

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## CITY ISLAND AFTER COVID

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by SALLY CONNOLLY, RICK DeWITT and RON TERNER

Islanders are looking forward to resuming activities that were cancelled last year due to the pandemic. Dom Esposito resodded the City Island Little League field in preparation for the return of youth baseball in April (top photo). Other events that were last held in 2019 and may return in 2021 include the Memorial Day ceremonies (above) and the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair (above, right). Easter celebrations and in-person worship will resume this year, but the Easter Bunny, along with many other residents, will still wear masks in accordance with safety guidelines (bottom, right).

The month of March marked the one-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic shut-downs that changed our lives dramatically for a full year, but as vaccines are delivered and cases are reduced in number, things are looking up for many of us on the Island.

Perhaps the most positive sign is that the Little League is returning to Ambrosini Field in April, with a virtual opening day of April 3 and actual play starting on April 10. Registration has been slow, and so far only a couple of teams have been formed, meaning that some games may be played in Pelham as well as on City Island, but Little League president Dominic Esposito has refurbished the field and is urging kids to sign up even after the registration deadline (see *Briefly*, page 2). A doctor has agreed to serve as a special safety officer to make sure that all precautions are observed, which should reassure many parents that the game will be safe.

The American Legion will be present at the Little League opening, but like last year, the Memorial Day celebration will be limited in scope with no parade and no bands. A small group from the Legion will be present in Hawkins Park, at the cemetery and at the Legion Triangle, but hot dogs and soda will have to wait until 2022.

Many residents will be happy to learn that the Community Center is also busily preparing to open its doors for additional

activities by making improvements in the infrastructure, including the art room, the dance room and the center office space. The Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings have continued through the pandemic, and the Center was also made available for a blood drive and for tax preparation sessions, but the new activities are likely to open up in May.

The Chamber of Commerce also has good news, which is that the Arts & Crafts Fair will be held in June, as usual, this year on June 5 and 6. Since this is an outdoor event, social distancing shouldn't be a problem, and it will be a great opportunity for Islanders to get out and see what creations everyone came up with during a year of Covid, as well as to see each other.

For diners who prefer to eat in a tent or on a sidewalk than indoors, most Island restaurants are still planning to keep them through the summer. Thankfully, the city has enabled restaurants to expand their indoor space for diners, a very welcome sign after a very difficult year, but since only 50 percent indoor occupancy is allowed as of press time, sidewalk dining will continue for many restaurants, especially as the weather warms up and the city has suspended the usual license fees for another year. Paul Scavello was happy to tell *The Current* that he can now hold events indoors for up to 150 guests. Of course, all guests must be tested 72 hours



before the event and follow the usual precautions, but at least gatherings will again be possible.

Lauren Chernin reported that Sammy's Fishbox, Shrimp Box and Seashore restaurants are planning to follow the city, state and CDC guidelines, adjusting their sails as they go. "We are happy to say that almost all of our employees are vaccinated. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance for the foreseeable future. Like everyone else, we look forward to life returning to normal."

More good news, also involving tents, is that P.S. 175 is planning to have a graduation ceremony for the eighth-grade class, although it will be held outdoors in a tent in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education. The PTA is doing its best to make funds available for the extra costs involved but is determined to balance safety with normalcy. In the meantime, the school has managed to accommodate a very complicated schedule merging on-site

classes with remote learning and occasional closures because of illness. For the schedule at the school, visit <https://sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/ps175>. Some parents who opted for full remote learning have been frustrated that they were not able to change their status quickly, according to Kevin Fisher of the PTA. As he told *The Current*, "I appreciate the logistical wrangling that school staff and administration have had to navigate (space/density allocation, sibling matching for cohort day, etc.), but also, parents are clearly trying to navigate their jobs and the welfare and education of their children. Comfort, necessity, flexibility all factor in. This is broadband policy at the Chancellor level, not unique to P.S. 175."

On March 21 Principal Julie Porras sent to parents a letter from the Chancellor indicating that until April 7 they may fill out a Learning Preference survey to indicate their preferred schedules. However, she noted that "return to school dates for students switching to blended from remote have not been communicated as of yet." The letter indicates that K-5 students new to blended learning will return sometime in April and 6-8 students will return at a later date.

Although prospects for the summer are looking good for City Island, considering how many of us have already been vaccinated, residents and visitors alike are cautioned to wear masks in public and to observe social distancing, since the disease is known to spread in ways that are still not entirely understood. However, we should be able to get together with friends and family and to enjoy outdoor activities in ways that were impossible all last year.



Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

On March 14, 2021, members of the American Legion Hawkins Post 156 held a short ceremony to recognize the one year anniversary since the pandemic started. They went to the Legion triangle and lowered the flag. They recognized the Legion members lost during the past year from Covid-19 and other causes, including Thomas Tomsen, Charles Vincent, Gregory Penny, Vincent Warner, Anthony Pontecorvo, Lawrence Lane, John Hartigan, Timothy McGuire, David Bowers and Richard Sperrazza, along with Auxiliary member Helen McMahon and associate members Phil Tomsen, Jim Campbell and Jim Finnigan.



## BRIEFLY...

**CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE'S OPENING DAY** will be April 3, with the first game on April 10, but those who have been late in joining can still sign up. Registration is open at [www.cityislandLL.com](http://www.cityislandLL.com). All children living on City Island or attending P.S. 175 who were born between August 2008 and September 2017 are eligible. Please e-mail [cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com) for more information. The ballfield has been refurbished, and the coaches have been selected and are ready to coach. Player safety is the top priority, and a doctor is now serving as the safety officer to develop a Covid plan.

**THE BOY SCOUTS SPRING FLOWER AND BAKE SALE** will be held in front of Trinity Methodist Church at Bay Street from Thursday, April 1, through Saturday, April 3.

**SUPPORT PELHAM BAY PARK** From April 1 through April 23, the Friends of Pelham Bay Park are holding a virtual fundraiser in order to hire two seasonal workers to help maintain the park, which has been very popular during the pandemic but overflowing with trash. During the first three weeks in April, the group will share videos with personal stories about the park that will be available on YouTube, shared on social media and embedded in the group's new website, [friendsofpehambaypark.org](http://friendsofpehambaypark.org). All who wish to make a tax-deductible donation are asked to send a check to Friends of Pelham Bay Park, P.O. Box 71, Bronx, NY 10464-0071, or to donate through the website [pelhambaypark.org](http://pelhambaypark.org) and click on Support.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 - UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- 1 - ROBBERY
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 2 - HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Feb. 23 to March 22, 2021.

2/28 - Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a robbery on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street. At 10:40 p.m., an employee at a commercial establishment was helping a customer when six unknown males came behind the counter and stole the register with \$2,000 in cash, the employee's wallet, and cartons of cigarettes.

