple also became proprietors of the family bridal shop, which they ran from 1992 to 2015. Unfortunately, in March

Continued on page 14

City Island Yacht Club 2024

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Sundays: Feb 18, Mar 10, Apr 14

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2024 Camp Schedule

Session I June 26 - June 28
Session II July 1 - 19
Session III July 22 - Aug 2

All sessions are held at:
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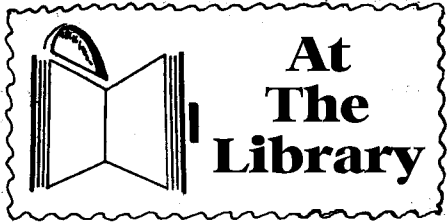
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Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

Steam Play: Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 to 10. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Chill Zone: No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 to 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

MARCH TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. March 5, Developmental Disability Aware-

ness Posters; March 12, Unplug and Relax; March 19, Cyanotypes and Anna Atkins; March 26, Design Your Own Book Cover

Teen Hang Out: Saturday, March 9, at 1 p.m.

MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. Online with Google Meet, please register online at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday March 11 and 25, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Origami for Adults: Origami, the art of paper folding, originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it "engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination." Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



Despite a snowstorm the day before, Island restaurants welcomed many Valentine's Day guests on Feb. 14, 2024. The Snug on City Island Avenue and Fordham Street celebrated the day of love with a unique menu and enthusiastic staff (above, l. to r.) Michael Decuffa, Hannah Glick and Susan Hayes.

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Tammany Hall and City Island

By BERNARD WITLIEB and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Tammany Hall was a political organization founded in 1786 that dominated New York City and State politics. Thomas Croker (above left) was the leader of Tammany Hall from 1886 to 1901, the period when City Island was annexed to New York City. His right-hand man, Lawrence Delmour (above right), built a summer house on City Island (right), where two judges appointed by Tammany Hall also lived.

Most New Yorkers have heard of Tammany Hall, which was once the headquarters of the city's Democratic political machine, and of William "Boss" Tweed, its leader from 1858 to 1877, the year before he died in jail after being convicted of stealing several million dollars.

But many Islanders may not be aware that Tammany Hall had a significant presence on City Island and was one of the reasons the Island was annexed to New York City in 1895.

Tweed's successor Richard Croker was born in Ireland in 1843 and died there in 1922, but he spent many years in New York City, as a prizefighter, gang leader, alderman, coroner and, as the Washington Times put it on Nov. 11, 1901, "the multimillionaire who has no business but politics."

His top lieutenant and longtime friend was Lawrence Delmour, who was born in Ireland in 1840 and died in Manhattan in 1907, but whose summer home was on City Island, at the west end of Tier Street, where it still stands. He and his wife, Mary, made money in real estate and a flower business, but he was best known as Croker's right-hand man, and he held many Tammany patronage positions. He was called "Whispering" Larry Delmour, either because he could keep secrets or because he was noticeably soft spoken. As the Kingston Daily Freeman noted in his obituary, Delmour was a friendly go-between and peacemaker with "his exaggerated eyebrows and goatee...confident look of an overfed satyr...and incessant winks and leers." He was also

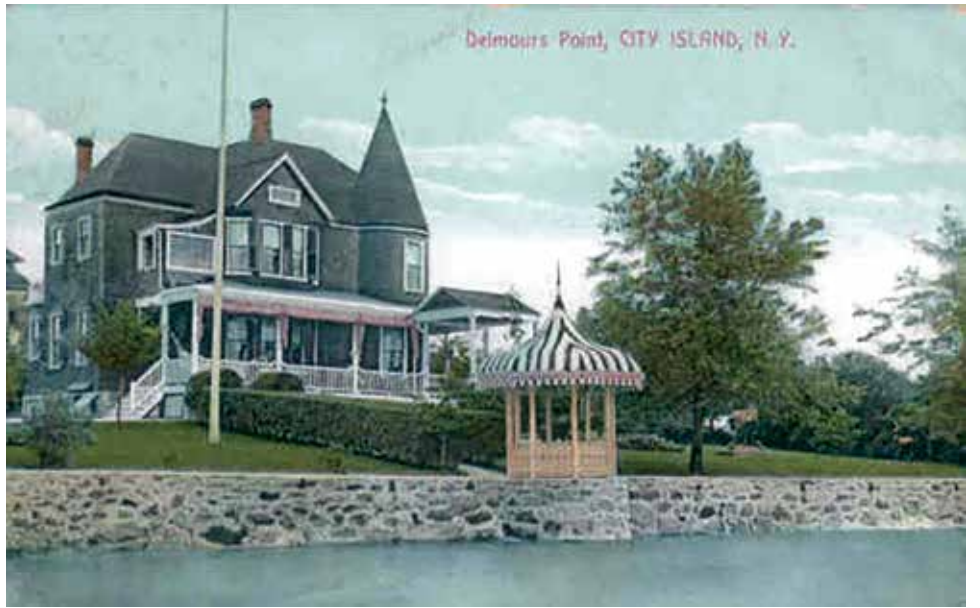
an avid fisherman who invited Tammany pals to tie up to his dock for a day on the water.

One of Delmour's closest friends was William McAllister, who served as supervisor of the town of Pelham after a career as a ship's carpenter and who moved to City Island, where he continued to work building yachts. Over the course of more than 20 years, Croker, Delmour and McAllister played pivotal roles in the series of events that led to New York City's annexation of City Island in 1895.

But the annexation of City Island, along with much of what is now the Bronx, had been a goal since soon after the Civil War, when Tammany Hall faced two crises: a reduced tax base and the flight of many Manhattanites northward. In 1873, without informing the general public, New York City annexed much of what is now the west Bronx, more than doubling the population of New York City. Without being aware of this dramatic change, 17,000 residents of Westchester went to sleep on Dec. 31, 1873, and woke up the next morning in Tammany-controlled NYC.

The Process of Annexation

In the early 1890s, the usually Democratic Pelham Township was a major area of Westchester County that comprised three incorporated villages— Pelham, North Pelham, and Pelham Manor—which included City Island, Bartow, and a large portion of what is now Pelham Bay Park. Although NYC had spent \$9 million in 1888 to purchase much of what is now Pelham Bay



Park, the official annexation of the park, along with City Island, did not take place until 1895. William MacAllister spearheaded the efforts to annex these areas to the city, swaying City Island voters by saying that Westchester authorities had no plans to pay for repairs to the unsafe old bridge and that NYC would build a replacement.

However, the City Island Drift, a local newspaper, edited by Orrin Fordham (grandson of the original oysterman), published an editorial on Aug. 4, 1894, raising a number of objections: "What can she want to possess in this direction? Is it water front? There is plenty of water frontage in other quarters better adapted to the needs of New York than we can lay claim to. Does she want another asylum for the confinement of the insane, her criminals, or her paupers? She wants the nicest spot on the Sound if she wants City Island for that purpose. Does the city want us as more territory for corruption purposes? Does she want more property holders to help bear the present indebtedness, and that which soon promises to come to light? The city will not improve facilities for reaching us anyhow. This must come through private enterprise and will not come until there is a demand for it."

