

The Island Current

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One Dollar

TEMPORARY BRIDGE SECTION COLLAPSES

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by JAMES BREEN

Very early on Monday morning, Sept. 21, 2015, a section of the temporary bridge near the park side collapsed under the weight of trucks spreading asphalt on the roadway (see photos above). Within hours, City Island residents began registering concerns about the stability of the bridge, which will be the only means of access to the island for at least two years as the existing bridge is demolished and the new bridge constructed.

Although the Department of Transportation (DOT) has repeatedly been asked for an explanation for the failure of the bridge, the only official word has been: "The DOT is aware of structural damage to the temporary City Island Bridge structure while work was being performed earlier this week. There have been no injuries. DOT staff and project officials are reviewing the situation as additional supports are installed and repairs are made. DOT will continue to work with project officials and monitor the situation."

This statement was not made public until it appeared on the bridge Facebook page on Thursday, Sept. 24, four days after the collapse and two days after the news media began looking into the incident. No one at Community Board 10 was contacted by DOT, nor was anyone on City Island informed about the bridge collapse except on Facebook.

As to the opening date for the temporary bridge, Roland Regos, DOT's community liaison, acknowledged that it would not be in

the immediate future. Originally, the temporary bridge was to have been completed by the end of 2014, but the opening date was postponed several times during 2015, and DOT isn't even speculating on a new date.

The fact that DOT has not yet determined the cause of the failure and the lack of information from the department have given rise to numerous expressions of concern as well as news coverage on CBS News and Bronx 12.

For example, if one segment of the bridge collapsed under the weight of a truck, what will happen when construction vehicles and loaded tractor trailers go over the bridge after it opens, or when dozens of cars are packing the roadway?

Was this failure caused by an error in the original design or was the contractor installing the bridge at fault? Or perhaps the fault lies with the Brooklyn firm that produced the segments. Presumably these questions are being examined as DOT investigates the cause of the collapse.

Residents are already worried that the bridge is too narrow for three lanes of traffic, especially because of the curves in the roadway, and this recent event has only increased the sense of alarm. The roadway of the temporary bridge is about a foot narrower than the existing bridge, and the curves create a potential traffic hazard, especially for large

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Driver Surrenders Following Tragic Cyclist Accident

By KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

A makeshift memorial of flowers and candles appeared just over the City Island Bridge after the hit-and-run death of a restaurant worker who was cycling home after work on Sept. 11, 2015.

The driver allegedly responsible for the tragic death of a City Island restaurant worker surrendered to Bronx prosecutors on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015. Michael Moreno, 25, turned himself in at the Bronx Criminal Courthouse and was charged with manslaughter in the second degree in the death of Gabriella Aguilar-Vallinos on Sept. 11.

The victim, aged 27, was a well-liked worker at Sammy's Shrimp Box, which is on the corner of Horton Street and City Island Avenue. According to police from the 45th Precinct, she was riding her bicycle off the Island after work on Friday evening about 11:56 p.m. and had just crossed over the City Island Bridge.

As she was attempting to cross the road from the south bike path to the north bike path, she was struck by a vehicle moving "at a high rate of speed." The Bronx District Attorney's office told *The Current* that a witness who was on the bridge at the same time observed a white car approach him from the rear, then swerve out of the traffic lane, over a double yellow line, and into the fire lane, where he struck the woman with the passenger side of his car.

Ms. Aguilar-Vallinos was knocked to the pavement and suffered head and neck trauma. The driver fled the scene of the collision to an unknown location, according to police. An EMS ambulance responded to the scene and removed the victim to Jacobi Hospital. She was pronounced dead on arrival at 12:23 a.m. on Sept. 12. According to responding officers, the victim was not wearing a bicycle helmet at the time of the accident.

Police closed the bridge to traffic for at least two hours while they searched for the car and driver.

The fatal hit-and-run accident was extensively covered by local media and several news trucks could be seen in front of the Shrimp Box and by the bridge the next morning. Reporters interviewed tearful co-

workers of the victim as well as Island residents riding their bikes.

Police from the NYPD Highway Unit began an intensive search for the driver. According to the arrest report, officers reviewed video surveillance from Seafood City and observed a white late-model Hyundai Genesis leaving the parking lot shortly before the collision was reported.

They reviewed records from the Department of Motor Vehicles and found that the vehicle was registered to Mr. Moreno from Stormville, NY, in Dutchess County. Detectives from the Collision Investigation Squad showed a second witness a photo array, and the witness identified Mr. Moreno as the individual who had entered the vehicle minutes before the accident.

An arrest warrant was issued, and after Mr. Moreno surrendered, he was charged with manslaughter, leaving the scene of an accident and criminally negligent homicide, according to the district attorney's office. Mr. Moreno had no history of previous arrests in New York.

The fatality has drawn further attention to reckless drivers on the bridge and to the reduced MTA bus service (see article in the September issue of *The Current* and Letters to the Editor in this issue). According to someone who worked with the victim, "she didn't normally ride her bike, but she was trying to save money, and the bus didn't run regularly that late when she got off work." She didn't want to pay for a taxi to her home in the Soundview area of the Bronx.

Islander Bill Stuttig feels this tragedy might have been avoided. "Dozens of restaurant workers need late night transportation from the Island. But the MTA has failed to recognize this, and now a young woman is dead."

Mr. Moreno is being held on \$250,000 bail. The district Attorney's office told *The Current* that he remains in custody and his next court date was scheduled for Sept. 25.

BRIEFLY...

HALLOWEEN POSTER PAINTING: On Saturday, Oct. 24, from 12 noon to 1 p.m., the new Community Pride group will sponsor a Halloween poster painting event for children ages 5 to 10 at Atlantic Emeritus Reality, 300 City Island Avenue. Materials will be supplied by the Chamber of Commerce; just bring your imagination for a spooky poster. All posters will be displayed on Halloween day along the Avenue. The rain date will be Oct. 25 from noon to 1.

NEIL SIMON'S "PLAZA SUITE" will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3, and the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 3 p.m. For tickets call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting their website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com. During this production CITG will be accepting donations of full-size containers of shampoo and conditioner for donation to My Sister's Place, a shelter in Westchester County for women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, dating violence and human trafficking.

COMMUNITY CENTER HAUNTED HOUSE: Don't miss this unique opportunity to visit St. Lucifer's Home for Wayward Children (190 Fordham Street) on Saturday Oct. 31, Halloween Night, starting at 7 p.m. Admission for adults \$5, \$4 for children 13 and under.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during August and September 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - ROBBERY
- 1 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT DEATH
- 1 - FELONY STRANGULATION

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from August 17 to Sept. 19, 2015.

8/18 - Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a grand larceny auto on Ditmars Street. An off-Island male, 36, reported his BMW stolen at 7 p.m. Police canvased the area but did not recover the vehicle.

8/23 - On Sutherland Street at 10 p.m., an off-Islander reported being punched in the face by an unknown perpetrator. The victim went to the hospital for treatment to his jaw. Police are investigating a possible male suspect.

8/30 - An incident of criminal mischief occurred on City Island Avenue at 4 p.m. An off-Island female reported that an unknown male yelled at her after she parked her vehicle. As the victim walked away, the perpetrator keyed her car, causing damage, and then fled the scene. Police described this as an act of "road rage."

8/30 - Detectives from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 36, and charged him with felony strangulation. At 9 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, a female Islander reported that her boyfriend put her in a chokehold, causing her to lose consciousness. He was subsequently arrested on Sept. 18.

9/2 - Officers from the anti-crime team

arrested an off-Island male, 19, and charged him with burglary. The defendant allegedly was asked to leave a City Island Avenue restaurant at 11:45 p.m. He returned, jumped over a counter, and removed a cash box. The defendant fled the location, dropped the box and grabbed some of the cash. He was arrested on Sept. 3.

9/11 - An off-Island female cyclist was struck by a vehicle and killed at the northwest corner of the City Island Bridge and City Island Road at 11:56 p.m. (see article this issue).

9/16 - At 8 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female got into a verbal argument with her boyfriend, who then forcibly pulled her from a vehicle and threw her to the ground, causing scratches to her face. He then grabbed her cell phone and fled the scene. Police arrested an off-Island male, 33, on Sept. 22 and charged him with burglary and assault.

9/10 - An off-Island female reported that she feared for her safety after she was followed by an unknown perpetrator in a Jeep from Cross Street off City Island in an act of harassment.

9/19 - On City Island Avenue at 3:25 p.m., an off-Island female reported damage to the fender and rear of her vehicle from an unknown object in an incident of criminal mischief.

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NYPD Officer Pleads Guilty in Pelham Shooting

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Sept. 22, 2015, a New York City police officer pleaded guilty in the State Supreme Court in White Plains to attempted murder and other charges relating to an incident that took place in Pelham, NY, on April 28, 2014. The officer, Brendan Cronin, a resident of Yonkers and a six-year veteran with the 46th Precinct, had been training at Rodman's Neck. After training, he allegedly consumed at least 10 drinks at a bar on City Island and then drove to Pelham, along with a colleague, and shot 14 times at two men from New Rochelle who were sitting in a car at a stoplight on Sixth Avenue.

One of the two men, Joseph Felice, was seriously injured during the unprovoked at-

tack. His companion, Robert Borelli, who was not injured, drove him to the hospital as Pelham police arrested Officer Cronin in New Rochelle. In July, the two men sued the New York Police Department and Commissioner Bratton for their failure to address issues of drinking by police officers.

According to the Westchester district attorney's office, the plea deal calls for the officer to serve nine years in prison on two felony counts of attempted murder and two felony counts of first degree assault, as well as one year on a misdemeanor DWI count. He remains suspended from the police force and will be formally sentenced on Dec. 2, but he remains free on \$150,000 bail.