3/1 - At 5:55 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, an Island male reported an incident of aggravated harassment. He told police that he received a threatening phone call from an unknown male.

3/1 - Police arrested an Island female, 27, on Minneford Avenue at 5:57 p.m. and charged her with assault. The defendant got into a verbal dispute with the landlord, an Island male, 57, over payment of rent. The tenant grabbed a metal pole and attempted to remove security cameras that were being installed. She struck the landlord with the pole causing injury to the victim's face.

3/2 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 6:54 p.m., a female Islander reported being harassed by two unknown persons who threatened her with bodily harm.

3/13 - On Pell Place and City Island Avenue, an unknown vehicle struck the vehicle of an off-Island female at 12:42 p.m., then fled the scene of the accident.

3/21 - An off-Island male, 37, was arrested and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle at 7:27

p.m. The driver was observed in the fire lane disobeying the markings. When stopped by police, officers subsequently found that the driver's license had been suspended.

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# New York Boat Show: A Look Back

By GREGORY CLANCY

The New York Boat Show claims to be the longest running boat show in the world, and this year would have been its 116th year, but for Covid. Because there was no Boat Show to attend, this annual article found itself in jeopardy until I pitched our editors on the idea of a retrospective. The Boat Show has run as an annual column in *The Island Current* for the past 36 years, and so I decided to take you, my loyal readers, on a boat ride down memory lane while I review and recount the past three and a half decades of Boat Show articles. My older brother Bill has often said: "You don't even have to go to the Boat Show to write that silly article. Just read a few of the old articles and then make some stuff up." Well, Bill, this one's for you!

I started with the assistance of Barbara Dolensek, who helped me pull *The Island Current* archives at the City Island Nautical Museum, where I read through every Boat Show article ever written. My father, Bill Clancy, created and wrote this article for 27 years until his passing in 2012, when I took the helm. For my own articles, I found no surprises. They are light-hearted and funny (I think), but to be honest, they're not worth a retrospective.

My father's articles, however, were full of gems and actually had two major surprises for me. The first big surprise was more of a realization. My Dad and I had a totally different world view, at least when it came to boating. To me boating is fun. It is a passion, a love of the water, the pursuit of the perfect day, and time well spent with friends and family. In 2006 Dad reported on a marketing campaign sponsored by the National Marine Manufacturers Association. The campaign's slogan was: "Boating connects like no other." I couldn't have said it better myself.

To my Dad, however, boating represented much more than recreation. Through his mariner's eyes he saw livelihoods, and long lives well spent mastering the craft of boat building. Born in 1937, Dad started his career as an apprentice carpenter in the early 1950s, bouncing between Nevins and Minneford yacht yards. He was born in time to see the heyday of City Island's shipyards, and then he spent the rest of his life watching them die. Jobs ended, yards closed, and the world changed for the worse. In so many ways, my Dad's articles chronicle City Island's boating legacy and how the world changed in the latter half of the 20th century.

The second big surprise I found was that my Dad hardly talked about boats in his Boat Show articles. My brothers and I (and quite a few of Dad's friends) often teased him about the fact that he never talked about boats. This was just a fun poke, however. Much to my surprise, in rereading 30 years of articles, I found that he DIDN'T talk much about boats. I would say that less than 20 percent of his content was actually about the boats. Some years that number might have been closer to 10 percent. One year (2009) he didn't mention a single boat! At the end of the article he even acknowledges this point and says, "maybe next year!"

So, what the heck did he talk about? He talked about people. He talked about City Islanders, and he talked about other people who had impressed him at the show. He reminisced about the old-time City Island characters, boaters, boat yard workers and nautical shop owners. He teased his friends, shared an obscene number of inside jokes (often known only to him) and generally just had a lot of fun being on stage. Years ago, the venerable P.S. 175 English teacher Alice

Rotello wrote a piece about my Dad for *The Island Current*. In her article she concluded that Bill Clancy was a lot like Will Rogers. He never met a man he didn't like.

Dad's articles mentioned quite a few nautical business people who are still kicking around today. Joe Brandi of Bridge Marine, Joe Burck of Burck's Marine and Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving made the article more than once. So did Dave Savarese, who was found multiple years manning a booth for Dan Cavaluzzi of Sound Tow. Captain Chris Cullen of the *Island Current* fleet once shocked Dad by running a fishing class at the Boat Show. "Who would go to the Boat Show to learn how to fish?" he asked wryly, but he loved seeing a City Island captain in attendance.

Dad always gave a mention to City Island's yacht clubs. He was especially fond of the Harlem Yacht Club, whose Mike Treat, John Mazzante and Tony Roscoe were some of the most oft-mentioned personalities in the history of the Boat Show article. For several years in the mid-'90s, Dad made elusive references to a mysterious artifact lost (or found depending on the year) in the waters off the HYC. It was called the Sword of the Melrah. He dropped this in for years waiting for Mike Treat to figure out that Melrah is just "Harlem" spelled backwards.

Many of the City Island boat people of the not-so-distant past are found in these articles. Russ Schaller and Rich Riordan of Sound Salvage are often mentioned. So is Claudia Deich, who owned the City Island Paint Store and later Buddy's hardware store. Claudia also spent countless hours teaching the Scouts of Troop 211 how to sail, including yours truly. Howie Smith was often found at the Boat Show with the NYPD Harbor Patrol, and Captain Ed Sadler worked at the show's nautical services exhibit in his later years. Hope and Herb Hild of Hild Sails were always a favorite visit, and so were Peter and Pat La Scala of Bridge Boat Sales.

One year Dad wrote an entire vignette about when he took his own boat, the *Kitty Clyde II*, down to Bridge Boat to have the engines rebuilt. Dad tells the story of Joe Caruso having to drill the sparkplugs out of the engines because they were rusted solid to the block. What he didn't say in the article was that Pat La Scala said: "Hey, Bill, it almost seems like there's never been any preventative maintenance done on your boat." Dad's matter-of-fact response was to tell Pat: "Well Pat, that's because there HASN'T been any preventative maintenance done on this boat." "Ever?" "Ever."

The person mentioned most often in all the Boat Show articles was Jim Ross, a City Islander who owned a Sunseeker dealership in New Rochelle and in Florida. I don't think Dad had any particularly close relationship with Jim; I think he was just proud of the accomplishments of this son of City Island. But especially dear to Dad's heart were the City Island marine merchants of his youth. It didn't matter if he was talking about Joe Burck Sr.'s Evinrudes or Artie Stelter Sr.'s Johnsons, or the Starace Family's Chris Crafts. He talked about them all. But the greatest reverence he held was for the carpenters of the old yards. People like Bill Fetzer, Dad's boss from Minneford, was a giant in Dad's eyes. All of the old boat-building carpenters were number one, and over the years he mentioned the likes of Jack Fairgreaves, Bill McDaniel Sr., Nils Halverson and many others.