Two months later, the paper's editorial read: "The Drift believes there is nothing to be gained by annexation, because of the unfitness of a city government for a town like this. City ordinances would be a pestering nuisance for a country town, because of their petty provisions and compulsions. A village incorporation is much more desirable, as it would give us a chance to make our own improvements at our own convenience, with less corruption and greater speed." The editor then asked readers to vote on the issue, but the annexation won, by a very few votes, and Pelham lost 800 residents.

Governor Levi Morton signed the annexation bill on June 14, 1895, and the enlarged NYC now included all the land from the Bronx River east to Long Island Sound. The united 1873 and 1895 properties were named The Bronx, after the river that ran through it. One area resident remarked, "Isn't it nice ... we can go to the country without leaving the city," reported the Evening World on June 12, 1895. After appeals and several court tests, the law went into effect on Jan. 1, 1898, a day that welcomed 20,000 more residents to NYC.

Tammany Hall on City Island

In 1896 Larry Delmour engaged the services of prolific City Island builder Samuel Booth to build the now famous landmarked house at 21 Tier Street. As usual, Tammany clout was a factor in the cost: a 1903 court case revealed that the stones used in its construction were "a gift and never paid for," according to The Sun on July 18. Interestingly, the New-York Tribune reported in 1902 that much unnecessary repaving was being performed in the Bronx by a contracting company in which Delmour was a silent partner. Delmour soon made his presence known as "the sage of City Island," declared the Evening World on Sept. 4, 1903; the paper described him two years later him as the man who "owns most of City Island." It is no coincidence that the individual who cut the ribbon at the opening of the new City Island Bridge on July 4, 1901, was none other than Larry Delmour's

wife, Mary.

But there were Tammany Hall interests on City Island long before then. In August 1900, the New York Times reported that Tammany Hall had obtained the right of first refusal for the five-acre Belden property at the south end of the Island. It was renamed Arlington Park, and Tammany wanted to use it as a summer residence for entertaining political friends. That sale never took place, however, because Belden Point had been taken over by the estate of Collis P. Huntington, since William Belden had never repaid Huntington for his investment in the property. Croker did, however, purchase a house on City Island for \$25,000, joining other Tammany residents, including Judge Harry Carey (father of actor Harry Carey) and Judge Richard Arnow (who lived for several years in the house next to Lickety Split). The New York Times reported in January 1914 that Richard Arnow had purchased Belden Point from the Huntington estate to build a hotel there, but that seems to have caused him great financial trouble and never got built.

With City Island now part of NYC, Tammany Hall could now monetize the new acquisition. Possessing inside information about forthcoming city-funded improvements, transportation plans and so on, the politicians could buy real estate that would accrue in value very quickly.

In 1902, the St. Louis Republic published an article about the annexation, which had become official in 1898, when City Island, along with the rest of the Bronx, became part of New York City. "New York City's absorption of its suburbs has been fatal to the race of hardshell brine-incrusted clam diggers that has for three hundred years or more peopled the little dot of sand in Long Island Sound known as City Island, which has recently been swallowed up by the great metropolis.... These 'clambers' have been really a race in themselves. For more than a century, the intrusion of the urban resident of the man of commerce was resented. The native City Island was content with his little world, measuring a half mile in width and a mile in length, and he hoped, as his ancestors had hoped before him, that the invasion, now at flood tide, would never come. Within sight and almost within sound of the nightly glare and daily tumult of a great city, the 'clammer' had lived from generation to generation, happy and undisturbed."

More Annexation?

Dissatisfied with your town's boundaries? Annexation seems always to be an option. Reported by the New York Times on March 16, 1911, a bill in the NYS Legislature called for Mount Vernon, Yonkers, New Rochelle and Pelham to be made a borough of NYC. Bills were introduced in the state legislature in the mid-1920s to annex Westchester to NYC. In 1931, 20 property owners of an unnamed strip of Bronx land near the Pelham border sought unsuccessfully to be annexed to that suburban town. The complainants noted that children had to travel four miles to City Island schools, the Times reported, and essential services were not provided by NYC. And on December 28, 1997, the New York Times reported that the mayor of Mount Vernon, Ernest Davis, said, "Since Mount Vernon is landlocked, I'd like to annex some water.... I'd like to take City Island."

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Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Week Schedule
March 24th, Palm Sunday:
Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM
March 28th, Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 PM
March 29th, Good Friday
The Church will be open 12:00-3:00 PM with the Good Friday Liturgy at 2:00 PM
March 31st, Easter Sunday ~ 10:00 AM
All are Welcome!
116 City Island Ave. (at Pilot Street) 718.885.1080 ~ www.graccityisland.net

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.

Sons of the American Legion

Greetings to all. Our March meeting will be on Thursday, the 14th, at 7:30 p.m. As always, I invite any who are interested in membership in the SAL to come out to the Post that night, meet some of our active members, sit in on the meeting and, maybe, join our ranks.

We would like to thank all who came out to Post 156 for Sunday football during the season. We would especially like to thank all those who brought a dish for our potluck Super Bowl Party, as well as those who set up, cleaned or otherwise lent a hand. A special thank you goes out to the City Island Pizza Company, which helped us with a generous donation for the party.

On March 9, we will be throwing our St. Patrick's Day Party, from 4 to 8 p.m. The price is \$40 per person, which includes beer, wine and soda, as well as an authentic Irish menu. You can come into the Post or call 718-885-0639 from noon to 10 p.m. to RSVP.

Peter Chadwick

American Legion Auxiliary

The Valentine's Day dance was a great success! Thank you so very much for all of the great donations. The kids played games and won prizes. They also enjoyed the amazing treats provided by some of our wonderful members. A fun time was had by all.

Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The March meeting will be on the 5th. Please e-mail all inquiries for membership or supporting the American Legion Family's commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to Ala156correspondence@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Service, Not Self.

Michelle Del Pozzo

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, is open for in-person and remote services. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Worship schedule during the month of March: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father Kevin Moroney. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the second Sunday of the month.

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, March 24: Liturgy of Palms and Procession, 10 a.m. The Passion of Christ will be presented by members of the Church School.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, Liturgy at 2 p.m. Church will be open from 12 to 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31: Celebration of the Resurrection, 10 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place immediately following the service.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School will present the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday, March 24, at 10 a.m. They participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Youth Sunday service on Father's Day in June. The older members of the church school will lead the egg hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31, immediately following the service. All are welcome. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net.

Pancake Supper: Despite being postponed because of the snowstorm on Feb. 13, Grace held its pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church hall on Feb. 20. Thanks to all who cooked and help set up for the dinner. Also thanks to Fr. Kevin Moroney and his band who provided entertainment. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended

and helped make the evening a success.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

The **Grace Tones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you'd like to join, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Karen Nani

Trinity United Methodist Church

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission; "That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ." Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we all live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won't you come?

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.

Our Sunday School has reopened and runs during Sunday worship, in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and youth, won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and youth and we do so with love, joy and peace.

Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 4:30 with a free community supper following at 6 p.m. and Prayer Group at 6:45 p.m. All youth are invited to the Youth Group and everyone is invited to the meal and prayer time. Love, joy and peace to all!

March dates to remember: Spring Fair, March 23, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Palm Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m. service and "Ode to Joy" party; Good Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m. service; Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:40 a.m. Sunrise service at Pelham Cemetery.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. The Neighborhood Community Officers (NCOs) from the 45th Precinct will have their meeting at 6:30 p.m., and the community is invited to attend. At the Civic meeting, we will continue to discuss the proposed City Of Yes. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight, graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association. Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 3040 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 107 Bronx, NY 10461 Her telephone number is 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554 New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@city.nyc.gov.