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EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268
www.theislandcurrent.com

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STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Danegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, and Johanna Paciullo.
PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt.
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Third Annual City Island Clam Chowder Festival a Success



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The beautiful weather lit up the smiling faces up and down City Island Avenue on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20, on the occasion of the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce. Beautiful jewelry and other items drew many visitors, as did the delicious baked goods offered by Grace Episcopal Church. The clam chowder contest on Sunday attracted at least 200 tasters, and winning chefs joined judges and contest organizer Maria Caruso for a memorable picture (top right photo, l. to r.) Ms. Caruso, Ivan Collins, judge; Anne Booth of the Harlem Yacht Club; Eric Mauro, judge; Karen Magee, judge; Donna McGowan of the City Island Diner; Calliope Rigos of the Black Whale, Steven Gilmore of Sammy's Fish Box and Bill Wolf of the Ale House.



Over 200 Islanders and friends participated in City Island's third clam chowder contest on Sunday, Sept. 20, sponsored by State Senator Jeff Klein in Hawkins Park during the second day of the Chamber of Commerce Arts & Crafts Fall Fair.

Local residents and families enjoyed samples of chowder, both Manhattan (red) and New England (white) varieties prepared by participating restaurants, which included Johnny's Reef, Bistro SK, the Ale House, Sammy's Fish and Shrimp Box, the Lobster House, Artie's Steak & Seafood, the Crab Shanty and more.

Fairgoers were given the opportunity to vote for their favorite chowder in each category, and a group of celebrity judges gathered to

select their favorites. Judging the competition was Senator Klein, Karen Mcgee (director of the Doyle Collection of Hotels and co-founder of Young Travel Professionals); Broadway actress Kara Tremble; Ivan Collins (CEO and founder of Reservation Genie); Jeff Dziak (General Manager of the Ritz Carlton Hotel Westchester); and Chef Eric Mauro of Bistro Rollin in Pelham, NY.

Senator Klein said in speaking to the crowd: "The City Island Clam Chowder Festival is now a time-honored tradition in the



Bronx—celebrating the culinary treasures of this beloved seaside community. I'm proud to host the third annual Chowder Festival in partnership with the City Island Chamber of Commerce and our many local businesses. Congratulations to all our winners and everyone who participated in this great competition."

The following winners were chosen by the community: Best New England Clam Chowder: Sammy's Fish Box (2); Best Manhattan Clam Chowder: Harlem Yacht Club (1). Second choices were the Black Whale for white (7) and the City Island Diner (6) for red. The numbers were those given to the contestants so they couldn't be identified and are given here for members of the public who want to know how their favorites did.

The following winners were selected by

the judges: Best New England Clam Chowder: Sammy's Fish Box (2) and Best Manhattan Clam Chowder, The Ale House (4).

"We are happy Senator Klein is hosting this year's clam chowder contest," said Skip Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce. "This is a tradition on City Island that we are very grateful he revived. The City Island Chamber of Commerce has worked together with Senator Klein for many years, and we look forward to building on that partnership in the future."

"This is a culinary highlight of the fall season on City Island," said Barbara Burn Dolensek of the City Island Civic Association. "But we need to give new names to the great chowders made here: no longer Manhattan or New England but City Island Red and City Island White!"

Bill Clancy Honored

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

Under sunny skies on Sept. 26, 2015, Cross Street was given an official overlay as Commander William G. Clancy Way to honor the longtime City Islander and former commander of Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion. The crowd of over 100 included legionnaires from City Island and all over New York State, Sons of the American Legion, members of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Dixieland Dandies band, City Island Boy Scouts, and many of Bill's friends and relatives. Shown above at the dedication ceremony are (l. to r.): brothers Gerry and Tom Clancy, son Bill Clancy Jr. (with his son), NYC Councilman James Vacca, sons Mike and Greg Clancy (with his son), and Jack Hartigan.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m., Cross Street was given an official overlay as Commander William G. Clancy Way to honor one of City Island's beloved clam diggers.

Bill was a staff member of *The Island Current* for many years, renowned for his annual Boat Show reviews, but his greatest contributions were in the service of the country.

He served in France with the 84th Engineering Battalion of the 82nd Airborne in 1961 and 1962 and continued to do service in the aftermath of the Vietnam War by striving to rescue prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action. In 1995 he became chairman of the New York State POW/MIA Committee.

Since the 1970s he was a member of the American Legion and served as Bronx County Commander in 1993. He served twice as Post Commander at the Leonard Hawkins Post 156, where a reception in his honor was held after the street naming ceremony, officiated by Council Member James Vacca and attended by many Island residents.

Bill Clancy was born on City Island to William and Ann Clancy and he attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Cardinal Hayes High School. He studied at City College for two years and became an apprentice carpenter in the Nevins and Minneford

yards. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

On City Island, Bill was one of the early active members of the City Island Ambulance Corps and he was for many years assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 211. In 1999 he served on the board of directors of Boys State, a national youth program funded and operated by the American Legion for the purpose of teaching young men about the functions of government.

Bill Clancy and his wife, Mary Anne, who was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion and a volunteer for several Island organizations, had three sons, all of whom were present for the street dedication: Bill Jr. and Greg are residents of City Island, and their brother Mike, now a Colonel in the U.S. Army, recently purchased a home on City Island.

Bill passed away in July 2012, and Mary Anne in 2010.

Mike Clancy told *The Current*: "As a longtime City Island family we are very honored to now have a street named after a Clancy. My dad was a wonderful man who touched so many lives. He contributed so much to the community because he thought it was the right thing to do, and he never sought credit or accolades. This new street name is a wonderful tribute to his life of service. I hope everyone who sees it will remember him and be inspired to follow his example by getting involved and working to make our community a better place."

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

Late Night Bus Service

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

Dear Public Officials,
 I know there are many issues at play related to the factors that led to the death of the young restaurant worker riding a bicycle on Friday night, many of which are out of our control. But one issue that is in your control is the Bx29 bus, which serves City Island, a community that features close to two dozen restaurants, most of which stay open way past midnight, sometimes as late as 3 a.m.

Despite this obvious fact, the MTA in its infinite wisdom has chosen to stop running the only available public transportation to the island about midnight. Why this young girl felt the need to dangerously ride a bicycle over the bridge and into Pelham Bay Park may be directly related to the fact that the MTA fails to provide the island the service necessary to accommodate a community whose major night time industry is restaurants.

Dozens of restaurant workers (not to mention restaurant patrons, who likely choose to enjoy an alcoholic beverage or three) need and, in many cases, would use late night transportation from the Island. But the MTA has failed to recognize this, and now a young girl is dead. Perhaps you can look into this matter so there are no other similar tragedies in the future.

**Bill Stuttig
 In Memoriam**

To the Editor:
 Once again I was honored to participate in the 911 Memorial by singing our National Anthem at Jacobi Hospital on 9/11. I would like especially to remember Officer John D'Allara, twin to my friend Dan, for his service and sacrifice, and to all who have suffered the loss of a loved one. May we never ever forget.

Freddie Lando

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DIG THEY MUST



Photo by PAUL NANI

The Parks Department is placing conduit along the bike path from the City Island Bridge all the way around and into the pavilion building at Orchard Beach to upgrade the phone lines to the beach.

There are several projects in Pelham Bay Park that are going on at the same time as the bridge construction. A contractor with the Department of Parks & Recreation is excavating and placing conduit along the bike path on the Orchard Beach side of the road from the City Island Bridge all the way around and into the pavilion building at the beach in order to upgrade the phone lines to the beach.

The culvert work at Turtle Cove has started again, primarily on the south side of the road. The contractor should complete the job by winter, weather permitting.

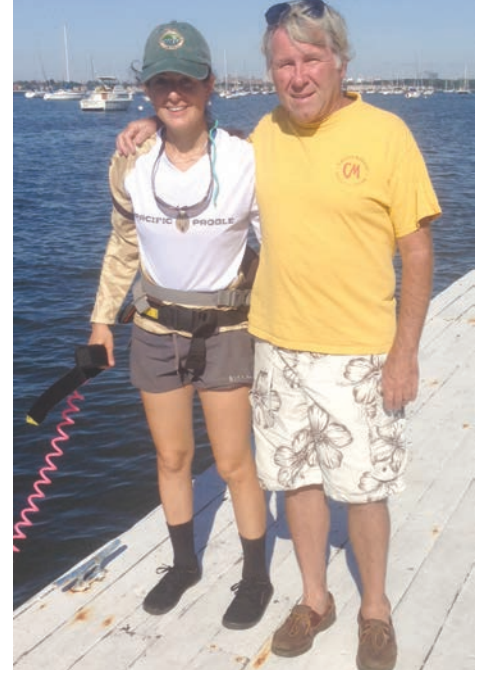
In early October a contractor for Cablevision will repair a pipe that was broken near the north side of Turtle Cove and will also lay conduit between Turtle Cove and the traffic circle.



Photo courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

The City Island Nautical Museum has just launched a major new exhibition celebrating the history of shipyards on the island, from David Carll's yard, which opened in 1860 on the site of what is now Consolidated Yachts on Pilot Street, to more recent yards, such as Nevins, Minneford and Kretzer's. This aerial photograph taken in the late 1940s shows (from bottom right to top left): Minneford, Nevins, Ratsey & Laphorn and United Boat Service. The museum is located at 190 Fordham Street and is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday.

Paddleboarder Visits City Island on Epic Trip



Photos courtesy of MAC LEVINE and KEVIN FLYNN
Mac often paddles with her dog onboard, but was going solo when she arrived at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. She is pictured above with Kevin Flynn on the Morris dock.