In one article Dad tells the story of the first and maybe only fiberglass boats built



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Bill Clancy covered the Boat Show for *The Island Current* for 27 years.

on City Island. In 1959 Minneford got the contract to build nine 32-foot fiberglass boats for the Trapper Boat Amusement ride in Freedomland, a park that was located where Co-Op City is today. When the entire hull of each boat was completed in only six days and with minimal labor, my Dad knew that the world was about to be turned upside down. His love of carpentry and wood boats would stay with him, a fact that often showed in his articles. He hated "Plas-teak," plastic teak, and always protested when modern boat makers would proclaim "no wood," as if that were an advantage. When Glastron (one of the first ever fiberglass boat brands) celebrated its 50th birthday at the Boat Show in 2006, Dad wrote only "Humbug!"

There was a tinge of sadness to my Dad's articles, not surprising when one steps back to consider the changes that City Island had seen during his life. But he managed through the occasional melancholy with an incredible sense of humor. He had a lot of great one-liners, like the one year he reported seeing a sign at the Boat Show that read: "Women making waves." He said he could relate to the sign as a guy who is often struck by those waves. He also always reported on the price of a Budweiser and a hot dog at the show. He gave more words to the Buds and dogs than he ever gave to any one boat. He also loved to poke fun at his friends, and he had two primary victims, Sally McCheap and Sailboaters.

Sally McCheap was actually *Island Current* editor Sally McPherson. Dad called her "McCheap" for her perennial refusal to cover his expenses while he covered the Boat Show, and he took shots at her in his article every year. In fact, he kept taking shots at Sally for years even after she left *The Current* when she moved back to her native Wisconsin. He accused her of constantly badgering him, repeatedly rejecting his parking expenses and of once sending a lawyer to spy on him at the show (yes, Sally, he said that in 1995, the same year he accused you of running a "Cabal," which included Judy Rauh, Barbara Dolensek and Jeanne Pezone). The truth of the matter is that Sally and Dad were great friends, and this was all a riotous joke, if only to them. *Current* staffer Judy Rauh discovered the truth of this when, as the treasurer of the paper, she cut my Dad a check to cover his parking expenses. He never cashed it. He just wanted something to tease Sally about.

As for the Sailboaters, "people who own a type of boat powered by Sail," the one-liners were endless. He called sailors "ragmen," referred to them as an "obstinate bunch" and always talked about sailing as passé." In 2002 Dad quoted Dr. Ruth Westheimer (the sex therapist): "Sailing is the second sexiest sport." Dad's response to this was to write: "you would have never known it by looking

at them." I didn't know which was funnier, the quip or the fact that Dad actually knew who Dr. Ruth was! They must have put her on the TV at the Legion once. But this too was all banter. The greatest boats ever built in Dad's mind were the great sailing yachts designed by Olin Stephens and built by Henry Nevins. If not for the fact that sailing can really interfere with one's ability to down cold Buds, we probably would have been a sailboat family. The first time my Dad's picture ever appeared in 22 years of writing the article was in 2007. I found it funny and fitting that it's all sailboats in the background!

In later years, Dad ended his article with a mention of his post-Boat Show beer, usually at the Legion. The Legion bartender on duty on the day of the show always got a mention in this article. Artie Hughes is the earliest, and Vinny Hecker is the most often mentioned. In one of his last articles, Dad mentions Legion bartender "Katie McMahon of Dolce y Gabbana." Dad never quite got used to the idea of a lady bartender, and one who was also young and beautiful was a real head trip for him! In honor of my Dad's tradition, I too will head to the Legion after I finish my article. I hear that Tommy Vivolo is on duty tonight, which is fitting as Tom is the current owner of my father's last boat, a 28-foot Uniflight today called *Stella Blue* (formerly *Kitty Clyde II*). I'll have to head down to compare Tom's maintenance logs with my Dad's while we enjoy a cold Bud and talk about boating, City Island and the people who make our lives on City Island so rich!

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**Virtual Trips to City Island**

To the Editor:

I would like to acknowledge and thank Lauren Nye, a City Islander and trustee at the City Island Nautical Museum, who developed a series of zoom webinars. The series was free and open to the first 100

registrants.

In January, the series began with "The History of Hart Island," with Barbara Burn Dolensek and Melinda Hunt, and City Island's artists, featuring Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Mary Colby and Ron Terner interviewed by Cheryl Brinker. February brought us "The History of City Island" with Tom Nye and "Remembering P.S. 17" with Ena Ellwanger, Karen Rauhauer Nani, Barbara Harrison and Judy DiMaio. "The America's Cup" with Dick Sadler and Tom Nye ended the series in March.

All of these webinars were a welcome distraction from our long, cold and snowy winter evenings. They were informative, interesting and at times comical.

I myself was lucky to participate in "Remembering P.S. 17." It was an evening filled with great old photos and stories told by all the participants. Barbara Harrison shared her eighth-grade

project, in which the students in her class visited boat yards, stores, people and other places of interest around the Island. Ena Ellwanger regaled us with tales of former classmates and students. Karen and I, who were in the same class, shared reminiscences of making our graduation dresses and our unsanctioned trip to Hart Island in eighth grade.

Lauren worked very hard to keep us all on track. She did an amazing job.

For those who missed the webinars, you will be able to view them on line through YouTube. Go to the YouTube website and type in the name of the program you want to watch: The History of and Potential for Hart Island, City Island

artists, City Island history, Remembering P.S. 17 and the America's Cup Past and Present.

Judy DiMaio

**Thanks to Islanders for Support**

To the City Island Community:

We would like to thank you all for your kind words and support after the sudden passing of our wife and mother, Mary Bollati. Her sudden passing devastated us all, but the immense response we received from our City Island neighbors affirmed why she loved this Island so much.

The Bollati Family

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# Hope Springs Eternal: Parenting 2.0 in a Pandemic

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

We just celebrated a family member's birthday for the second time during Covid. While it remains hard to accept that we are still in shutdown mode for many of our life activities, she and I are at least blessed now with vaccine immunity and a glimpse of a summer that may be more "normal" than last year. Here's hoping...

As parents (and grandparents), we have continued responsibilities for the young people in our care. We have all experienced pandemic fatigue, have "lost it" in front of family members and have come to realize that teaching school is a more challenging profession than we ever knew.