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, Room 814, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-3595. The District Office is 3853 East

Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-822-2049 and the e-mail address is fernandez@nysenate.gov.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-5296, and the e-mail address is benedettom@nysenate.gov. The District Offices are at 3602 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-892-2235, and 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475; telephone 718-320-2220.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is the commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO is Officer Rugovac; telephone number 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone 718-892-1161; on Facebook at BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are collecting dues for 2024 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

City Island Oyster Reef

In January CIOR purchased 20 microscopes and 70 life jackets to benefit the science program at P.S. 175 with the support of funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Futures Fund.

We are happy to announce that we will continue to have Luna Placchi, Educational and Community Outreach Coordinator; Ahmed Abbas, Alexandra Acevedo and Maia Zonis on our staff, and they will be joined by interns Gabriel Roses, Kaitlin Mohammed and Geir Clancy. These are students who are passionate about protecting the marine environment, and they will be actively involved in collecting and analyzing data, developing our educational programs and running our shell-collection program with local restaurants throughout 2024. CIOR is a 100 percent volunteer organization except for the students whom we support.

On Saturday, April 20, at 6 p.m. we are hosting a wine and cheese reception at the City Island Nautical Museum so we can present future oyster reef projects, explain our community outreach programs and get to know one another.

To find out more about City Island Oyster Reef, visit cioysterreef.org!

Sally Connolly

Holiday Services

Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" presented by members of the Church School.

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday. The church will be open from 12 to 3 p.m. with the Good Friday liturgy at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday, Celebration of the Resurrection and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt following the service

Trinity United Methodist Church
331 City Island Avenue at Bay Street

Saturday, March 23: Spring Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:30 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge

Saturday, March 23, Palm (Passion) Sunday, Vigil Mass 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Blessing of Palms at all Masses

Thursday, March 28, Holy Thursday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, March 29, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. to be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at 7 a.m., on Saturday at 8 a.m. and Vigil at 5:15 p.m.; on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Our monthly holy hour will take place on the First Friday, March 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

God's blessings on the eight students in our Religious Education Program receiving First Penance on March 9. May this be the beginning of deeper relationship with Jesus.

The Thrift Shop will re-open with its Annual Spring Collection on Thursday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come take a look! The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m.

The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday evening, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m.

On Good Friday, March 29, we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 3 p.m.

The Solemn Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, will take place at 8 p.m. and will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Masses on Easter Sunday, March 31, are at 9 and 11 a.m.

Happy Easter to all!

Rosette Dietz

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are closed until March 14, but then we will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be presenting our spring and summer collection when we re-open, featuring new and used items. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

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

Hello from the members of the board of the City Island Community Center. We hope everyone is getting through these last few weeks of cold winter weather and looking forward to St. Patrick's Day, Easter and more!

Spring is almost here! Join us on the weekend of March 2 and 3 for our Flea Market event. Shop for some affordable and unique finds. Free hot chocolate and coffee will be available for our shoppers.

Also on Saturday, March 2, Little Island Movers will host a fun, family-friendly activity for toddlers ages 1 to 4. Join instructor Christal for some fun movement and meet some of your neighbors. The class begins at 10 a.m. and goes for 45 minutes. Classes are \$20 per week; a six-week package is \$100. Call Christal at 718-877-2920 to register by Feb. 27.

Reminder, our Center rental schedule is filling up. Book your party or spring celebration soon. Friendly reminder: Community Center rentals are limited to City Island residents only. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 to reserve your date.

Our Winter schedule of offerings are below:

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

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

City Island Civic Association: Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

Children's Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook! Happy March!

Melissa Cebollero

PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island has several new programs this month. Maria will be back for a Friday morning Zumba class. The first class will be March 1 at 9 a.m. Starting on Monday, March 11, Lucy will be offering another evidence-based Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention class. The class will meet twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. On Wednesdays at 1 p.m. a

sing-along with Sandy will start on March 20. Please stop by PSS City Island Center and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free, and members have access to the Center's classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning. He is now offering a Zoom-only class on Androids at 11 a.m. and two in-person classes for iPhones and Android phones in the afternoon. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements, such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the Center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick-up for lunch will be available at noon as well. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program is available for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program and/or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat, etc.), please call the center at 718-885-0727.

March Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

The Current Schedule

- Monday**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
 - 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
 - 8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
 - 11 a.m. to 12 noon Technology class on Zoom only with Julio
 - 11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
 - 1 p.m. iPhone classes
 - 1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes
- Tuesday**
 - 9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)
 - 10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
 - 12 noon In the News
 - 12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes
- Wednesday**
 - 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)
 - 1 p.m. Sing-A-Long with Sandy starting March 20
- Thursday**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)
 - 10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)
 - 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

- 1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays
- 1:45 p.m. Self-Defense with Sensei Eddie
- Friday**
 - 9 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)

- 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
- 11:30 a.m. Brain Games

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joes and Target. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note that the Center will be closing early on March 19 and lunch service will be at 11 a.m.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the new year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members, we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in or arrive 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for March 2024.

EREV Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m.)

March 1: Zoom service with Stu and Shari

March 8: At TBE (and Zoom) Special Shabbat with potential new Rabbi candidate

March 15: At TBE (and Zoom) with Rabbi Levy and band celebrating Women's History Month

March 22: Zoom service with Shari and Monty

March 29: Zoom service with Stu and Leslie

Havdallah and Torah Study: Check our website (www.yourshulbythesea.org) to see who is leading our Chevruta-led Torah Tales and Havdallah. Saturday evenings starting at 6 p.m.

We will be represented at the City Island Flea Market on March 3 at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. If you can help staff our table, or if you have items you'd like to donate, please contact Rachel Stark at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Purim Celebration: Come celebrate one of our most festive holidays at TBE on Sunday, March 24, at 4:30 p.m.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We'd be happy to host you.

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or volunteer, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends and family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional

information and membership opportunities, check out our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

Garden Club of City Island

At our February meeting, Isak Mendes, Deputy Director for Project GreenThumb, of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation talked to us about GreenThumb, which supports 550 community gardens city-wide and is the largest organization in the country of its kind. These gardens are located on property owned by the city or a city agency, such as DOT, the Trust for Public Land or the Bronx Land Trust. In NYC, a license is required to have a community garden in a public space. The gardens may be for social, educational or food purposes, and some of them exist for the purpose of returning native plants to our open spaces, others in order to mitigate flooding. GreenThumb provides support for all aspects of community garden development, from creating a vision for the garden and navigating the licensure process to obtaining materials and plants to create the garden.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, Garden Club members were surprised to find that our "Welcome to City Island" sign was on the ground, broken into three parts. Since no one seems to have seen this happen, we are left wondering what caused the sign to fall. However, a Good Samaritan in the form of John Scanlon, owner of Pelham Bay Home Center on Westchester Avenue, repaired the sign and quickly put it back on its supports, which came as a surprise since we had not contacted him. The Garden Club and all of City Island thank John and his guys for their quick response and workman-like job. John told us that he has a number of customers who live on City Island, and he wanted to pay them back.