At 5:49 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, Mac Levine, the founding executive director of Concrete Safaris, completed the first solo stand-up paddleboard expedition on the New York City Water Trail. This event was an unassisted journey over seven days and five boroughs in which Ms. Levine, with her camping gear and food strapped to her paddleboard, aimed to bring attention to the importance of outdoor play as a disease prevention tool for children and families.

In preparation for her journey, Mac contacted Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner through a mutual friend about camping accommodations on City Island. She immediately thought of the Morris Yacht & Beach Club and put Mac in touch with Kevin Flynn, who met her on the waterfront at the end of the first day of her journey on Aug. 26 and welcomed her to the club.

The avid stand-up paddleboarder completed the following itinerary:

Day 1: Dyckman Street (200th) and the Hudson River in Manhattan through the Harlem River, Bronx Kill and the East River to City Island in the Bronx

Day 2: City Island down the East River through Hell Gate to Fort Greene, Brooklyn with a stop at Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens

Day 3: Fort Greene down the East River through the Narrows and Coney Island Channel to Floyd Bennett Field in Gateway National Recreation Area, Brooklyn

Day 4: Layover at Floyd Bennett Field due to high winds

Day 5: Floyd Bennett Field back through Coney Island Channel and the Lower Bay of the New York Harbor to Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, Gateway National Recreation Area

Day 6: Layover in Staten Island due to winds and two safety device malfunctions

Day 7: Staten Island through the Narrows and Upper Bay of the New York Harbor along New Jersey to the Hudson

The journey was just over 90 miles with five days of paddling and two days of rest. Multiple rivers, current and tide changes impacted by the full moon, erratic weather due to high pressure from a hurricane, traffic (including ferries, shipping vessels and recreational boats) and navigation of the urban landscape (including a board turnover near a hydroelectric power plant and locating where to sleep safely and

legally) made it much more technical than her prior year's Hudson River expedition from Albany to Manhattan. It was a heart-pounding adventure.

Of her experience on City Island, Mac said "City Island and the Morris Yacht & Beach Club were one of the best experiences of the trip. Kevin is absolutely marvelous, and I really enjoyed camping on the lawn overlooking the peace of the water and boats. It was wonderful to meet club members at the Morris and see how other people run their boat clubs so efficiently. I have been to a lot of clubs over the past two years down the Hudson and around the NYC area, and Morris ranks as one of the most top notch—a model from which other clubs could most definitely learn best practices."

City Island Community Pride

City Island is a beautiful and unique community, where residents share a tremendous amount of pride and believe that it is both important and vital that all properties, whether commercial or residential, be kept neat and clean. The appearance of City Island's properties sets the tone for the way in which both residents and visitors treat and respect the neighborhood.

Community pride is alive and strong on City Island, and a new group, called Community Pride, has initiated a program to reward those who take care of their properties. Based on the following criteria, the group will present certificates on a quarterly basis to businesses and residences on City Island Avenue that are keeping their properties neat and clean: broom-swept sidewalks up to and including the curb/gutter; garbage neatly contained; appealing window displays; flyers removed in a timely manner; planters and grass maintained and weeded; sidewalks shoveled and salted after snowfalls.

Owners of unoccupied stores are asked to consider seasonal displays or to showcase local artists, which will help keep their properties appealing and safe.

The community should keep an eye out for Community Pride Certificates and join the group in thanking the recipients, who will also be noted in *The Island Current*.

They would like to acknowledge the great job done by Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, the City Island Diner, City Island Real Estate and Jack's Bait and Tackle. They exhibit community pride every day!

For more information, feedback and suggestions, send an e-mail to cityisland-communitypride@gmail.com.

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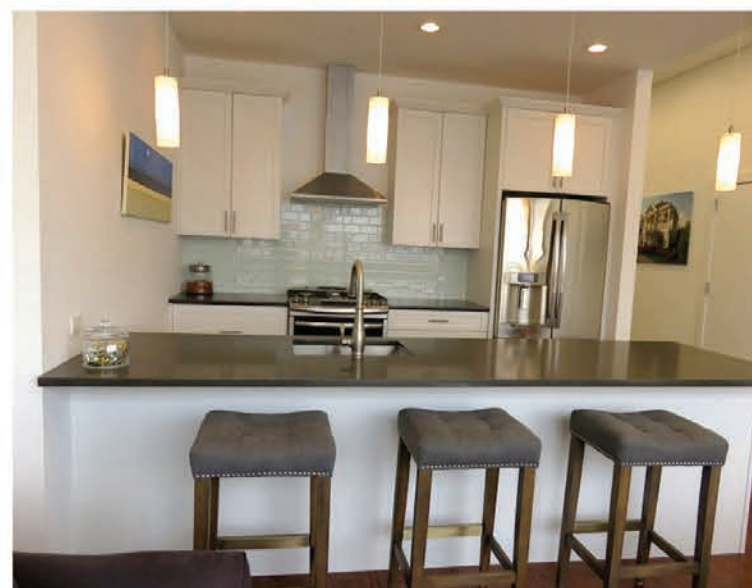
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Bartow-Pell Events

Yoga in the Orangerie will be held on Fridays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, from 7 to 8:15 a.m. Intermediate Level, and 8:30 to 10 a.m. Beginner Level. Ann Casapini brings 20 years of experience as a certified yoga instructor back to the Orangerie with a special fall series, Yoga for Wellness. Each class includes an overall workout, a specific area of focus, a short meditation and deep relaxation. They will work—and play—to build stability, strength and flexibility. Seven classes; class size limited to 12. Please bring your own mat. Registration and pre-payment required at 718-885-1461 or via e-mail at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$135 for series; members \$115.

First Friday! Music + Bronx Trolley takes place on Friday, Oct. 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. BPMM and the Bronx Music Heritage Center present the Eugene Marlow Heritage Ensemble, a contemporary world-music quintet that records and performs original compositions and arrangements of traditional Hebraic melodies in various jazz, Afro-Caribbean, Brazilian and classical styles. Enjoy the music from 6 to 8, explore the mansion, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. The free Bronx Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island starting at 5:25 p.m. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via e-mail at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors & students; members free.

Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day takes place on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help make the grounds of BPMM look as beautiful as they can be. Long sleeves, pants and sturdy footwear strongly recommended. Light refreshments available. Registration requested; free.

Birding at Bartow on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Join naturalist and bird guide Debbie Becker for a walk on the grounds as the fall migration continues and be on the lookout for warblers, sparrows, hawks and more. Meet at parking lot. Free.

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17 and 18, from 12 to 4 p.m. OpenHouseNY Weekend offers free guided tours by costumed docents, which start at quarter past the hour. Free.

Discover Bartow-Pell Day: We're More than a Mansion! OpenHouseNY Weekend. Saturday, Oct. 17, from 12 to 4 p.m. BPMM invites you to discover all it has to offer: mansion and carriage house tours by costumed docents, garden walks, wigwam explorations, trail hikes, terrarium-making demonstrations, children's games and crafts, and more. Plus banjo and washboard music by husband and wife duo Cracked Walnuts. There's something for everyone! Co-sponsored by Pelham Bay Park administration. Rain date Sunday, Oct. 18. Registration requested. Free.

Young Scholar Talk: The Debutante Slouch—Fashion and the Female Body in the United States, 1912–1925. Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Fashion history scholar Claire

McRee discusses the social and political implications of the controversial “debutante slouch,” a chic, relaxed posture condemned as unhealthy and degenerate in the early 20th century. Lecture based on her award-winning master's thesis for Bard Graduate Center. Registration requested. Free.

Cemetery Walk + Tombstone Talk, Thursday, Oct. 29: 6 p.m. Cemetery Walk; 7 p.m. Tombstone Talk. Take a guided, candlelit walk to the Pell Cemetery, discover tableaux vivants in the period rooms and listen to a fascinating talk by tombstone expert and carver Robert Neal Carpenter on funerary monuments. Registration required. Cost \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and students; members \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and students.

First Friday! Music + Bronx Trolley, Friday, Nov. 6, 5:30–8:30 p.m. Renowned New York singer Queen Esther performs her acclaimed interpretations of rare and beautiful Billie Holiday songs. Accompanied by pianist/musical director and City Island resident Jeremy Bacon, Noah Jackson on bass and Shawn Balthazor on drums, she performs some rarely played gems in a fresh, modern way. Enjoy the music from 6 to 8 p.m., explore the mansion, stroll the garden, and savor light refreshments. Registration requested. Cost: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

Speaker at Temple Beth-El

City Islanders will have an unusual opportunity on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 5 p.m. when Dr. Lawrence (Laurie) Baron, a scholar of film and modern European Jewish history, will give a talk at Temple Beth El, to which the public is invited (suggested donation \$10).

Dr. Baron, who is Emeritus Professor of Modern Jewish History at San Diego State University, has written several books on Jewish themes in film, most recently “The Modern Jewish Experience in World History” (Brandeis University Press, 2011). He is currently the Ida E King Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies at the Richard Stockton University in New Jersey. He has been invited to speak at many universities, and he delivered the keynote address for Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, on the occasion of its first conference on Hollywood and the Holocaust. The talk on Oct. 25 will be on a lighter topic—relationships between Christians and Jews as depicted in film. There will be music, and Dr. Laurie's sense of humor should make this event memorable.

Bridge Collapse

Continued from page 1

trucks and in traffic jams, when impatient drivers tend to race into the fire lane in order to get ahead of the traffic.

Resident Claudia Deich told CBS New York/1010 WINS news that the steel buckled “like an erector set” but that workers went on to pave the roadbed the following day as if nothing had happened. She insisted: “At the very least, stop everything. Every inch of that bridge has to be gone over; it has to be tested. It calls into question every ounce of construction that they've done to this point.”