But the end is near! How do we handle the meltdowns and exhaustion? First of all, create one-on-one time with each child every day: even 20 minutes playing Uno can be a balm for frazzled nerves and create a re-connection on an emotional level. Next, keep up the self-care: breathe/get outside/take a moment. And three, stay reasonable when rules at home, or school deadlines might be disregarded by your child. Use this simple A-B-C strategy from play therapy training:

**Acknowledge** the feeling that your child is expressing. Remember, feelings are real, but they are not the truth. We all need to know that others recognize we have feelings, but remind your child that we are each responsible in the end for our own moods.

**Boundaries** are important regarding the choices your child might make. You can say, "If you choose to do this, there will be consequences." Children need boundaries as something to "push against" while growing up, and we as parents are in an ideal position to set those boundaries in our homes.

**Consequences** are important as natural responses to behavior. We need to follow through as needed--without emotion whenever possible. That's what happens when we are adults, yes? Remember, getting older is mandatory, but growing up and becoming mature is optional. Consequences help us deal with life on life's terms.

Remember that this too shall pass. Be grateful for what you have and hug those kids!



## What are you most looking forward to once the pandemic is over?



### Luisa Benedetto

Aside from getting together with my family and friends without having to be concerned about their, or my, health, I can't wait to do things "on a whim" again, such as grabbing a drink at the Snug after work. It will also be nice to go for a run without wearing a face mask!

### Caroline Walsh



I work in the animal encounters department at the Bronx Zoo! I am looking forward to groups being able to come again so we can continue to educate the public about our amazing animal ambassadors. I also can't wait to see my family and travel again.



### Alex Pabellon

As the senior center van driver, I look forward mostly to taking the seniors off island on the shopping trips that they haven't been able to go on in the past year. I also miss serving them their hot congregant lunch at the center.

### Nancy Nieland and Maria Theodosiadou

We are both looking forward to getting together with family and friends, hugging, kissing and shaking hands! And, of course, we can't wait to travel to visit family in Cyprus.



### Roy Jansson

I lived on City Island for 6 years and taught ballroom dancing for 40 years in NYC and Connecticut. I'm looking forward to getting back to Latin dancing in the Bronx. I really miss Latin music and the excitement of NYC.

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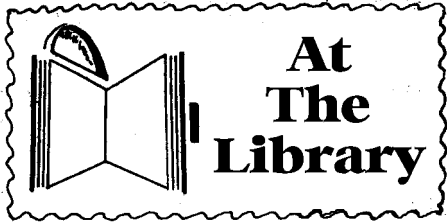
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**APRIL VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Online Family Storytime:** Join us for a live, online program with songs, rhymes, and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that Storytime is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

**One-on-One Help: Databases for Children:** Are you interested in exploring some databases that can help with your child's schoolwork? Book 30 minutes to speak with a Library staff member! Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**APRIL VIRTUAL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Writers Assemble!** Get together to talk fanfic, fandom culture, and writing! Bring some writing if you want a critique! Wednesday, April 14, 21 and 28 at 3:30 p.m.

**Picture Poetry:** Craft poetry inspired by photos from NYPL's Digital Collection. Friday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m.

**Teen Book Trivia!** Test your book knowledge! Anything related to YA books is on the table - plot, characters, and authors, stretching back through

history. Friday, April 16, at 3:30 p.m.  
**Poetry Slam:** Poetry Slams are an integral part of American history. We'll watch a few choice performances before diving into writing or researching, and everyone can share a poem at the end! Friday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m.  
**Magnetic Poetry Online:** Use magnetic words to make and share poetry—online! Friday, April 30, at 3:30 p.m.

**APRIL VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS**

**WNYC Book Discussion:** A virtual discussion of "No One Is Talking About This" by Patricia Lockwood, a debut novel following an unnamed narrator as she explores sudden Internet fame and grapples with grief and loss. Tuesday, April 6, at 5 p.m.

**QUOTEMEAL: Poetry Edition!** If you're a poet or poetry enthusiast, join the City Island Library virtually for a fun, communal experience where you can share original work or lines from your favorite poems based on word associations. Thursday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.

**Spring Into Haikus:** Spring is a great time to try new things! Utilizing selections from NYPL's free online photography collections, participants will write, or begin working on, their own original haikus. Thursday, April 22, at 2 p.m.

**Virtual 1-on-1 Classes:** Topics include, Help with Databases for Adults, NYPL Catalog and e-Book Borrowing, and Getting Started with e-Books. These classes will be scheduled in half-hour time slots. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Open Book Hour: What Are You Reading Now?** One of the most popular activities at home is reading. Join us and share selections with other readers. Saturday, April 10 and 24, at 3:30 p.m.

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

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Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Tom McMahon and Susan O'Keefe-Vaughan at his March Quilt of Valor award ceremony.



Photos by KAREN NANI

It took five months, but the abandoned boat up against the south side of the City Island Bridge was finally removed on March 25, 2021, thanks to the New York City Parks Department and Councilman Mark Gjonaj (inset, left). Under the direction of Waterfront and Marine Operations Chief Nate Grove (center), the Parks Department contracts with Custom Marine, led by Dwayne Reith (right), which removes vessels and debris along the shoreline. Mr. Gjonaj contributed the discretionary funding for the removal. The boat will be towed to Custom Marine's facility on the Hudson and held for 30 days before being dismantled and scrapped.



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# FAQ on the American Rescue Plan from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

On Wednesday, March 10, the House voted to pass the latest stimulus package and, the following day, President Biden signed it into law. We've included some frequently asked questions and answers about the American Rescue Plan below.

**What's happening with the child tax credit?** This is one of the most exciting and innovative parts of the bill. People expect it could help cut child poverty in half. Here's how it works: If you earn less than \$75,000 (or your household earns less than \$150,000) you'll receive \$3,600 for each child under age 6 and \$3,000 tax for each child aged 7-17. If your income exceeds that threshold, the credit will be reduced by \$50 for every additional \$1,000 of income. Individuals earning \$95,000 or joint filers earning \$170,000 are not eligible for the tax credit.

The tax credit applies to your 2021 tax year, but the IRS will advance part of the credit in the forms of checks that will be delivered or direct deposited as early as July. These checks will continue at semi-regular intervals through December. The remaining amount will be credited against your taxes when you file next year. The child tax credit is available to those living in U.S. territories. It is also entirely fully refundable and doesn't require an individual to be employed to qualify.

**Am I eligible for the child tax credit if I'm having a baby this year?** Yes. The bill includes a provision that allows any person who gives birth in 2021 to receive the third \$1,400 stimulus check for that child after filing their tax return in 2022.

**How much are the stimulus checks and who will get them? When will they arrive?** Under the bill, single filers with incomes up to \$75,000, head of household filers with incomes up to \$112,500, and joint filers with incomes up to \$150,000 will receive payments of \$1,400. Those making more than that income threshold will receive lesser amounts, and those single filers making more than \$80,000 (head of household filers making \$120,000, and joint filers making \$160,000) will receive no stimulus payment at all.