The Garden Club has started working on its projects for the upcoming year. We have ordered additional plant containers to replace the old white ones on the north end of the Island. These will match the new containers recently installed in the middle of the Island. All of the containers will be filled with pansies in the spring and drought-tolerant plants in the summer. The spring planting will take place on March 23, and the Girl Scout troop from Throggs Neck will assist us. If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Just call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

Our Beautification Fund Drive will be starting shortly. In April, we will send fund-drive letters to every resident and business on City Island, making it easy to send in a donation. These projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Our annual fund-raiser luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 16, at the City Island Yacht Club. The cost will be \$72, including gratuity. Reservations are required and payment is due at the time of reservation. As always, there will be great gift certificates from local merchants as well as baskets of fun things that will be raffled off. All are invited to attend this enjoyable event.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a Helping Hand for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 4, at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue (off of west Ditmars).

Judy Judson

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Written and Directed by Christopher Nolan

With all the hoopla about **Oppenheimer** (2023), I decided to take a good look at Christopher Nolan, who, it turns out, makes excellent and successful movies. He has directed all of his 12 films and wrote (or co-wrote) all but one. His films are quite complex, and some have gotten longer over time. He especially likes to tell stories over varying degrees of time, sometimes moving backwards and forwards throughout a film. He is a master of special effects and suspense, and most (but not all) of his films are very loud, featuring machine guns, explosions and chases. He is fond of several actors who have appeared in many of his films including Michael Caine (8), Cillian Murphy (6), Christian Bale (4), Gary Oldman (4), Morgan Freeman (3), Kenneth Branagh (3), and Tom Hardy (3).

Following (1998) was Nolan's debut feature and shortest film, which was made for a reported \$6,000 when he was in his 20s. Shot in black-and-white, it is the story of The Young Man (Jeremy Theobald), a struggling writer who spends his days following strangers to see where their lives will lead them. His voyeurism gets him in trouble when he encounters Cobb (Alex Haw), a criminal who takes The Young Man under his wing. The Young Man is enthralled with Cobb's teachings, especially when they lead him to The Blonde (Lucy Russell), a femme fatale caught up with a crime boss (Dick Bradsell). The film jumps between three time periods that are easy to differentiate based on The Young Man's appearance. [1h 9m]

Co-written with his brother Jonathan, **Memento** (2000) is a fascinating film told backwards in time. It stars Guy Pearce as Leonard, an insurance investigator who is attempting to track down the man who raped and murdered his wife (Jorja Fox), and who is sometimes assisted by Teddy (Joe Pantoliano) and Natalie (Carrie-Anne Moss). His efforts are inexorably hindered by the fact that he suffers from a rare, untreatable form of memory loss. Although he can recall details of life before his accident, Leonard cannot remember what happened 15 minutes ago, where he's going, or why. The film's non-linear narrative is presented as two different sequences of scenes interspersed during the film: a series in black-and-white that is shown chronologically, and a series of color sequences shown in reverse order (simulating for the audience the mental state of the protagonist). The two sequences meet at the end of the film, producing one complete and cohesive narrative. [1h 53m]

Insomnia (2002) is a psychological thriller set in a small Alaskan town where Los Angeles detectives Will Dormer (Pacino) and his partner, Hap Eckhart (Martin Donovan), have arrived to assist the police chief (Paul Dooley) in solving the murder of a young woman. They are followed by an eager young detective, Ellie Burr (Hilary Swank). Although he doesn't appear until halfway through the film, Robin Williams is intriguing as Walter Finch, a small-time crime novelist. There are many twists and turns exacerbated by the fact that Dormer is under investigation by Internal Affairs back in L.A. The film is a remake of a 1997 Norwegian film of the same name, and it is notable that this is the only movie Nolan directed that he didn't also write or co-write. [1h 58m]

The Prestige (2006) is a period thriller about two stage magicians set in London in the 1890s. Under the mentorship of John Cutter (Michael Caine), an engineer who designs stage magic, Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale) begin as partners. Unfortunately, their rivalry begins when an assistant (Piper Perabo) dies while performing a trick, and Angier blames Bor-

den. When one of them performs a stunning new feat of magic, his rival tries desperately to uncover the secret of his routine by sending his beautiful new assistant, Olivia (Scarlett Johansson), as a spy. David Bowie appears as the scientist Nikola Tesla, who experiments with electricity and contributes to the development of the ultimate magic trick, The Transported Man. The Nolan brothers' script effectively uses voiceover narration, and there's even a surprise ending. [2h 10m]

A superhero movie perfectly encompasses many of Nolan's favorite themes, and so he launched his own Batman trilogy starring Christian Bale in the title role. The first is **Batman Begins** (2005) in which Nolan provides a serious and complex treatment of a larger-than-life crime drama. The film reboots the Batman film series by telling the origin story of Bruce Wayne from the death of his parents to his journey to become Batman and his fight to stop Ra's al Ghul (Liam Neeson) and Dr. Jonathan Crane/Scarecrow (Cillian Murphy) from plunging Gotham City into chaos. A young Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) travels to the Far East, where he is trained in the martial arts by Henri Ducard (Liam Neeson), a member of the mysterious League of Shadows. To prevent Ducard's plan to destroy Gotham City, Wayne returns to Gotham intent on cleaning up the city without resorting to murder. Katie Holmes appears as Rachel Dawes, Bruce's childhood friend and love interest who serves as Gotham City's assistant district attorney. Regulars in all three films are Gary Oldman as Jim Gordon, one of the few uncorrupted Gotham City police officers; Wayne's loyal butler, Alfred (the excellent Michael Caine), and a tech expert at Wayne Enterprises, Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman). [2h 20m]

The Dark Knight (2008) is the second in Nolan's Batman trilogy. The key performance in the movie is by the late Heath Ledger in his posthumous Oscar-winning performance as the "Joker." He seeks revenge for the horrible punishment his father exacted on him when he was a child. Throughout the film, he devises ingenious situations that force Batman (Christian Bale), Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) to make impossible ethical decisions. By the end, the whole moral foundation of the Batman legend is threatened. Maggie Gyllenhaal replaces Katy Holmes as Rachel Dawes, Gotham's assistant district attorney and Wayne's childhood friend, who is divided between her feelings for him and for DA Dent. Hans Zimmer's score is ominously tense, and the action sequences are extremely effective. [2h 32m]

The Dark Knight Rises (2012) moves into a doom-shrouded, apocalyptic future that seems uncomfortably close to today's headlines. Urban terrorism and class warfare envelop Gotham and its infrastructure is ripped apart, requiring Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) to reluctantly emerge from years of seclusion and face Bane (Tom Hardy), a soulless villain as powerful as he is. The film also includes a heroic young cop (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and two new potential romantic partners for Wayne. One of the women is the enigmatic Catwoman (Anne Hathaway), and the other is Miranda Tate (Marion Cotillard), a millionaire who may be able to rescue Wayne Enterprises after Bane's stock market mischief wipes out Wayne financially. The film begins slowly with a complex gloomy plot and too many new characters, but it builds to a sensational climax. [2h 44m]