Islander Evyonne Baker posted on Facebook: “At this point, I think it would be prudent to postpone the demolition of the old bridge until a stress test involving the amount of weight the temporary bridge will experience, i.e., the equivalent of a traffic jam where both lanes are loaded with cars and trucks for an extended period of time. If the bridge fails after opening, there could be possible loss of life . . . from emergency vehicles not being able to access the Island. Businesses would lose income from lack of deliveries and patronage. . . . So much depends on the stability of the temporary span, and this collapse does not bode well for its future reliability.”

Although representatives of DOT had little to say as *The Current* went to press, they have promised to attend the general meeting of the City Island Civic Association on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

PROFILE: OLIVER SACKS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

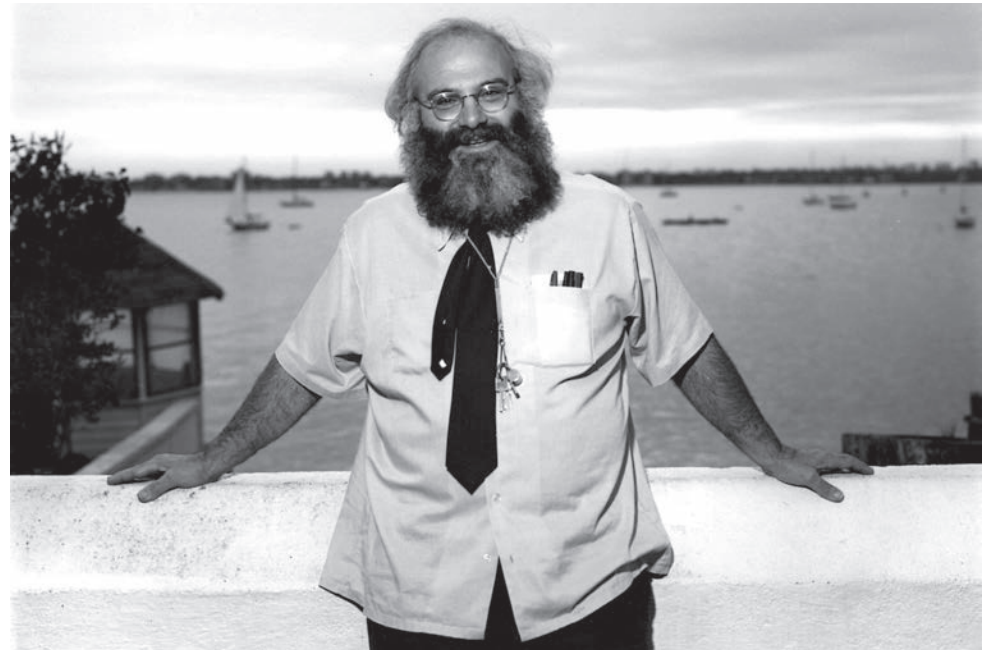


Photo by NEIL SELKIRK

Dr. Oliver Sacks on Horton Street in 1986.

Dr. Oliver Sacks, who lived on City Island for over 20 years, died on Aug. 30, 2015. This profile of him ran in the March 1986 issue of *The Current*.

In a small red house on City Island can be found a brilliant neurologist, a superb writer, a professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, an enthusiastic swimmer, a passionate amateur musician and a doctor whose respect for his patients is nothing short of extraordinary in this day of impersonal medicine.

The small house is not, however, as crowded as you might think, because all of these remarkable individuals reside in one special person, Dr. Oliver Sacks, who could (but wouldn't) claim to be one of City Island's few genuine celebrities.

Dr. Sacks, who lives modestly, surrounded by an enormous collection of books, a grand piano and a word processor (which he doesn't quite trust), moved to City Island about five years ago. He was born in London, the son of two doctors. His mother was a surgeon; his father is still active at 90 as a general practitioner and as a “polar bear” swimmer. Both parents, who had trained with neurologists, loved to tell stories, so young Oliver grew up in a household where medical case histories were considered normal dinnertime conversation, much to the dismay of visitors.

Though he is a neurologist, Dr. Sacks considers himself a general practitioner sensitive to neurological disorders, not a specialist. He sees himself as an explorer and a therapist, investigating new areas in neurology but as a doctor concerned with the whole person, not as an uninvolved scientist. He feels that his greatest usefulness is in seeing his patients diagnosed as chronically ill over a period of many years and to provide them with personal as well as medical support.

Dr. Sacks brings a special personal quality to his work, for he has suffered as a patient himself. His early experience with migraines gave him the opportunity to understand firsthand what the nervous system was capable of inflicting on people. A serious injury to his leg put him in the position of a patient forced to rely on the expertise of others, an experience that became the subject of his third book.

It was while Dr. Sacks was writing “A Leg to Stand On” that he realized the benefit of living near water, for he spent the summer of 1979 writing in a boat on Lake Huron. Shortly afterward, he moved to City Island, where he began the ritual (first as therapy, now for pleasure) of swimming daily in Eastchester Bay. (Unlike his father, he stops between November and March.)

Besides water, City Island also gives him a necessary distance from his work. In the late 1960s, when he was participating in the extraordinary experiences with L-Dopa

that are the subject of his book “Awakenings,” Dr. Sacks rarely went more than three doors away from the hospital in Bronx Park East. This was the most intense period of involvement with patients but the emotional stress was very great, and now he enjoys the luxury of “escaping” from his work to go home.

Not that Dr. Sacks ever stops working. He estimates that he writes more than a million words a year, from the case notes he jots down daily to the articles and reviews he frequently writes for the *New York Review of Books*, the *British Medical Journal* and others. He also reads voluminously, not simply medical books and papers but also literary works, which often serve to inspire his own writing.

Dr. Sacks does most of his writing in his study, under the gaze of his heroes, W. H. Auden and A. R. Luria, an eminent Soviet neurologist, whose photographs stand next to a sign saying “NO!” This is supposed to remind him, though it rarely succeeds, not to accept every invitation to write or lecture.

Some of Dr. Sacks's best writing, however, is done at concerts, since he has a special affinity for music. He has always been fascinated by the parallel between music and mathematics and he is especially intrigued by the possibilities of music therapy, a subject in which he is currently immersing himself.

He would relish the chance to do a study of musical prodigies, although he admits ruefully that few gifted children come to neurologists for medical help. In spite of his long experience, he continues to be amazed by how similar—and dissimilar—any two nervous systems may be, and he is as interested in the gifted as he is in the deficient.

He would also like to explore the field of language from a neurological point of view, but he admits that his heavy schedule, especially his commitment to his patients, as well as to his students at Einstein, may preclude his embarking on yet a new frontier, at least for the foreseeable future.

It is precisely this commitment to people that makes Oliver Sacks so outstanding in his field. He is rather surprised by the fact that he is so often singled out by reviewers as a “humane” doctor, that the humane aspects of medicine should suddenly have become fashionable. He firmly believes that the welfare of the patient comes first—before the interests of science and literature.

Most of Oliver Sacks's patients are what one would consider “hopeless cases,” for whom no cure or treatment is available. But he speaks and writes of them with such deep and eloquent sympathy that one comes away with a sense of what is positive and good in their lives rather than what is awful. Surely they are fortunate in at least one respect, knowing a doctor who treats them as human beings, not just medical curiosities.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 2, 3 and 4, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale.** Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 22, **Pelham Cemetery Shareholders meeting,** 7:30 p.m. American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue.

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

Sat., Oct. 31, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Sat., Oct. 31, **Halloween Parade,** starting at the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue, 5:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 31, **Haunted House,** City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, starting at 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 3, **Election Day,** P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat., Nov. 14, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner,** 7 to 11 p.m., Scavello's on the Island (see ad this issue).



Pelham Cemetery

The cemetery will hold its annual shareholders (plot owners) meeting on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion post (550 City Island Avenue). All plot owners are encouraged to attend, as we will be discussing maintenance and fundraising initiatives for the cemetery.

Pelham Cemetery is a unique and beautiful part of City Island. Plot owners and their family members are encouraged to visit and look after the graves of their loved ones. We have plots for sale, both for burial and cremains. Anyone interested in purchasing a plot can contact us at 718-885-3036.

Bill Clancy

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues are now past due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed into the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

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

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

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

Billy Clancy Jr. is once again the vice commander for the New York State SAL Detachment for districts 1 and 9.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop has re-opened with our fall and winter collection. The October theme is Halloween, so we are featuring costumes and bric-a-brac. Come for coffee and tidbits. Come visit, see, chat and shop.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Republicans

We may be in need of poll workers for the upcoming season. Anyone interested should call Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695. Again, thank you to all of those who signed our petition and helped us qualify the County for another two years.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Our style of service is Jewish renewal, deeply spiritual, innovative and open-minded. The congregation is led by our clergy, Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus, with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Temple Services and Activities:

Friday, Oct. 2, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat and Sukkot. Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a special musical welcome to Shabbat during Sukkot, the Season of our Joy. Celebratory oneg to follow in our Sukkah.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Simchat Torah 5776. Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a joyous celebration of Torah and the cycle of time, which begins again with Simchat Torah. Come ready to dance, sing, receive blessing and give blessing in this timeless tradition of renewal. Potluck.

Monday, Oct. 5, 5 to 10 p.m. Manhattan for Simchat Torah. If Simchat Torah at TBE on Oct. 4 was not enough celebration, join Rabbi David for a trip to a Manhattan synagogue for Simchat Torah in grand musical style. Consult TBE website for further information.

Friday, Oct. 9, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat.

Friday, Oct. 16, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat (Noach). Join Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a celebratory musical welcome to Shabbat. This week's Torah portion (Noach) recalls the story of the primordial flood, humanity's new start and the universal call to live justly. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 5 to 7 p.m. Lecture and Multimedia Film Presentation. Join prominent film historian Lawrence Baron for an engaging lecture and multimedia showing of film, music and humor about relationships among Christians and Jews. Prof. Baron is a nationally renowned film scholar. Suggested donation: \$10. Rabbi David's film series will continue in November.