If you have direct deposit set up with the IRS, you may have already received the check; if not, you should very shortly. If you receive your tax refunds via check or prepaid debit card, those should arrive in the mail over the next few weeks.

**Are adult dependents eligible for stimulus checks?** Unlike previous payments, adult dependents (those who are 19-24, retirees or adults with disabilities who rely on another person for more than half of their expenses) are now eligible for payments, as long as the filer who claims them as a dependent meets the eligibility requirements listed above. The check will be sent directly to the filer who claims the dependent, not the dependent. Previously, only dependents under 17 were eligible.

**Are mixed status or undocumented families eligible for a stimulus check?** In cases of mixed status families where only one spouse has a Social Security number, the family would get a payment of \$1,400 for the spouse with a number, plus \$1,400 for each dependent who also has a Social Security number.

If both parents are undocumented but their dependent is a U.S. citizen, then that dependent does qualify for a check - as long as their parents filed their taxes with individual tax identification numbers (ITINs).

**What tax return year is the government using to determine eligibility for a stimulus check?** Under the bill, the IRS is directed to make payments initially based on people's 2019 tax returns or their 2020 returns if they've already been filed.

**What if I never received my first or second stimulus check?** If you were eligible to receive the first or second stimulus check and didn't receive it, you must claim the Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2020 taxes.

**Are stimulus checks tax free?** Yes, stimulus checks are not considered taxable

income; therefore, they will not be taxed and also will not affect your eligibility for any federal government assistance or benefit program.

**Will unemployment assistance be extended? Do I have to pay taxes on my unemployment benefits?** The current \$300/ week federal benefit will be extended through early September. The first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received in 2020 have also now been designated tax free for households making less than \$150,000.

**How can I access the rental aid in the bill?** Applying for rental assistance varies from state to state. The state of New York has the COVID Rent Relief Program from the previous rental assistance granted by the CARES Act and we are expecting them to update that program once the state is allocated the funds from the American Rescue Plan. For rental assistance from New York City there are two programs in place, the One Shot Deal and CityFHEPS, who you can contact until there is more information on the New York state COVID Relief Program.

**What support does this bill provide to small businesses?** The bill funds \$15 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) grants, expands Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) eligibility and dedicates an additional \$7.25 billion in funding and additional resources to help small and disadvantaged businesses navigate and access COVID relief programs.

The bill also specifically increased the funding allocation for a new program at the SBA to offer assistance to restaurants and bars hardest hit by the pandemic from \$25 billion to \$28.66 billion. \$5 billion is set aside specifically for smaller establishments with less than \$500,000 in 2019 annual revenue. During the first 21 days, applications from restaurants owned and operated by women, veterans, or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals will receive priority.

**What help is available if a change in my employment is jeopardizing my health insurance?** If you choose to use COBRA to continue your existing employer-sponsored health coverage, the bill provides a 100% subsidy beginning in April through September 2021. For those six months, this subsidy covers all costs associated with COBRA, including the employer contribution. The only exception being individuals who are eligible for other group health coverage or Medicare - they are not eligible for the COBRA subsidy.

Additionally, this bill also provides subsidies if you buy health insurance off your state's Obamacare exchange. Any individual who receives unemployment at any point in 2021 can purchase an ACA silver plan for zero premium.

Also, under the bill, no one will have to pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for a silver plan in the ACA marketplaces. It also provides that individuals below 150% of the poverty level pay no premiums at all compared to 4% of their income currently.

**How will this bill help schools reopen?** The American Rescue Plan makes nearly \$130 billion immediately available to State Education Departments so they can: 1. Get schools open safely 2. Keep schools open safely 3. Make up for lost learning time. The American Rescue Plan also provides resources for higher education, Head Start and childcare facilities.



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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.

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. All Temple offerings are online via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

For the month of March, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night Shabbat services on April 2, 23 and 30. On April 3, Yizkor services. Other services will be community led on April 9 and April 16. Please see our calendar for our community led Havdalah services. All services are held in a joyful, celebratory manner.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer for the community meditation, yoga, qi gong/tai chi and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

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

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

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

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

Jodie Sadovsky

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Ten children in the OLA/St. Mary's Religious Education Program received the sacrament of First Penance on Saturday, March 20, here at St. Mary's. On April 24, 35 children in OLA/SMSS Religious Education Program will receive the sacrament of Confirmation, which will be administered by the Most Rev. Peter J. Byrne DD, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. If you have any questions regarding the program, please don't hesitate to contact Teri Kurtz at the Religious Education office 718-885-1440 or by e-mail at [smsreled@yahoo.com](mailto:smsreled@yahoo.com).

The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday evening, April 1, at 7:30 p.m., followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 3 p.m. The Solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. and will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption

Church. Masses on Easter Sunday will be at 9 and 11 a.m.

Rose Dietz and Teri Kurtz

### Trinity United Methodist Church

On Wednesday, March 3, Reverend Susan Chadwick passed away, and those of us at Trinity joined the rest of City Island in missing her and mourning her loss.

Sue began in the ministry in 1992 as a Provisional Member on her way to ordination as an Elder. That same year she began serving at the Verbank United Methodist Church, where she would stay until 1997, when the Bishop assigned her to Trinity here on City Island. In my 25 years in ministry in this Annual Conference, Susan Chadwick is the only pastor I have known who was successfully assigned to the church they grew up in. Hats off to you, Sue, on this and so many things.

Sue served here at Trinity for 14 years, which in Methodist tradition is more than double the average appointment. That long term here is no surprise to those who were part of the church and community during her service here. In 2011 she was appointed to the Lagrangeville UMC, and two years later she was appointed to also serve at the Wicopee UMC.

While serving here at Trinity, Pastor Sue developed a daily prayer team meeting, a food pantry, several bible studies, including the Disciple Bible Study, which involves a 36-week commitment. Several of her Disciple Bible students have told me how much that time with the Bible and with Pastor Sue meant to them. She had an active youth group and active adult groups, and she was instrumental in helping Trinity UMC become close partners with the three other houses of worship on City Island.

Her brother Peter, in announcing Sue's passing, remembered that during her time as pastor she was known for compassion and patience. Pete told us, "She had a way of making a person feel at peace right when they needed it." Pete, I agree with you. We could all use that just now. God rest your soul, Reverend Susan Chadwick, and thank you for sharing your gifts in this great place called City Island and in the House of God known as Trinity.

As part of Trinity's honoring of Pastor Sue, we are developing new programs to help not only our members, as she would want, but to help the whole community, as she was clearly known for doing. A daily prayer gathering, a Bible study, a book reading group, a grief group and other gatherings will begin soon. Call me at 845-532-3378 or e-mail [David.jolly@nyac-umc.com](mailto:David.jolly@nyac-umc.com) for more information. We do this from what we learned from Christ in you, Sue.