In the brilliantly executed and complex **Inception** (2010), Leonardo DiCaprio plays Dom Cobb, a professional thief who commits corporate espionage by infiltrating the dreams of his targets. He is offered a chance of regaining custody of his children as payment for an impossible task: "inception," the implantation of another person's idea into a target's subconscious. He is hired by businessman Saito (Ken Watanabe) to break up the energy conglomerate of ailing competitor Maurice Fischer (Pete Postlethwaite) by planting the idea of dissolving the company into the mind of Robert (Cillian Murphy), Fischer's son and heir. Cobb's team includes Eames (Tom Hardy), a conman and identity forger; Yusuf (Dileep Rao), a chemist who concocts the powerful sedative for a stable "dream within a dream" strategy; Ariadne (Ellen Page), an architecture student tasked with designing the labyrinth of the dream

landscapes; and business partner Arthur (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). The biggest threat to the mission is the unexpected, distracting appearance in dream sequences of Cobb's late wife, Mal (Marion Cotillard). [2h 28m]

Interstellar (2014) is set in a dystopian future, where the Earth is becoming uninhabitable because of a global dust bowl and crop blight. Professor Brand (Michael Caine), a brilliant NASA physicist, is working on several plans to save humanity. Former NASA pilot Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and a team of researchers, including Brand's own daughter, Dr. Amelia Brand (Ann Hathaway), are recruited to travel in the spaceship Endurance through a wormhole near Jupiter, carrying 5,000 frozen embryos to colonize a habitable planet. Cooper leaves his children in the care of his elderly father-in-law, Donald (John Lithgow). While Cooper is gone, his son, Tom (Casey Affleck), grows up to oversee the family farm, and his daughter, Murphy (Jessica Chastain), becomes a scientist who works with Professor Brand to save humanity. Matt Damon appears as Dr. Mann, a NASA astronaut who was sent to one of the planets possibly viable for colonization. This is a visually stunning film that challenges the imagination. [2h 49m]

Dunkirk (2017) is an ensemble work that chronicles British World War II soldiers attempting to flee the Germans off the shores of Dunkirk. Tom Hardy plays Harrier, a fighter pilot trying to blast German pilots out of the sky before they can shoot soldiers on the ground and sink boats in the harbor. Mark Rylance is Mark Dawson, a civilian with teenage sons who is determined to pilot his small yacht to Dunkirk and rescue as many people as he can, including a soldier played by Cillian Murphy. His craft is one of hundreds of self-appointed rescuers around Dunkirk comprising the 20th century's boldest non-military flotilla that is as inspiring as you imagine it to be. Kenneth Branagh is on hand as Commander Bolton, the highest ranking English officer on the scene. Nolan's skill in staging action is on display in one gripping sequence after another. [1h 46m]

In **Tenet** (2020) John David Washington (Denzel's son) is compelling as "the Protagonist," a secret agent trying to prevent World War III—a war between the present and

future. He is partnered with the mysterious Neil (a charming Robert Pattinson). Together they track inverted objects to a villainous Russian arms dealer named Andrei (Kenneth Branagh). To get closer to this mega-wealthy madman, the Protagonist uses Andrei's wife, Kat (Elizabeth Debicki), who fears the possibility of losing her son. The film tries to do something original with time travel with bullets going into a gun when fired. The film contains a time-twisting narrative filled with robust action sequences and high-concept stories that viewers have to strain to follow. [2h 30m]

Being a Nolan screenplay **Oppenheimer** (2023) is told in nonlinear fashion. In the title role, Cillian Murphy is completely convincing as the scientist known as the father of the atomic bomb, who, after building it, counseled against its use and made many enemies in the process. Major supporting roles are filled by a top-notch ensemble including Matt Damon as General Leslie Groves, Kenneth Branagh as Nobel-winning Danish physicist Niels Bohr, Tom Conti as Albert Einstein, Jason Clarke as attorney Roger Robb, who served as special counsel to the AEC at Oppenheimer's security hearing, and Josh Hartnett as Nobel-winning nuclear physicist Ernest Lawrence, along with Gary Oldman in an unrecognizable cameo as President Truman. We meet his on-again, off-again mistress Jean Tatlock (Florence Pugh) and his wife, Katherine (Emily Blunt), who is infuriated by the attack on her husband by our government after WWII and his passivity in accepting it. The final exhausting half-hour is dominated by Robert Downey Jr.'s character, Lewis Strauss, former head of the Atomic Energy Commission, who tried to smear Oppenheimer's reputation in the 1950s. Already too long, the film's final act unfortunately goes from fate-of-the-world stakes to men sitting around tables arguing over a security clearance. Despite this, Nolan has created a dramatic masterpiece that has modern-day, real-world importance. He successfully tells the story of a major historical figure and movingly reminds us of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction. [3h]

And until next time, stay safe, and happy viewing.

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Feeling Stuck in Your Life? Try Something New!

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Let's face it: we humans are creatures of habit. Daily routines become the default settings for our lives. Patterns with those we share a home with can seem like a well-rehearsed dance routine—in both positive and negative ways.

Routines are good if they serve us well: daily exercise, healthy eating, positive conversations around the dinner table, regular phone calls with family members. However, some routines are not helpful: yelling at the kids to get up; having that first cigarette or drink of the day; eating for the sake of eating; berating ourselves for how we look in the mirror as we dress for work. These habits set the tone for our day, and they don't really contribute to our well-being.

Take an inventory of your day. Decide which activities improve the quality of your life and stick with them. Figure out which activities are not helpful and decide to change

them, one activity at a time. We do best as humans when we substitute one behavior for another rather than just trying to eliminate a behavior. "Just say no" doesn't work so well; "let's say yes to something new" is a much better way to go.

Choose new activities that you enjoy: a positive wake-up routine with your kids; a daily hug and affirmation with your partner; a life-affirming mantra when you look in the mirror that acknowledges your inner beauty as a person. Post a reminder on the fridge that reminds you of your new choices. Ask a friend to connect with you on your new goals and have a daily check-in. Be gentle and loving with yourself.

This is the life we get: there's no dress rehearsal. Kids grow up fast and need our love and guidance on a daily basis. Make some simple changes to improve things now. What are you waiting for?

City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the Culinary Club. February had us celebrating Mardi Gras and all foods inspired by New Orleans. Our members made red beans and rice, cauliflower, Cajun rice and beans, shrimp po' boys and king cake, as well as spicy Cajun mac and cheese.

We truly encourage anyone who has any interest to please drop in and join us at the City Island Community Center on Monday at 7 p.m. on March 4 and 19. Our theme will be brunch dishes. Happy cooking to all. Here is the recipe for Cajun mac and cheese.

Cajun Mac and Cheese (serves 6 to 8)

Ingredients

- 1 lb. cavatappi or other short-cut pasta
- 1 tbs. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 bell peppers, diced
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lb. andouille sausage, sliced
- 1/2 lb. peeled and deveined medium shrimp, tails removed
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1 tbs. Cajun seasoning
- 2 tbs. butter
- 2 tbs. all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/4 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese

- 1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tbs. melted butter

Directions

Step 1. In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook the pasta until it is al dente. Drain and return to pot.

Step 2. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large oven-safe skillet over medium heat. Add the bell peppers and onion and season with salt and pepper. Cook until soft, about five minutes, then stir in the garlic. Add andouille sausage, shrimp, two tablespoons of green onions, one teaspoon of Cajun seasoning and cook until the shrimp is pink, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the mixture to a plate.

Step 3. Make the cheese sauce. First melt the butter in skillet. Add flour and whisk until golden, then add milk and simmer until thickened, about two minutes. Add the remaining Cajun seasoning and one cup each of cheddar and Monterey jack and stir until melted and combined.