Friday, Oct. 30, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led.

Oneg sponsorship: Sponsoring an oneg (refreshments) for a Shabbat or holiday service is a wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life cycle event) and give back to the community. For more information, call Violet Smith 718-885-0978 or e-mail violetsmi@aol.com.

All TBE members and friends interested in praying for and supporting others who are ill and/or need home contact are requested to please join our Chessed Committee. Please send questions and comments to ertopol@aol.com (Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol). If you want prayers for yourself, family members or friends, please send an e-mail. We welcome any member, friend and family of the City Island community to contact us to be placed on our prayer list as well.

For further information, visit our website at: www.yourshulbythesea.org

Ellen Ruth Topol



Photo by MATTIA PANZA

Nearly 160 people attended St. Mary's annual outdoor Mass on Saturday, Sept. 19. The main celebrant was Fr. John Knapp, the newly appointed pastor of St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Assumption parishes, who took full credit for the beautiful weather.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which occurs on Sunday, Oct. 4, we will have the blessing of the animals that afternoon at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard. In case of rain, the blessing will be held in the gym.

Our monthly coffee hour will take place on Sunday, Oct. 11, after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 18, is designated as World Mission Sunday, a day of prayer that all may grow in an awareness of our need to assist in the mission of the Church in spreading the Gospel.

During this month, there will be a special meeting for the parents of students in our Confirmation program. Parents and students will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7:15 p.m. in the school gym. During the following week, the students will be interviewed by members of our staff to ascertain their readiness and willingness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Then on the first Sunday of November, Nov. 1, students will take part in a special Enrollment Mass at 10 a.m. This will mark the official start of their preparation program for the reception of the sacrament in May.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Grace Episcopal Church

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Priest-in-Charge Ruth Anne Garcia. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Contemplative prayer service meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This quiet evening service includes scripture reading, reflection and meditation.

Church Events

A new Grace Church Music Ministry has

just started with members of the church choir rehearsing hymns and popular music to perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you like to sing and want to lend your voice to this "feel-good cause," please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com. Men and women, boys and girls of all ages are welcome. You don't have to sing like an angel; just bring your desire to lift others spirits! Rehearsals are held the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at Grace Church in the sanctuary. Performances are to take place in the upcoming 2016 year.

Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crocheting Ministry for Calvary is a group of parishioners who create comfort items (hats, gloves, blankets) for use by patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Grace Church Hall and invites other crafters interested in this project. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

Upcoming Events

The Blessing of the Animals will take place on Oct. 3, at 2 p.m. Please bring your pets to be blessed by Mother Ruth Anne Garcia.

Sandy Dunn

AARP Chapter 318

The AARP meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our Oct. 7 meeting will feature bingo, and we will prepare for our Penny Auction, which is scheduled to take place at our meeting on Oct. 21. The Penny Auction will consist of 50/50, raffles, hot dogs, cake and coffee. Admission will be \$7 per person and will begin at 12 noon. Join us for wonderful fall activities, and bring a friend. New members are always welcome.

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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.

New brochures with membership applications are going out this month. We need more members to expand our programs. Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We need your help and support.

To join the Center, to request our new brochure and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors that meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Bingo Night: Friday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games with outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

Awareness: Drugs and City Island Young People: Sunday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m. Concerned families, friends and neighbors are encouraged to explore this difficult issue in gentle and caring discussions led by Jay Howard and Bowie Stivala.

Teen Dance: Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m. Dances for sixth, seventh and eighth grades who live on City Island or attend P.S. 175. Come join your friends for a night of fun and music. With DJ Bowie Stivala.

Haunted House: Saturday, Oct. 31, Halloween night, from 7 to 11 p.m. \$5 donation for a haunting and fun experience.

NEW PROGRAMS

City Island Culinary Club: Wednesdays, Oct. 7 and 21 at 7 p.m. It is Pumpkin Month and an opportunity to explore ways of preparing that healthy and beautiful food with other people who love to cook and Chef Michael Proietti. For information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

Art Classes for Children: Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and DaVinci. For ages 7 -12 with Lorraine Cantori 914-552-5268.

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual will take you to a place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Rev. RPP. CRE, Board Certified Polarity/CS, is a Shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Journeying is the ability to travel to different spirits into the outer dimensions. Please bring a yoga mat, drum or rattle if you have

one to the sessions on the second and last Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. For information or to register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or www.TheeVitalForce-foundation.org.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Family Puppet Theater: Sunday, date to be announced.

Teen Pizza Night: Friday: Date to be announced. A get-together for teenagers with pizza and apple cider. Come help make pizza and other treats.

City Island Film Club, Sunday early evening. Contact CIFilmSociety@gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: See above.

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

To Be Scheduled

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

Irish Dance for Children: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Dance teaches step dancing in a fun competitive environment for all ages. For information or to enroll, call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

After-school Art Classes for Children: Collage, print making and painting. Call Eileen Stoudt at 914-633-1695 to enroll.

After-school Introduction to Acting: Grades 3–6. Children learn to express themselves via theater, song and dance in a warm atmosphere. Call Eileen at 914-633-1695 to enroll.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 4 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for beginning date and for information.

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

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

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

Parenting Group: Last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. This may be the best time of the year to get healthy and trim down. New sessions have just begun at a very good rate. Join a great supportive group! We can do this together! For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Mondays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. \$10. Gentle level one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, contact Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or joannngny@aol.com.

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well here is your chance to Zumba

with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturdays, 10 a.m. \$10 per class. For questions, call 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Letti: Thursdays, 6 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Lettie at 917-292-4228 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

A group Bible study will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, Oct. 25, and running for five consecutive Sunday sessions, up to and including Nov. 24. The meetings will last from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. sharp. These meetings consist of roundtable-like discussions on the text of the scripture being studied, under the leadership of George Cavaliari, Trinity's Lay Servant/Speaker, who will moderate the sessions based on the readings of the text under study. No pre-registration or fee is required.

The New Testament text is provided for all, along with an outline of the study as a guide. This is a study of the Apostle Paul's two letters written while he was imprisoned at Rome, one to an individual called Philemon, and the other to a church known as the Philipians. Both are New Testament documents. The theme of the first is "From a slave to brotherhood"; the other is "Rejoicing in the Lord, no matter what the circumstances good or bad." All in the community who are interested in Bible study are welcome. This study will be highly instructive and a challenge to the thinking of serious Christians. The purpose of these studies is to promote and provide an opportunity to present the good news of the gospel, the evangel, and so make of us true disciples of Christ.

The Budget Shop is now open and will be open the first and third Tuesday of each month, as well as occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Theater Group

CITG is pleased to present Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite," a comedy in three acts, each involving different characters but all set in Suite 719 of New York City's Plaza Hotel. The play originally opened on Broadway in 1968, directed by Mike Nichols, and ran for two and a half years with more than 1,000 performances.

Maria Provenzano is directing CITG's production with cast members Jonathan Abbruzzese, Steven Bendler, Paula Rocheleau Hernandez, Camille Kaiser, Gary Krigsman, Dave Lazaar, Hannah Ludemann, Elizabeth Paldino and Ivette Yambo.

With this fall production, CITG will participate in its annual "give back" to the community, requesting donations of full-size bottles of shampoo and conditioner. These will be donated to My Sister's Place, a shelter with two anonymous locations in Westchester County. There, women who are victims of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual abuse, stalking and human trafficking can find a safe haven for 90 days while receiving support and legal counseling.

Mary McIntyre

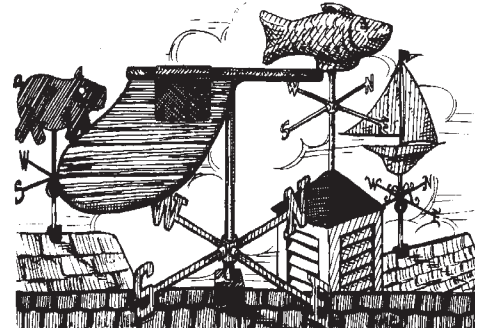
Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting is Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. (new meeting time) and we will be holding our baby shower.

Save the date: our Cancer Bingo will be held on April 22, 2016 at the Morris Yacht Club. More information will follow.

Enjoy the fall weather.

Laura Booth



PSS City Island Senior Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m., catered by Scavello's (IGA). Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

Oct. 2: Bake Sale and Tag Sale, 1 to 2 p.m.
Oct. 12: Closed

Oct. 19: Health Fair Part II: shingles shots, flu and pneumonia shot, vascular ultrasound, NYPD, LightHouse (vision), balance testing and information, blood pressure.

Oct. 30: Win a gift certificate for a free pizza. Show off your costume at noon, and votes will be taken during lunch.

October Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi DVD; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 10:15. Arthritis Workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

October Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Guitar Lessons also at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda on Oct. 14 and 28 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Bingo at 1 p.m. on Oct. 8 and 22; Birthday Party on Oct. 22. Fridays: Book Club at 1 p.m.; History Club at 1 p.m.

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

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

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Limited availability is open for off-Island doctor appointments. You must call the office one week before the appointment and be approved. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Principal Amy Lipson welcomes the following faculty members for the 2015–2016 school year. Ms. Bellon and Ms. Kaufman are teaching kindergarten; Ms. Fallon and Ms. Aiola are working with the first-graders, and the second grade will have Mrs. Carter-Spencer. Third- and fourth-grade teachers are Mrs. Cambria, Mrs. Mazzella and Ms. Fisk. The fifth grade will have Ms. Montenare and Ms. Lawless. Middle school teachers are Ms. Stabile, Ms. Shea, Ms. Ramos, Mr. During-Hammond, Mr. Daley, Mrs. Moscone, Ms. Heil and Ms. Adesso.