Trinity United Methodist Church will continue 10 a.m. in-person worship in the Sanctuary. All persons wishing to attend must wear masks and enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance on Bay Street. Attendance is recorded and temperatures are taken. While maintaining social distance, attendees then enter the Sanctuary, where seating is staggered. At this time, there is no singing, but hymns are played by the extraordinary organist Joy Kim. For the foreseeable future, this is how we will worship in person. Every effort is being made to thoroughly clean the facility after the service. Trinity understands these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will also be live-streamed and recorded for YouTube. To request information about the live stream, e-mail [David.jolly@nyac-umc.com](mailto:David.jolly@nyac-umc.com).

The Food Pantry is expanding its hours.



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Joe Goonan (at left) and Tom McShane at the February Quilt of Valor award ceremony for Mr. McShane, a Vietnam War veteran.

The new times are Sunday and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thank you to the many generous people who have stepped up to help those in need.

Pastor David Jolly

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. The church is located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street. Please enter by the main entrance, where a church member will welcome you. The use of a mask is required, social distancing will be observed, and hand sanitizer will be available at the door. You can also watch our service on YouTube via a link that is distributed weekly. To be added to the distribution of this link, please contact us at [gracecityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gracecityisland@gmail.com). The link is also found on the Grace Church website: <https://www.gracecityisland.net>.

Grace Church is also open for prayer between 2 and 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Those not able to attend in person are invited to pray at home. Feel free to visit at any time during the hour. Please enter by the main entrance, a church member will seat you, observing social distancing. The use of a mask is required, hand sanitizer will be available at the door. Please join us for a time of prayer, with masks on, sitting socially and safely distanced in the pews. We pray for each other, for ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers. And as Father John suggests, "Find a moment to be thankful for our lives and those things that bring us comfort and joy."

**Holy Week Services:** Maundy Thursday, April 1, Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m.; Good Friday, April 2, Good Friday Liturgy at 2 p.m.; Easter Day, April 4, Easter Eucharist and Egg Hunt beginning at 10 a.m.

Members of the Sunday School helped present the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday. If possible within safety guidelines, there will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for the members of the Sunday School following the service on April 4. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net). We look forward to the return of in-person Sunday School classes the first and third Sundays of the month after the Covid crisis has abated.

Our music ministry is offering an opportunity for all to participate in music during our worship services. No prior musical experience is necessary. Contact Caroline Coppola, Minister of Music, for more information and a demonstration of our hand chimes ([geccimusic@gmail.com](mailto:geccimusic@gmail.com)).

The GraceTones are eager to return to singing for residents at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, as well as supporting local businesses with shows featuring hymns about the power of God's

eternal grace, love and joy, when it is safe to do so.

Sandy Dunn

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Thrift Shop is open every Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym. We are now showing our spring and summer collection: shoes, bags, jewelry and lots of bric-a-brac.

Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The April meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be sent to members a few days ahead.

The annual Poppy Drive will be on a May Saturday (to be announced) in front of Dominick's Supermarket.

Quilters by the Sea QOV awarded two beautiful Quilts of Valor to Tom McShane and Tom McMahan, both Vietnam War veterans and members of Legion Post 156. Bronx News 12 attended the outdoor ceremony for Tom McShane and aired an interview with him and Doreen Gallagher, Auxiliary President. Our next Sew Saturday will be in late April.

Harlan Sexton

### Holy Week Services

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Thursday, April 1: Holy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:15 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

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

City Island Avenue near the bridge

Thursday, April 1, Holy Thursday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 2, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 3, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. to be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

#### Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street  
Services in person and also online at Grace Church Live Stream;

<https://www.gracecityisland.net/>

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2: Good Friday service, 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday, Festival and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt following the service.





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

Happy Spring from the board of the City Island Community Center. We hope everyone is staying safe as the warmer weather begins and more people are getting out and about. The availability of all three approved vaccines is encouraging. Please refer to [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) to confirm if you are eligible, to find your nearest vaccine site and to schedule your appointment.

Although the Community Center remains on restricted use because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are taking this time to focus on infrastructure improvements so the space can be ready for the time when we can open to full capacity. Some much needed spring cleaning, repairs and painting will be done. Also, updates to the art room, the dance room and the center office space will be under way shortly.

The free tax prep sessions are over and went well. Thank you to the members and residents who availed themselves of this service. We are awaiting guidance on any limited and safe activities that can take place. One possibility is a cooking class for children, which we hope to begin in May. Look out for updated information in the May *Current* column.

Until then, stay safe, maintaining social distancing and mask wearing when appropriate and enjoy spring and the many holidays that come with it!

#### Approved Programs:

**AA Meeting:** Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**NA Meeting:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**Friendly Reminder:** You can help support the City Island Community Center through an official membership. Our Membership Drive continues! If you need a renewal form, please call 718-885-1145 and we will mail one. We greatly appreciate all those who have already renewed or have made a generous donation on behalf of a group or business.

For up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145, or Like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes. Have a safe and warm month!

Melissa Cebollero

#### PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. to distribute meals, masks, sanitizers and more as we receive them. Please be sure to listen to the One Call Now sent to members to update them on meal pickups, virtual classes and new groups.

If any member needs instruction on how to use their tablet, iPad, iPhone or Smart Phone, please contact the center and we can schedule a time with you privately. We want everyone to have the option to join our Zoom and other available classes. Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also shows instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote balance class, arthritis class, craft classes, nutrition classes and our singing group.

We encourage everyone 60 and over to access Get Set Up for a variety of classes available- cooking, travel, exercise, health, nutrition, technology and more. Please access all classes through the PSS portal: <https://www.getsetup.io/partner/pss>.

April Remote Classes: Please note that classes are updated weekly as things change. If you cannot access a class, please call the

center at 718-885-0727. You can pick up a calendar at the Center Tuesday or Thursday between 12 and 1:30 during our pantry hours or e-mail [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org).