Step 4. Add the cooked pasta and shrimp mixture and toss until combined. Sprinkle with the remaining cheddar and Monterey jack.

Step 5. In a small bowl, mix together breadcrumbs, melted butter, remaining green onions, and a pinch of salt.

Step 6. Scatter breadcrumbs on top of the mac and cheese and bake until the cheese has melted and the breadcrumbs are golden, about 15 minutes.



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Obituaries

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William Edward Mitchell

Longtime City Island resident William Edward Mitchell passed away at the age of 95 on Jan. 14, 2024, at the Pelham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in the Bronx.

He was born on July 4, 1928, and came to City Island as a young child with his parents, Fanny and Edward Mitchell. He attended P.S. 17 and Columbus High School. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years, he moved to Manhattan and began his career with the newspaper and mail delivery service, delivering the New York Times and other publications. He and his wife, Catherine (Kay), briefly moved to New Rochelle, before they bought his childhood home on Reville Street, where he remained until the age of 90.

Bill Mitchell, or Uncle Bill, as he is known to anyone who knows Islanders Lisa Manfredonia and Deana Weyrauch, lived a beautiful life as a member of the City Island community. An avid theatergoer, reader and a passion for all that Manhattan offered, Bill spent most of his time with his nieces Lisa and Deana and his nephew Dennis Rosa to make sure that they too developed his passion for culture.

After his wife passed away in December 2000, Bill remained on City Island, where he was frequently seen at the library, attending City Island Theater Group performances or sitting at the City Island Diner or Clipper Coffee catching up with old friends over a cup of coffee. He also enjoyed spending time with his childhood friend Jean Anderson, and he conducted a Monday night chess club at the City Island Community Center for many years, teaching and playing with anyone who had a fondness for chess.

Bill is predeceased by his wife and his great nephew Keith William Manfredonia, who passed away in 2014. He is survived by his nieces Lisa Manfredonia, Deana Weyhrauch and nephew Dennis Rosa of Thornwood, NY, as well as nine great-nieces and -nephews Dennis Rosa Jr., Alyssa Manfredonia, Samantha Weyhrauch, Veronica Weyhrauch (Musselman), Anna Manfredonia, Robert Weyhrauch, Christopher Rosa and Giavanna Rosa, and a great-great niece, Charlotte Hiney.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, March 9, at Artie's Steak and Seafood. As he was fond of saying, "It is a good life that I have known." He will be missed.



Helen Leupp

Helen Josephine Leupp was born in the Bronx on Sept. 12, 1926, and passed away in Hypoluxo, FL, on Feb. 4, 2024, at the age of 97. As a young girl, Helen had rheumatic fever twice and overheard her doctor tell her mother, "Your daughter will not live a long life." In that moment Helen set out to prove that doctor wrong.

Helen's parents moved the family to City Island while Helen was still in grammar school. Her red hair attracted a native clam digger, who yelled out to her, "Hey, Red! Carrot top! Well, whatever your name is, someday I'm gonna marry you." Helen thought the boy rude and presumptuous, to say the least. On Sept 25, 1943, Clinton Leupp and Helen married at the age of 17.

After Clint returned from World War II, they moved around the Bronx and resettled on City Island, where they had their first child, Robert, followed by two daughters Susan and Kathleen. Helen worked at Ratsey and Laphorn, at The Lido and Artie's, and later in Einstein Hospital, but her greatest joy came from being a mother. Helen and Clint were surprised by a fourth child, Clinton Erik. It was during that pregnancy that Helen cared for their daughter, Kathy, who was ill with cancer. Three months after the birth of the new baby, Kathy died at the age of 15. It was the support of the City Island community that helped Helen continue on.

Helen volunteered at P. S. 175 and at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and as a poll worker on election days. She delivered the Holy Eucharist and was a member of the American Legion's Ladies Auxiliary. Shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary, Clint died, and Helen moved into one of the row bungalows on Fordham Street, but eventually she moved to a condo in Florida, where she could sit on her terrace watching boats go by, reminding her of the years spent on her beloved City Island.

She believed the secret to her long life was having a sense of humor. In fact, after a recent fall in her bedroom she told the three EMTs, "This is the only way I get men into my bedroom nowadays." When asked if she had learned anything from living a long life, she responded, "Sometimes life sucks. And then it doesn't . . . and then it does, and then it doesn't. The point is that when you get to my age, you just hope and pray that you've had more days that didn't suck than did."

Her Bronx wisdom helped her through many traumas in her life. In fact, the only trauma Helen never recovered from was being coerced by her Aunt Agnes to choose that name for her confirmation, often wondering aloud, "Who in their right mind would force the name Agnes on a child?"

Helen is survived by her son Robert and his wife, Judy; her daughter Susan; her son Clinton and his husband, Rafael, eight grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and zero friends, proving her childhood doctor wrong and outliving all of them. She will be returned to City Island to be buried with her husband and their daughter. Brava, Helen!



Elizabeth Ferraro

Elisabeth "Lisa" Ferraro, who was born on City Island on April 25, 1938, passed away on Jan. 14, 2024, in Mohegan Lake, NY, at the age of 85.

Lisa was the daughter of Ben and Elsie (Kleiner) Henning and loving sister of Susan Strazera and Johanna (Hansi) Wolke. She grew up swimming, fishing and sailing in the Long Island Sound and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

While attending Cathedral High School, Lisa volunteered at the New York Foundling Home caring for orphans. After graduation, she enjoyed working at New York Life in Manhattan, where a friend introduced her to the love of her life, Frank Ferraro. They were married April 11, 1959, and moved to Yonkers, where they raised four daughters, Teresa "Tess" Zinzi (Dan), Regina "Gina" Ferraro (Lou), Francesca "Fran" Wong (Neil), and Maria DellaMonica (Vinny). In 1999, Lisa and Frank moved to Mohegan Lake with their daughter Maria and her husband.

Lisa was kind, funny and easy-going. The simple pleasures in life brought her great joy—tending her flower garden, feeding the birds and spending her afternoons watching Judge Judy with a glass of red wine in hand. She was a fantastic cook, loved taking care of her plants and watching birds. She enjoyed spending time with her family and generously hosted a week at the beach with the entire family for many wonderful summers.

She was predeceased in 2010 by her husband, Frank, and is survived by her sisters, daughters and nine grandchildren: Elisabeth, Joanna, Phil, Anthony, Michael, Frank, Alex, Laura, and Danny.



Dominic Alia

Dominic Alia, a 25-year resident of City Island, passed away on Feb. 2, 2024., at the age of 87.

He was born in Manhattan to Joseph and Vincenza Alia in July 1936. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School and

earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from City College New York and a master's in chemical engineering from New York University.

Dom was always very creative, and he loved teaching—both in academia and in industry. He taught chemistry at Manhattanville and Sarah Lawrence Colleges. As a chemical engineer working for companies such as General Foods Research Center, Alcan and Phelps Dodge, he held patents in the fields of food technology and high voltage wire and cable. After retiring from industry, he wanted to "give back" to New York for his education at CCNY and taught at Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx. In 1999 he and his wife, Carolyn, moved to City Island, where they were members of St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish and the West Fordham Street Beach Club.