Mr. Sabatello is running the physical education program, and Ms. McArdle is in charge of computer technology. The literacy coach is Ms. Masotti, and the parent coordinator is Mrs. Gisante.

At The Library

PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703

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

OCTOBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Hoot and Halloween: Interactive musical delivering the performing arts in creative, hands-on musical experiences for kids of all ages. Presented by Presley and Melody. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come-first serve basis the day of the program. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come-first serve basis the day of the program. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in at any time throughout the day and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2–11. Friday, Oct. 23, between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

OCTOBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Big Talks: Teen Relationships: An alarming number of teens experience violence in their relationships. This workshop increases awareness of this important issue, covers warning signs of abusive relationships and partners, and will make you think about how you want to create healthy relationships. Presented by Tara Abrol. For ages 12 to 18 years old. Thursday, Oct. 8, at 3:30 p.m.

After School Lounge: Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Fridays at 3 p.m.: Oct. 2: Creepy Coloring; Oct. 9: Wii and Board games; Oct. 16: Craft-A-Creature; Oct. 23: Wii and

Board Games; Oct. 30 (Halloween movie to be announced).

OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Charge it Right (Facts about Credit). Given the prevalence of credit card today, people need to be keenly aware of what lurks behind offers of “easy money.” In this informative participants will gain a more complete understanding of credit and credit cards and develop the skills needed to use credit wisely. Presented by Jay Stevens. Saturday, Oct. 10, at 1 p.m.

Island Writers-Creative Writing Group. Meets every Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m. Led by Toby Liederman.

Autumn Writing at the Library: For seven weeks before the holiday season, you will explore purposeful writing that creates an impact. Along the way you will learn how to design a good story, prepare a piece for publication and write with joy. Led by Gail Hitt. Begins Thursday, Oct. 29, and runs to Dec. 17, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Computer Q & A: Ask questions about how to use computers. “How do I turn a computer on?” “How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?” “How do I copy and paste text and pictures?” How can I sign in to use a computer at the library with my library card?” Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon. One-on-one tutorials are also available by appointment.

Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

One-On-One: Computer and Tablet Assistance. Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

Saturday Afternoon Movies:

- Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. “The Age of Adaline”
- Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. “Bronx History in Photos & Film: A Catered Affair”
- Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. “The Forger”
- Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. “Deliver Us from Evil”

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at www.nypl.org.



This year at **Dragons Path Academy** (229 City Island Avenue) will be filled with exciting new activities to help kids keep busy, all while creating a healthy social environment. Dragons Path offers after-school pickup, healthy juice and snacks, arts and crafts, homework help, active games, martial arts, boxing lessons all at a low cost, plus and free movie and pizza every Friday. Save from \$60 per individual, and \$210 with siblings compared to other programs in the area. No charge for early days or late pick up! Classes run until 7 p.m., so parents have no need to rush. Dragon’s Path has served the City Island community for four years and produced 22 world champions! You will not be disappointed for choosing this school! Fees are as follows: 5 days a week – 4 weeks \$240 (\$60 a week); 4 days a week- 4 weeks \$220 (\$55 a week); 3 days a week – 4 weeks \$200 (\$50 a week). Receive a 50 percent discount for the first sibling and 20 percent off for three or more. For more information, contact Sensei Eddie Castro at 347-945-3172/917-742-2007 or Brianna Reilly at 914-787-9796.

Or visit www.dragonspathacademy.com.

Other new activities starting in October: Caretaker and Me on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Come and train with your children from 2 to 4, only \$50 per month. Caretakers train for free! Lil Dragons Pre Skill Level on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Only \$50 per month. And a program of prep training for those who are heading off to the Police Academy or military branches. Call Sensei Eddie at 347-945-3172 or 917-742-2007.

This October **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue) offers singer-songwriters, CD release party and Halloween parties — even a “night of Broadway.” Lou Volpe releases his new CD, “Remembering Ol’ Blue Eyes,” at a performance on Sunday, Oct. 4, starting at 4 p.m. Singer-songwriters set to take the stage include our “sweetheart” Theresa Sareo (Friday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m.) and Carolann Solebello (Friday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m.). And Hannah Glick brings her friends back for “An Evening of Broadway — Part 2” on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 8 p.m.; reservations

strongly recommended. Learn more about October at www.StarvingArtistOnline.com.

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I have been chosen as a 2015 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner. Less than 5% of agents receive this award. Look for me in the October Issue of Westchester Magazine.



Directed by Rob Reiner

Rob Reiner, famous for playing the role of Meathead, Archie Bunker's son-in-law, in TV's *All in the Family* (1971-79), made a stunning directorial debut with the now classic music "mockumentary" *This is Spinal Tap* (1984). The film portrays a fictional British heavy metal band called Spinal Tap, whose members are David St. Hubbins (Mike McKean), Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer) and Nigel Tufnel (Christopher Guest). The film satirizes the wild personal behavior and musical pretensions of hard rock bands of the time. Reiner co-stars in the film as documentary filmmaker Marty Di Bergi, who is interviewing and filming the music group. The movie also features Tony Hendra as group manager Ian Faith, and June Chadwick as St. Hubbins's interfering girlfriend Jeanine. Reiner and the three main actors are credited as the writers of the movie because they adlibbed much of the dialogue. In 2002, *This is Spinal Tap* was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress and was selected for preservation by the United States National Film Registry.

Reiner's second film, *The Sure Thing* (1985), is the story of the cross-country journey of college students Walter "Gib" Gibson (John Cusack) and Alison Bradbury (Daphne Zuniga) as they make their way from New England to Los Angeles, each in an effort to meet their ideal match. Gib is a college freshman who keeps striking out with women, and is thrilled when his best friend, Lance (Anthony Edwards), invites him to California to meet the beautiful woman (Nicollette Sheridan) who ostensi-

bly is willing to have a tryst with him. Gib winds up carpooling with Gary Cooper (Tim Robbins) and Mary Ann Webster (Lisa Jane Persky), an extremely annoying couple. Unfortunately, the other passenger on the trip is Alison, an attractive but bossy girl who has already rejected Gib once before. Despite the film's predictable conclusion, Cusack and Zuniga deliver such engaging performances that the audience is rooting for them to wise up and discover one another from the very first scene. One of the best bits is the mismatched couple being bombarded with an ear-piercing rendition of "The Age of Aquarius" by their dippy traveling companions.

Stand By Me (1986) is based on the Stephen King short story "The Body." This piece of nostalgia is set over Labor Day weekend in 1959 Castle Rock, OR. It tells the story of four inseparable friends who set out in search of a dead body that one of the boys overhears his brother discussing. The foursome consists of intellectual Gordie (Wil Wheaton), born leader Chris (River Phoenix), emotionally disturbed Teddy (Corey Feldman) and chubby hanger-on Vern (Jerry O'Connell). As the boys travel to find the body, we learn about all the personal pressures brought to bear on them by the adult world. Richard Dreyfuss, playing the grown-up Gordie, narrates the film. Kiefer Sutherland, as gang leader Ace Merrill, dominates every scene he's in as a brutish high-school bully. It is sad to note that River Phoenix, a very fine young actor with a promising career, died at age 23 of a drug overdose.

A wonderful family film is the delightful comedy-fantasy-adventure *The Princess Bride* (1987). When a grandfather (Peter Falk) reads a book to his sick grandson (Fred Savage), the characters come to life. The beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright) falls in love with a peasant boy named Westley (Cary Elwes), who goes away to make his fortune. Several years later, when Westley is reported as dead, Buttercup agrees to marry the evil Prince Humperdink (Chris Sarandon). The story features Christopher Guest as the evil Count Rugen; Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya, sworn to avenge his father's death; Andre the Giant as Fessik, Montoya's companion; Wallace Shawn as Vizzini, hired by Humperdink to help start a war by kidnapping Princess Buttercup; and Billy Crystal and Carol Kane, as the hilarious Miracle Max and his wife, who agree to help humiliate the prince. Perhaps the funniest scene in the movie is when Buttercup and Humperdink are being married by the inimitable Peter Cook as the Impressive Clergyman. Some interesting trivia: Elwes and Patinkin studied fencing for three months in order to perform the entire swashbuckling swordplay scene themselves, using a stunt double only for acrobatics around the tree. During the scene when Westley returns and

confronts Buttercup, Elwes did the entire scene with a broken toe. Fans of this film will really enjoy Elwes's recently published book about the making of this movie, "As You Wish." The audio version has Elwes himself reading it, with all key members of the cast adding their own memories from time to time.

When Harry Met Sally (1989) is a study of this question: Can men and women be just friends without sex getting in the way? In 1977, college graduates Harry Burns (Billy Crystal) and Sally Albright (Meg Ryan) share a contentious car ride from Chicago to New York. Ten years later, Harry and Sally meet again at a bookstore, and in the company of their respective best friends, Jess (Bruno Kirby) and Marie (Carrie Fisher), attempt to stay platonic friends. Also featured in the film are Harley Kozak as Harry's wife, Helen, and Steven Ford as Sally's boyfriend, Joe. This film contains the classic scene in which Sally fakes an orgasm at a diner to prove to Harry that it can be done, after which another customer (director Rob Reiner's mother, Estelle Reiner) says, "I'll have what she's having."

Another film based on a Stephen King novel, *Misery* (1990) stars James Caan as romance writer Paul Sheldon. After a serious car crash, Sheldon is rescued by former nurse Annie Wilkes (Kathy Bates), who claims to be his biggest fan. Annie brings him to her remote cabin to recover, but her fixation takes a dark turn when she discovers that Sheldon is killing off her favorite character in his novels in order to explore more serious work. Annie, who has lived almost vicariously through the *Misery* Chastain books for years, becomes almost crazed upon discovering *Misery's* fate. As Sheldon devises plans for escape, Annie grows increasingly controlling, even violent, as she forces the author to shape his writing to suit her twisted fantasies.