#### Mondays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (to join, please e-mail [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org) to be added to the e-mail list)

10:30 a.m. Balance Exercises with Susan

#### Wednesdays

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercises with Patty G. ID: 409 210 4917 Passcode: 12345

12:15 p.m. Table Talk 1 – Get together for an unscripted chat with friends ID: 409 210 4917 Passcode: 12345

1 p.m. Table Talk 2 – An open discussion where we explore different topics. ID: 409 210 4917 Passcode: 12345

#### Thursdays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (see above)

#### Fridays

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercises with Patty G. ID: 409 210 4917 Passcode: 12345

12:30 p.m. Singing Group with Napat ID: 467 029 1237 Passcode: 3E4ZTp

1:15 p.m. Health Classes ID: 409 210 4917 Passcode: 12345

April 9 - Staying Sharp Naturally

April 16 - Healthy Brain Aging

April 23 - Healthy Living for Your

Brain and Body

April 30 - How to Eat Healthy for Life

Our staff regularly calls members individually to check on their well-being. If you are not on our calling list, please e-mail [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org) with your name and phone number. Or you can reach the center at 718-885-0727. Until we're together again, stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

#### City Island Oyster Reef

On a recent wintry Sunday afternoon, intern Cody Carroll taught CIOR eco-volunteers how to use the handheld YSI ProDSS water-quality monitoring equipment. The volunteers will soon begin checking the water at locations where oyster research stations are located around the Island for levels of dissolved oxygen, temperature, acidity, dissolved solids, particulate matter and oxidation/reduction.

CIOR will host our next webinar on Wednesday, March 31, at 7 p.m., with Bill Lucey, a Long Island Soundkeeper from Save the Sound. He will talk about "blue carbon" and the importance of the carbon-capturing system and nutrient cycling in marine wetlands and estuaries. These wetlands environments are dynamic ecosystems that can capture and hold on to large amounts of carbon and thereby help to mitigate the increasingly serious planetary climate crisis. Seagrasses, submerged aquatic vegetation and shellfish in these wetlands ecosystems also help to clean the water and provide important buffering against storm surge and flooding.

On Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m., Peter Solomon, a teacher at the Sound School in New Haven, will present a webinar describing how his students restored an oyster reef in New Haven Harbor. Students and faculty at the Sound School are using Mini-Bay Reef Ball Modules (RBMs) and lab-cultured oyster spat. This is a student-led effort, and the students are responsible for every aspect of this project. The finished reef will function as a living laboratory for students and faculty from the Sound School and local university partners.

Danielle Bissett, the Director of Restoration for the Billion Oyster Project (BOP), will do a webinar on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m., on an array of oyster reef restoration projects that BOP has been involved in throughout the New York City area.

To request access to these webinars, send an e-mail to [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

Sally Connolly

#### AARP 318

Our chapter has been notified that because of Covid-19 all chapter meetings will be discontinued until further notice. At this time there are no updates. We will keep you posted once we hear otherwise. Be safe and hope you are enjoying 2021.

Carroll A. Reid

#### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting is Sunday, April 11, at 12 noon. This will be our first in-person and Zoom meeting combined. Dues are past due: \$55 for 2021. Please drop the dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 40 people (50% capacity). Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

The following are dates and upcoming events:

April 1: April Fool's Day to all!

April 4: Happy Easter Sunday.

April 11 at 12 noon: Post 156 Legion Meeting. We will be conducting both the "Post-Everlasting" for our members that have gone before us and inducting our "Life Members," who have completed 50 years or more, and "Honorary Life Members" as part of the Post 156 Legion Family.

April 15: IRS/NYS Tax Day has been changed to May 17, 2021.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

#### City Island Civic Association

Elections for president, second vice president and recording secretary, which were to have been held in November according to the bylaws, will be tabled until November 2021. In the meantime, the current officers will stay in their positions.

The officers and board met with the new commanding officer of the 45 Precinct, Captain Isaac Soberal, on Zoom on March 12 to discuss City Island issues that call for police coverage.

There will be an in-person outdoor meeting of the membership on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the Morris Yacht Club.

Civic members in 2020 will have their memberships extended to cover 2021. Dues will not be collected, although donations are welcome. Those who have already paid will have their memberships extended into 2022.

To become a member of the Civic, send your annual dues (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership) to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx 10464, or pay online at [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) to [cityisland.civic@gmail.com](mailto:cityisland.civic@gmail.com), the "friends and family" option. Please note that joining the Civic Facebook page does not represent membership in the association.

Jane Protzman

#### Pelham Cemetery

The annual meeting of lot holders has been postponed because of the coronavirus. *The Island Current* will print a notice when the meeting will be rescheduled.

Linda Ulmer

#### Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club held its March 1 meeting via Zoom. Our presenter was Sue Avery, who talked about "Waterwise Gardens." Members who attended the meeting were very impressed with her knowledge and presentation style. This was a perfect presentation for residents of City Island. Her focus was on using water for gardens in a way that does not pollute surrounding waterways. We learned that one of the ways that we, as gardeners, can prevent water from flowing into Long Island Sound is to plant rain gardens and bioswales which are intentionally low areas. These allow rainwater and water from our garden hoses to sink into the ground without running off.

We also learned that replacing impervious surfaces, such as asphalt, with steppingstones or interlocking pavers will encourage water absorption rather than run-off. Lawns often contribute to pollution through the use of fertilizer, which runs off the lawn and down the street when it rains or when the lawn is watered. Sue pointed out that we are watering our gardens with drinking water. Use of rain barrels and more efficient hand-watering can reduce water use. Native plants, which are adapted to our climate, often need less water.

At our April 5 meeting via Zoom, Tony Antes, from 9th District Garden Clubs, will present on attracting butterflies. We hope that all of our members and prospective members can attend. The meeting will start at 10, and we ask everyone to log on early to make sure that the technology is set up before we start. Members who have not used the Zoom online meeting platform can get help from our secretary, Ellen Murphy, by calling or e-mailing her. Her e-mail address and phone number are in the membership list, which is sent out every month. This is a great way to connect until we can all get back together in person.

Members have been sending in photographs of plants and gardens to Charline Evers for our Facebook page. Charline has received a number of beautiful photos, and we encourage members to send in more as the opportunity arises. Just pull out your phone when you see something in your garden that you'd like to share, indoors or out. As a reminder, please send them to Charline's email address, preferably in jpeg format.

Behind the scenes, plans are under way for our spring and summer activities. We will be delivering fund-drive letters and keeping up with our public gardening activities. As the ground and our containers thaw, we are starting to clean up the winter greenery that we put in the containers last fall. This will give the daffodils in the containers space to grow and bloom. We are looking forward to the cheer they bring. In May, we will plant spring and summer flowers, which should last into the fall.

We are planning to hold our May 3 meeting in person on the lawn at the City Island Yacht Club, and our Hospitality Committee is looking forward to serving refreshments for the first time in a year. We hope that all members will have received their vaccines by that time. Although we will still be required by NYS to wear masks, the vaccines will provide a huge measure of protection for us all.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, please contact a member who will refer you one of our officers. We will make sure to include you in our meetings—whether in person, via Zoom or just to receive a newsletter. We hold our meetings the first Monday of every month at 10 a.m.