He loved to express his creative talents at the Art Students League, and these are captured in many beautiful works. At home, he made bread, pizza, porchetta and wine, which he joyfully and generously shared—much to the delight of family and friends. He will be remembered with love and admiration as a man who lived his values. He cherished his family, was as intelligent and wise as he was humble, and he warmly opened his table and ear to so many. His kind and joyful heart will be deeply missed.

Dom was predeceased by his sister Janet. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, daughter Elizabeth (Einar), son Joseph (Aew) and three grandchildren, Kristian, Carolina and Aila; his sister Rose and brother, Joseph.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



Patrick David McNulty

Former Islander Patrick David "Red" McNulty died at the age of 84 on Aug. 7, 2023, in Dover, NH, surrounded by his family.

Patrick was born in the Bronx on Nov. 11, 1938, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Giffin) McNulty. He was the youngest of five children, the only one born in the United States. His parents had migrated from Northern Ireland in 1936 with his siblings. In 1950, the family moved from Parkchester to City Island, where they attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Patrick met his future wife, Mary Whalen, at a dance at Grace Episcopal Church, and they were married on Oct. 14, 1956. Patrick worked as a machinist at R. Hoe & Company, alongside his father, in New York City. In 1957 Patrick and Mary welcomed their first child, Patrick, who attended his first N.Y. Giants football game at the age of two months, unbeknownst to Mary. One year later, a second son, John, was born.

In 1959 the family moved from City Island to York, Maine, where Mary's family had already relocated from New York. Patrick and Mary's family continued to grow, with the additions of Michael, Kelly and twins Peter and Matthew. It was here that Pat started his career in the automobile business and was well known to many in the seacoast area.

Patrick was predeceased by his son Matthew and is survived by Mary, his wife of 65 years, five children and their spouses, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. As the McNulty family patriarch for several decades, Pat will be missed dearly by many nieces, nephews and extended family.

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HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

MARCH 2024										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET		
01	Fri	0221	7.36	0844	0.58	1445	6.36	2050	0.91	Fri 01
02	Sat	0306	7.27	0933	0.77	1534	6.12	2140	1.09	Sat 02
03	Sun	0357	7.18	1031	0.90	1629	5.96	2236	1.19	Sun 03
04	Mon	0454	7.13	1136	0.90	1730	5.94	2239	1.16	Mon 04
05	Tue	0558	7.18	1313	0.70	1843	6.15			Tue 05
06	Wed	0055	0.93	0712	7.38	1430	0.24	2008	6.68	Wed 06
07	Thu	0228	0.42	0829	7.77	1522	-0.27	2110	7.40	Thu 07
08	Fri	0334	-0.24	0930	8.19	1609	-0.74	2201	8.11	Fri 08
09	Sat	0429	-0.85	1024	8.51	1655	-1.09	2250	8.70	Sat 09
10	Sun	0622	-1.32	1216	8.66	1841	-1.28			Sun 10
11	Mon	0039	9.09	0713	-1.58	1307	8.63	1926	-1.27	Mon 11
12	Tue	0126	9.23	0802	-1.58	1356	8.41	2011	-1.05	Tue 12
13	Wed	0213	9.11	0853	-1.31	1445	8.00	2057	-0.63	Wed 13
14	Thu	0302	8.74	0949	-0.84	1537	7.47	2152	-0.08	Thu 14
15	Fri	0355	8.20	1053	-0.30	1639	6.90	2303	0.47	Fri 15
16	Sat	0459	7.63	1200	0.15	1750	6.44			Sat 16
17	Sun	0016	0.87	0611	7.14	1304	0.46	1902	6.15	Sun 17
18	Mon	0124	1.08	0725	6.84	1406	0.59	2011	6.11	Mon 18
19	Tue	0227	1.08	0833	6.78	1503	0.56	2111	6.29	Tue 19
20	Wed	0323	0.92	0930	6.87	1554	0.44	2201	6.57	Wed 20
21	Thu	0414	0.67	1018	7.02	1640	0.31	2244	6.86	Thu 21
22	Fri	0500	0.42	1101	7.15	1722	0.21	2321	7.13	Fri 22
23	Sat	0542	0.20	1139	7.23	1802	0.19	2354	7.34	Sat 23
24	Sun	0622	0.05	1213	7.26	1837	0.24			Sun 24
25	Mon	0021	7.50	0658	-0.03	1241	7.24	1905	0.35	Mon 25
26	Tue	0040	7.63	0727	-0.02	1302	7.18	1914	0.48	Tue 26
27	Wed	0103	7.74	0742	0.04	1326	7.10	1931	0.56	Wed 27
28	Thu	0133	7.80	0802	0.13	1358	6.97	2001	0.67	Thu 28
29	Fri	0210	7.79	0835	0.27	1436	6.80	2039	0.81	Fri 29
30	Sat	0251	7.70	0916	0.47	1519	6.59	2122	1.00	Sat 30
31	Sun	0338	7.55	1005	0.69	1609	6.40	2214	1.18	Sun 31
APRIL 2024										
01	Mon	0431	7.38	1103	0.86	1706	6.31	2315	1.26	Mon 01
02	Tue	0530	7.25	1210	0.89	1809	6.40			Tue 02
03	Wed	0024	1.18	0636	7.22	1335	0.73	1923	6.71	Wed 03
04	Thu	0154	0.86	0755	7.35	1458	0.35	2045	7.29	Thu 04
05	Fri	0324	0.23	0916	7.69	1553	-0.10	2147	8.01	Fri 05



Migration

With the first day of spring right around the corner, we thought it would be appropriate to delve a little deeper than usual into the migrating that our feathered friends do. Generally speaking, animals migrate to find food. When winters are mild, as this last one has been, food sources for seed and insect eaters are not depleted as they usually would be. So birds like the black-capped chickadee and tufted titmouse stay longer in their breeding grounds up north. And since they don't have the same need to fly south in search of food, seeing them in the woods at, say, Orchard Beach is less likely than in years past. Much less likely, as it has been this winter.

Exceptions to the rule, however, do not disprove the rule. And the widely accepted rule for migration is that there are four major migratory patterns or flyways that the birds of North America follow in their inexorable quest to find food. From west to east, these are the Pacific Flyway, the Central Flyway, the Mississippi Flyway and our own Atlan-

tic Flyway. Along the Atlantic Flyway, there are hotspots of note. Cape May, for example, is a world-class destination for birdwatchers, and geography has a lot to do with it. In addition to a wide variety of habitats, Cape May is located on a peninsula, a landform that in this case serves as the place for hundreds of species of birds to be funneled for life-sustaining food and rest rather than be blown out over the open ocean. Closer to home, there is State Line Lookout. This park overlooks the wind tunnels (and the birds riding them!) that are created by the interaction of weather, the Hudson River and the Palisades. It is a wonderful place to count migrating raptors as they ride the currents of air to conserve energy.

For the less tech-savvy among us, one way to follow migration in action is to note where and when regional birding festivals are taking place. At Cape May, for instance, this year's spring festival—their 47th—takes place in mid May. It has been timed, of course, to coincide with the best birdwatching opportunities during the migration at Cape May. Not all that far away, in Virginia's Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, there is a festival on April 27. No doubt, attendees will be catching sight of some of the same migrants before they make their way north to Cape May. Farther south, beginning on April 24, there is another festival in Jacksonville, FL. In the Everglades, which is south Florida versus Jacksonville in the north, they were bird-festivating in January! Notice the pattern? That's the Atlantic Flyway in action.