In the dramatic courtroom thriller *A Few Good Men* (1992), Tom Cruise plays

Lieutenant. Daniel Kaffee, a Navy lawyer who has never seen the inside of the courtroom. He wants to plea bargain, rather than defend two stubborn Marines, Lance Corporal Harold Dawson (Wolfgang Bodison) and Private First Class Loudon Downey (James Marshall), who have been accused of killing fellow Marine, Private William T. Santiago (Michael DeLorenzo), at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Also on the legal staff are Lieutenant Sam Weinberg (Kevin Pollak) and Lieutenant Commander JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore). Kaffee and the prosecutor, his friend Captain Jack Ross (Kevin Bacon) negotiate a bargain, but Dawson and Downey refuse to go along. They insist they were ordered by Lieutenant Jonathan James Kendrick (Kiefer Sutherland) to perform a "Code Red" on Santiago, who was thought to be a screw-up. In the film's most memorable scene, Kaffee takes a huge risk by calling Colonel Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson) to the stand in an effort to uncover a conspiracy.

An American President (1995), stars Michael Douglas in the title role of President Andrew Shepherd, a widower with one teenage daughter (Shawna Waldron). When he starts dating environmental lobbyist Sydney Ellen Wade (a sparkling Annette Bening), the repercussions shake the foundations of his administration. President Shepherd's staff includes Martin Sheen (chief of staff), Michael J. Fox (chief domestic adviser), Anna Devereaux Smith (press secretary), David Paymer (pollster) and Samantha Mathis (secretary). His chief adversary is Richard Dreyfuss as Senator Bob Rumson. John Mahoney is on hand as Sydney's humorless boss. The terrific script, written by Aaron Sorkin (creator of the TV version of this film, "The West Wing"), was brought to the screen brilliantly by producer-director Rob Reiner. This film is a feel-good fairy tale, which like many of Reiner's films, can easily be watched more than once.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Colors of Autumn: Amaranth, feather reed grass, teasel.

BULB-PLANTING TIME

Finally we were delivered on the weekend of Sept. 12 from the seemingly unending drought that plagued our gardens this summer. The sky opened and the rain fell heavily and in enormous drops. Gardeners sang praises of hallelujah and were finally unshackled from their hoses. The earth is now eager for planting and ready for bulb planting.

Bulbs look best when combined with perennials and groundcover. A good rule: less is more. If you are planting tulips, plant 50 or more of one color. This will create a large sweep of color and weave a pattern in your space. The Orange Ballerina is a nice choice as it mixes well with other plants. Use bulbs in between perennials so their dying foliage can be camouflaged.

Partnering large cupped daffodils with day lilies makes a beautiful marriage; using smaller naturalizing varieties that have smaller leaves, like Tete a Tete or Thalia, will look lovely, and their dying foliage won't be intrusive for months after blooming. A small meadow in your lawn could be charming with just a few dozen

Poets' Daffodils.

Chionodoxa and scilla look good tucked under deciduous shrubs, or you can grow them with hostas, which will hide the dying foliage once they have bloomed. Plant lots of muscari and see your garden awash in blue. Paint your garden in color, but again limit your selection of bulbs to create mass, as in painting a picture.

Good loamy soil is key, and bone meal should be added to each hole. I don't use a bulb planter. I prefer digging with a spade, snaking my lines through the garden to delineate a composition. Another method is to toss them about and plant them where they lie, mimicking nature.

Alliums are great because most bloom in May, an intermediate month between spring and summer. Allium Purple Sensation, and Allium Drumstick tuck in nicely and measure just under three feet tall. You can plant peonies now if you have an isolated spot or a huge garden, for as lovely as they are, they take up a lot of room; combine them with roses. If you fancy lilies, now is the time.

City Island with its warm sea breezes is zone 7, and this leaves you plenty of time before the ground freezes to plant nature's miraculous packages—root, stem, leaf and flower all neatly bundled up in its own container, the bulb!

The colors of autumn were expressively painted by Van Gogh in his last batch of paintings from Auvers in France: the wheat fields, in yellow, sienna, burnt browns and smoky umbers all blazing under a dying autumnal sun. I have used the amaranth biscuit, the thistle-like teasel and goldenrod with the grass Calamagrostis 'Karl Forester' to great effect in Lucy's meadow garden. The colors mimic Van Gogh, and it pleases my eye in the last of the garden season. The colors of fall abound, yet I am already looking ahead to the pictures that bulb planting will bring to spring.

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

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Obituaries

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



Robert Edward McPherson

Robert (Bob) Edward McPherson Jr., a longtime resident of City Island, died on Sept. 24, 2015, in Grand Chute, WI, at the age of 80.

Bob was born on Jan. 29, 1935 and raised in Oshkosh, WI., the son of the late Robert E. and Eleanor Goetz McPherson, and grandson of the late Harry and Gertrude McPherson and the late Philip and Anna Goetz. He attended Oshkosh High School and was a graduate of Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, WI. In 1957 he graduated from Ripon College with a degree in economics and was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. In 1960 he married Sara (Sally) Spicer in Oshkosh.

At a very early age, Bob developed two loves: sailing and singing. From the age of 15, he sailed his beloved Snipe in area lakes and crewed for other boat owners in regattas. He was a member of the Oshkosh Yacht Club for many years and later also a member of the Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club.

In 1949 he began singing in a barbershop quartet and went on to perform in high school and college at various shows and concerts. Following college, he performed as a baritone with the St. Louis Civic Opera, on television and with the St. Louis Municipal Opera Company, where he appeared with Bob Hope, Andy Devine, Margaret Hamilton and Alan Jones, among others.

He and Sally moved in the early 1960s to Miami, where he sang with the Miami-Dade Opera companies and other major companies in Florida, including Tampa and the Florida State Symphony. He was a founding singer in the Palm Beach Opera Company. He appeared with many singers, including Placido Domingo, Licia Albanese, Salvatore Baccaloni, Ferruccio Tagliavini, Richard Tucker, Robert Merrill, Heidi Krall and Teresa Stratas.

After moving to New York City, he received a full scholarship to complete his Master's Degree at the Manhattan School of Music. He eventually dropped out of the program because he was given roles that were unsuitable for his voice range. He later changed his voice from baritone to tenor and toured with the Guber, Ford and Gross "Straw Hat Trail" in their East Coast productions of "Camelot" and "Oklahoma," appearing with Gordon MacRae, Earl Wrightson, Lois Hunt, Bill Hayes and Roderick Cook.

Bob performed with a number of East Coast opera companies, including Stamford Opera, the Connecticut State Opera, the Garden State Opera of New Jersey, the Long Island Opera Showcase Theater, the DaCapo Opera of Cape Cod, the New York State Opera Company, the Apollo Opera Company of New York City, the New Haven Opera Society, the Ruffino Opera Association of NYC, the New Rochelle Opera Company and the Monmouth Opera Festival of New Jersey. He made a number of guest appearances, including the Westchester Conservatory of Music, the Pelham Symphony Orchestra, and the Performing Arts Society of Westchester County. He sang with the Metropolitan Opera chorus for almost 10 years.

The lure of boats never left Bob, and in the early 1970s, in addition to singing, he opened a business as an independent contractor, performing cosmetic and structural

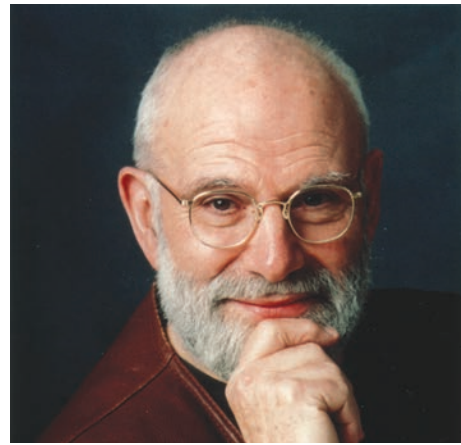
fiberglass repairs to boats on City Island and in nearby marinas. When possible, he and Sally crewed for friends on the Block Island race and sailed the Sound on their own small boat. He became, as Sally used to say, "An old salt in training." As he drove down City Island Avenue friends would often say, "I heard Bob go by this morning."

Bob retired from singing professionally in the mid-1990s, and in 1997 he and Sally returned to retire in Wisconsin. Not one to "retire," Bob continued his business in the Fox Valley area and sang at area churches and for special events.

A longtime member of Christ Church in Pelham, NY, he later became a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Appleton, WI.

He is survived by his wife, Sara, of Grand Chute; his son, Robert, of New Rochelle; his sister, Beth (Bob) Ruger, of Franklin, WI, his brother, James (Lynn) McPherson of Bremerton, WA; several nieces and nephews, and many cousins.

A memorial service will be held in October at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Appleton. At Bob's request, do not send flowers, but memorial donations may be made to All Saints' Episcopal Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.



Oliver Wolf Sacks

Dr. Oliver Sacks, who lived on City Island for over 20 years, died on Aug. 30, 2015, at the age of 82, in Manhattan, surrounded by friends and family.

Dr. Sacks, who was born in England, was an eminent neurologist and writer whom the New York Times called the "poet laureate of contemporary medicine." He moved to the United States in 1960 and came to New York in 1965 to become professor of neurology and psychiatry at Columbia University; he was also a faculty member at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.

He was the author of a number of best-selling books, many about his experiences with patients and how they handled their conditions. The best-known of these books was "Awakenings" (1973), which was made into a film in 1990 starring Robin Williams and Robert de Niro and was partly filmed on City Island, where Dr. Sacks was living at the time.

Dr. Sacks got to know City Island very soon after joining the faculty at Einstein, as a place to eat a relaxing lunch and to enjoy "pleasant views of the sea in all directions."


He lived for a time in Mount Vernon but biked to City Island on weekends and took long swims, often all the way around the island, which took about six hours.

"It was on such a swim, in 1979, that I spotted a charming-looking gazebo near the end of the island. I got out of the water to look at it and then strolled up the street [Horton Street], where I saw a 'For Sale' sign in front of a little house." The owner of the house was moving to the West Coast and showed Dr. Sacks around, and "I was hooked. Still in my swim trunks, I strode up City Island Avenue in my bare feet to the realtor's office [Jackie

Kall's] and told her I wanted to buy the house."

In his last book, a memoir entitled "On the Move: A Life," one of his chapters is called "City Island," in which he describes the neighborhood and his friendships with Islanders, especially Skip Lane and his wife, Doris. An interview in which Dr. Sacks talks about his life here and his reasons for moving to Manhattan (the long commute to his office downtown) can be viewed at www.webofstories.com/play/oliver.sacks.

The *Island Current* published an interview with Dr. Sacks in 1986, part of which is reproduced on page 7.



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

OCTOBER 2015									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0211	8.21	0838	-0.46	1427	8.68	2128	-0.72	Thu 01
02 Fri	0312	7.83	0937	-0.01	1528	8.25	2230	-0.29	Fri 02
03 Sat	0422	7.47	1044	0.45	1644	7.84	2336	0.12	Sat 03
04 Sun	0535	7.25	1155	0.80	1802	7.58			Sun 04
05 Mon	0041	0.40	0643	7.22	1303	0.95	1911	7.51	Mon 05
06 Tue	0142	0.54	0745	7.34	1405	0.92	2012	7.58	Tue 06
07 Wed	0239	0.55	0841	7.56	1502	0.76	2107	7.71	Wed 07
08 Thu	0330	0.50	0932	7.80	1553	0.56	2157	7.83	Thu 08
09 Fri	0418	0.45	1018	7.99	1639	0.38	2242	7.90	Fri 09
10 Sat	0500	0.43	1101	8.09	1721	0.26	2334	7.89	Sat 10
11 Sun	0538	0.47	1139	8.10	1759	0.21			Sun 11
12 Mon	0001	7.80	0610	0.55	1211	8.03	1831	0.23	Mon 12
13 Tue	0032	7.65	0629	0.64	1228	7.95	1853	0.28	Tue 13
14 Wed	0048	7.51	0633	0.66	1234	7.96	1902	0.29	Wed 14
15 Thu	0059	7.46	0657	0.63	1259	8.04	1927	0.28	Thu 15
16 Fri	0127	7.47	0732	0.65	1334	8.10	2003	0.32	Fri 16
17 Sat	0204	7.46	0813	0.73	1415	8.10	2045	0.43	Sat 17
18 Sun	0247	7.42	0858	0.87	1500	8.01	2131	0.58	Sun 18
19 Mon	0335	7.35	0948	1.02	1551	7.85	2223	0.72	Mon 19
20 Tue	0429	7.29	1044	1.14	1648	7.67	2321	0.82	Tue 20
21 Wed	0529	7.31	1147	1.14	1751	7.54			Wed 21
22 Thu	0028	0.78	0635	7.45	1301	0.95	1900	7.52	Thu 22
23 Fri	0145	0.57	0746	7.74	1431	0.51	2014	7.66	Fri 23
24 Sat	0304	0.19	0855	8.15	1546	-0.10	2126	7.90	Sat 24
25 Sun	0406	-0.24	0955	8.56	1646	-0.70	2228	8.14	Sun 25
26 Mon	0500	-0.59	1048	8.88	1740	-1.15	2324	8.29	Mon 26
27 Tue	0551	-0.80	1139	9.05	1832	-1.40			Tue 27
28 Wed	0016	8.30	0641	-0.83	1228	9.04	1924	-1.41	Wed 28
29 Thu	0108	8.18	0731	-0.67	1318	8.85	2016	-1.19	Thu 29
30 Fri	0201	7.96	0822	-0.35	1411	8.51	2111	-0.82	Fri 30
31 Sat	0259	7.67	0919	0.06	1509	8.08	2208	-0.35	Sat 31

NOVEMBER 2015									
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 1									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0302	7.40	0921	0.50	1518	7.65	2207	0.11	Sun 01
02 Mon	0408	7.21	1027	0.84	1631	7.33	2308	0.47	Mon 02
03 Tue	0512	7.16	1132	1.03	1739	7.18			Tue 03
04 Wed	0007	0.70	0613	7.25	1233	1.05	1839	7.16	Wed 04
05 Thu	0102	0.80	0708	7.41	1330	0.92	1934	7.23	Thu 05
06 Fri	0154	0.80	0759	7.60	1421	0.73	2025	7.32	Fri 06



To Track or Not to Track

There can be no doubt that the practice of animal tracking in the name of scientific research has led to important breakthroughs in our understanding of the animal kingdom. The great white shark, for example, is no longer the shadowy, mythical man-eater it once was. A movie such as "Jaws" would probably not make the same kind of splash today that it did in the 1970s. We know so much more about the behavior of great whites because of tracking. In Australia, in fact, they have used data retrieved from tracking devices to make beaches safer for surfers and swimmers.

Our favorite example of breaking through to a better understanding of animal behavior continues to be the story of Dr. Fred Urquhart and the monarch butterflies. Beginning in 1937, Dr. Urquhart and his team of citizen scientists tracked thousands of monarchs that had been tagged in Canada. Then on Jan. 9, 1975, he found what he had been looking for: the winter home of the monarch butterfly. By then, he had already learned that these amazing insects needed at least four generations to complete their more than 6,000 mile roundtrip migration. What he needed

to complete the story was their winter home, and he found it through tracking in specific trees at the top of specific mountains in Mexico.

Animal tracking does not come without a price. At the very least, there is the stress to the animal that accompanies the process of tagging or banding, such as the nets that are used to capture birds to be banded. They are monitored regularly, of course, so that the poor creatures are not ensnared any longer than they have to be, but still they are ensnared. In another case, we have seen radio transmitters literally glued to the heads of seals that we suspect reasonable observers would consider uncomfortable at best and inhumane at worst. And, finally, one scientist conducted a study that seemed to show that king penguins that had been banded on the flipper produced fewer chicks than those that had not been banded. Clearly, there is an ethical component to the practice of tracking animals that must be respected. The pursuit of knowledge, while a noble and necessary one, is not without its parameters. As the saying goes, the ends do not justify the means.

Given the way technology is trending, it would seem that tagged and banded animals have less to worry about than ever before. Devices are generally smaller, lighter and less likely to be the kind where the animal has to be recaptured in order for the data to be harvested. But in one article we read about data from animal tracking devices that were being used to monitor climate change, the researcher completely glossed over the detail about the sparrow that had managed to peck free from the device attached to its leg. For the researcher, it was merely the cost of doing business, but we would suggest that it was more than that for the sparrow.

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Photo by DONNA MCGOWAN

A huge hornets nest had been hanging the whole summer from a tree on Fordham Street right outside the entrance to the City Island Diner. Looking like a Chinese paper lantern, it was removed by the Parks Department on Sept. 17. No stings reported.

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

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of the Sea's class of 1965 who recently celebrated their 50th class reunion with a shindig at the Mohansic Golf Course and Grill. The evening began with a cocktail hour followed by a barbecue and music from the '50s and '60s.

Cheers to Mark Nani, who will celebrate his 29th birthday on Oct. 22. Mark recently became the proprietor of St. Mark's Wine and Liquor in Manhattan's East Greenwich Village. Have a great year!

Kudos to the Quinn Family and their



The Quinn family and friends at the Walk for Epilepsy in Manhattan on Sept. 20.

Happy birthday wishes to our grandson Joseph, who will turn seven on Oct. 24. Have a fun day! Lots of love from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Judy and Mike Rauh, John and Linda Wright and Mike and Roseann Bunyan, who are all celebrating wedding anniversaries this month.

If you are running in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 1, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. We'd like to set up a photo before the race.

Happy 30th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12 to Bay Street's Maria and Bob Swieciki. Remember the yesterdays, plan your tomorrows and celebrate your today. With love from your children, Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina.

Congratulations to City Island's own Sarah Williams, who recently netted the first soccer goal of her college career. Sarah is a freshman at Vermont's St. Michael's College.

Happy birthday wishes across the miles on Oct. 29 to former Carroll Street resident Sunjay Sebastian.

Happy seventh anniversary greetings to Danielle and Philip Ribaud. We love you all, Mom and Dad Ribaud.

Birthday wishes, hugs and kisses to our sweet granddaughter Scarlett Ribaud. You're two years old! Enjoy your special day. Love you so much. Nonni and Pop Ribaud.

Congratulations to Eliza and Tim Fee on the Sept. 5 birth of Rylan Ella Fee. Thrilled grandparents are Holly Rarpeau and George Stewart and Maureen Fee.

Congratulations to the St. Mary, Star



Happy 29th birthday to Mark Nani.

City Island friends who participated in the Walk for Epilepsy on Sunday, Sept. 20. The walk started at the South Street Seaport and finished in Battery Park.

And a very happy Halloween to all. See you at the parade!

Maria Swieciki



The St. Mary, Star of the Sea class of 1965 celebrated its 50th reunion on June 27, 2015, at the Mohansic Golf Course and Grill in Yorktown Heights, NY. Shown above are the "happy together" classmates (front row, l. to r.) Francine DeVeau Brill, Marianne Costello Quattrociocchi and Jane DeTorres Zurbuch. Middle row: Donna Costello Breen, Susan Vitola Colello, Kathy Kain Meehan, Annemarie Noonan Blatus and Marie Saunier Antonelli. Top row: Billy Gerhard, Jimmy Loughman, Richie DeLuca and Johnny Yarusso.

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