For a list of upcoming bird festivals and events, follow the link below: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/birding-festivals/>

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Anita Colby amidst the apple blossoms. Spring has sprung.

Visions and Revisions

Many people garden safely, refusing to throw out any living thing, thereby contributing to their jumble of incohesive planting, ruining the overall effect all for the sake of a few plants. If you have a tired garden or if you are just plain tired of it, oust a few things. It makes one feel lighter to have a change.

There are very few plants I would consider ugly, but when plants do not cohabit well, it may be because they don't naturally grow together in the same conditions. Let the skunk cabbage and primrose have their bog, as the yucca, daisy and poppy might have their beach. A plant species may be beautiful, but there are some varieties that are really just awful. Performance, shape and color would be important to consider, as well as how beautifully a flower holds its head.

Tulips in a perennial bed are a problem, as their leaves hang on tattered and forlorn for months. There is no plant I rejoice in casting out more. You, dear tulip, have been splendid, but I will dig you up and relegate you to a sunny ditch near the vegetable bed until autumn. You might consider buying new ones in the fall that will make a different, exciting color scheme. I confess that this is one of my life's little luxuries, new annuals to replace the tulip bulbs and new tulips for the following gardening year.

In early spring I trundle my wheelbarrow about with a spade and some spare pots. If the plants are languishing, heave ho; we do not garden to be annoyed. A hot yellow zinnia instead of a nice lemon-colored one is a disaster in a pinkish display. Bye, bye! I remember a stand of red oriental poppies clashing with some pink ones, and thinking that the red poppies would be so much better off with the blue irises, I moved them.

Spring is the best time to move plants and for great success dig the hole first, add compost and water the hole. Water the plant and only then dig it out and plant. It is a very satisfying experience to visit a garden and have the owner be glad to give you pieces of this and that. Gardeners are a generous lot. It's never divide and conquer, only divide and reposition.

Consider the liatris, a flower florists seem to love. Purple pompoms on a stick bloom from the top down. By the time the

last flower blooms the apex is an embarrassing shade of dung. No liatris, please! Green yuccas are just that, yuck, unless they are in a large garden. Go with the variety yucca filamentosa color guard, smaller and beautiful in its yellow and green stripes and drought tolerant.

Roses need full sun and quite a bit of pampering. If they don't perform with copious blossoms, move them to a sunnier local or hoick them out, a favorite word of that great gardener Christopher Lloyd. Buy his book "The Well Tempered Gardener." He is oh so critical of inferior plants and will not suffer them. If you are interested in the best varieties, he will steer you toward the tried and true.

Our seeds will soon be sprouting and buds of new growth emerging. We are eager after this winter and ready for spring. I wish you all the delights and joys of nature this season and throughout the year.

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

Fontana

Continued from page 5

2015, Nancy became affected by Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves. She was in a coma for a few months and spent the next year in a nursing home until her death in 2016. Cory had no choice but what to abandon the bridal business to care for his family.

After the closing of the bridal salon, Cory had to find himself a new career, and he chose a relatively new company, Uber, which then provided transportation to and from airports. He used his own small Honda and found that he loved the work. He met many interesting people and thoroughly enjoyed himself, so he eventually went into the transportation service business for himself as Sambrina Transport, which now boast about 700 clients and 9 Cadillacs, which are busy all the time.

During the Covid pandemic, the limousine business came to a halt, so he started a delivery service for Sammy's Fish Box, Shrimp Box and the Sea Shore. He also made himself useful by running to Costco, buying all kinds of stuff, storing it

in his living room and delivering it to customers. He was happy to have the help of his partner, Theodora Harvey, who is now a cardiac nurse at Northwell but who looks forward to retirement so that she can work twice as hard for Cory!


As if he didn't have enough to do, Cory also runs a boat business, taking up to six people out for short excursions in his 36-foot Monterey. He started small, with a 22-foot Monterey just before Covid landed and found that many people loved going out on the boat, away from masks and Covid tests.

Cory doesn't feel the need to advertise his businesses, but he is happy to make an exception for *The Island Current* because

City Island is his home. Over the years, he has followed the advice of his grandfather Harry Chernin, whose motto was "We serve where others promise." His own motto clearly is: "The word no does not exist in my vocabulary."

Over the years, Cory has developed a kind of philosophy as he moved from one career to the next. First of all, he says, you have to listen to people carefully and treat everyone the same. He loves what he is doing, and his enthusiasm for working with his customers is contagious. So if you need to ride in style, by land or by sea, be sure to contact Sambrina at <https://www.sambrinah2o.com/> or visit Sambrina on Facebook and Instagram.

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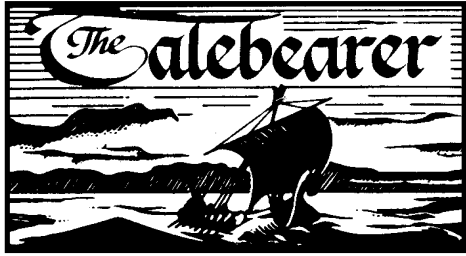
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Theodore Francis Allen arrived on Jan. 12, 2024, to the delight of his big brother Henry.

The Butterworth family has lots of celebrations this month! Happy birthday to Chris Butterworth on March 8, to Joseph Nelson on March 10 and to Joe Nelson on March 28. Enjoy!

Happy anniversary on March 28 to Bay Street's Anne and Scouse McIntyre, with love from your family and friends.

A fond farewell to Kirby Street's Diane Pena and family, who recently relocated to Florida. Diane wants everyone to know that she and her family are grateful for the love, friendship and support they have received over the past 40 years.

It's a boy! Welcome, Theodore (Teddy) Francis Allen, who arrived on Jan. 12,



Timmy Stiene Jr. graduated from Navy Boot Camp in February 2024.

2024. His big brother Henry, parents Chelsea and Matt, are over the moon happy, as are all the little cousins and entire Rodstrom family.

Congratulations and God speed to Pell Place's Timmy Stiene Jr., who graduated from Navy Boot Camp in February. His proud family wishes Timmy the best of luck as he begins this new and exciting chapter in his Navy career.

Belated birthday wishes to Gerry McCormick, who turned 81 last month. Happy March birthdays to Judy McCormick, Dottie Tomsen and Eugene Occhicone, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, who celebrates her big day on March 31.

Cheers for the co-ed team of P.S. 175 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 competing in the Middle School Basketball Association. The Sharks team was organized and is coached by Jesse Cowan, a paraprofessional at the school. They have a 10-game schedule against other schools in District 11, including P.S. 19, 83, 127 and 186. Good luck to the young hoopsters!

Welcome to spring on March 19!

Maria Swieciki



For the first time since 2019, there is a youth basketball team on City Island. The P.S. 175 team is called the Sharks and a mural behind the school is an example of the team spirit at the elementary school.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Holy Week Schedule 2024

PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY-MARCH 24 VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M. SUNDAY-9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M. (Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 28 8:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M. Procession to Repository Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 29 8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-3:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY-MARCH 30 8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings (No 5:15 pm Mass)

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M. WILL BE HELD AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH (Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY-MARCH 31 Masses- 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A. M.



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