Judy Judson





**Sixth Annual Bingeworthy Television, Part 2**

**Unorthodox** (German/American, 2020, 4 episodes) is a drama miniseries that was inspired by Deborah Feldman's 2012 autobiography *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*. It was the first Netflix series filmed primarily in Yiddish. Esty (Shira Haas) is a 19-year-old Jewish woman living unhappily in an arranged marriage to Yanky (Amit Rahay) in an ultra-Orthodox community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She runs away to Berlin, where her estranged mother, Miriam (Delia Mayer), lives, and tries to carve out a secular life. When her husband comes searching for her with his cousin Moishe (Jeff Wilbusch), she must choose the life she wishes to have in her journey to self-discovery.

**John Adams** (2008, 7 episodes) is a miniseries that provides an in-depth telling of the life of American Founding Father John Adams (Paul Giamatti). It begins with the Boston Massacre of 1770, spans his years as an ambassador in Europe and his terms as vice president and president of the United States, up to his death on July 4, 1826. Laura Linney is outstanding as his intelligent, long-suffering wife, Abigail, who must endure long separations that leave her and their children to work the family farm on their own. The rest of the key players include Stephen Dillane as Thomas Jefferson, Tom Wilkinson as Benjamin Franklin, David Morse as George Washington and Rufus Sewell as Alexander Hamilton. The sacrifices made by the Founding Fathers are truly thought-provoking, especially in these turbulent times.

**Mindhunter** (2017–19, 19 episodes over 2 seasons) is a psychological crime thriller about how the FBI began profiling serial killers with the establishment of the Behavioral Science Unit in the Training Division at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The series revolves around FBI agents Holden Ford (Jonathan Groff) and Bill Tench (Holt McCallany), along with psychologist Wendy Carr (Anna Torv), who interview imprisoned serial killers to understand how they think, with the hope of applying this knowledge to solve ongoing cases. Season one takes place from 1977 to 1980, in the early days of criminal psychology and profiling at the FBI. Ford and Tench interview notorious serial killer Edmund Kemper (Cameron Britton), who willingly assists in helping them understand how a serial killer's mind works. Season two takes place from 1980 to 1981, investigating the Atlanta murders of 28 children and adolescents. Other serial killers interviewed include Wayne Williams (Christopher Livingston), David Berkowitz (Oliver Cooper) and Charles Manson (Damien Herriman).

**Sherlock** (British—2010–17, 13 90-minute episodes over 4 seasons) stars Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role as Sherlock Holmes living in the modern age, with a hilarious first episode in which he spends a lot of time texting. Martin Freeman is his best friend and flat-mate Dr. John Watson, who is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Other important characters include landlady Mrs. Hudson (Una Stubbs), Deputy Inspector Greg Lestrade (Rupert Graves), mortuary worker Molly Hooper (Louise Brealey), Sherlock's brother, Mycroft (Mark Gatiss), nemesis James Moriarty (Andrew Scott), dominatrix Irene Adler (Lara Pulver) and Watson's wife, Mary (Amanda Abbington). Although there are many versions of the Sherlock character, both on TV and in the cinema, this is my favorite.

**The Rain** (Swedish/Danish, 2018–20, 20 episodes over 3 seasons) is a post-apocalyptic drama wherein a virus that is carried by rainfall wipes out almost all humans in Scandinavia. Danish siblings Simone

(Alba August) and Rasmus Andersen (Lucas Lynggaard Tønnesen with Bertil De Lorenzi playing him as a child) take shelter in a bunker. Six years later, they emerge to search for their father, Dr. Frederik Andersen (Lars Simonsen), a scientist who may be able to provide answers and a cure. Along the way, they join a group of young survivors and together they travel across Denmark and Sweden, searching for safety.

**Occupied** [Okkupert] (Norwegian, 2015–19, 24 episodes over 3 seasons) is a near-future geopolitical thriller that focuses on political and environmental issues affecting Scandinavia. Aiming to avert a global climatological catastrophe, the Norwegian government, led by Prime Minister Jesper Berg (Henrik Mestad), stops all oil and gas production in the North Sea. Instead, energy will be provided to its European neighbors through cutting-edge thorium nuclear plants. Russia "temporarily" occupies Norway with Russian ambassador Irina Sidorova (Ingeborga Dapkūnaitė) in charge. In opposition to each other are journalist Thomas Eriksen (Vegar Hoel), who risks his life to expose the truth, and Hans Martin Djupvik (Eldar Skar), a member of Berg's security detail who sincerely believes he is helping his country by working with the Russians. When Berg is kidnapped, he is replaced in the government by his political adviser and former lover, Anita Rygh (Jane Heltberg). Throughout, "Free Norway" activists turn on ordinary Russians living within their borders, with escalating acts of domestic terrorism tearing the country apart.

**Being Erica** (Canadian, 2009–11, 55 episodes over 4 seasons) is a delightful and poignant comedy/drama in which the initially flaky title character, Erica Strange (Erin Karpluk), goes into therapy with Dr. Tom (Michael Riley), who offers a very unusual treatment. He sends her back in time to relive times of regrets from the perspective of her current self, now working as a publisher's assistant to Julianne Giacomelli (Reagan Pasternak). In the first episode, Erica is so talkative and flighty that I almost turned it off. But give it another chance; the show is totally worth it.

**Madam Secretary** (2014–19, 120 episodes over 6 seasons) stars Téa Leoni as former CIA analyst Elizabeth McCord, who has been appointed Secretary of State by President Conrad Dalton (Keith Carradine). She is married to theology professor Henry McCord (Tim Daly), a former Marine, whose skills are valued by the NSA. Their three children are Stevie (Wallis Currie-Wood), Alison (Kathrine Herzer), and Jason (Evan Roe). The President's Chief of Staff is Russell Jackson (Željko Ivanek). Elizabeth's staff includes personal assistant Blake Moran (Erich Bergen), press coordinator Daisy Grant (Patina Miller) and speechwriter Matt Mahoney (Geoffrey Arend). The plots are thought-provoking, cogent and at times quite exciting, and the scripts are very well written.

**Frasier** (1993–2004, 264 half-hour episodes over 11 seasons) is an often hilarious comedy starring Kelsey Grammer in the title role of Harvard-trained psychiatrist Dr. Frasier Crane, who relocates from Boston to Seattle to get a new start on life as a radio talk show host. His father, Martin (John Mahoney), a police detective who retired because of an injury, comes to live with him, and Frasier hires Daphne Moon (Jane Leeves) as Martin's live-in physical therapist and caregiver. David Hyde Pierce steals every scene as Frasier's younger brother, Niles, also a psychiatrist. Peri Gilpin appears as Roz Doyle, the producer of Frasier's call-in radio show. The dialogue is consistently funny, and the relationships between all the characters are quite entertaining.

**The X-Files** (1993–2003, 202 episodes over 9 seasons) is one of the longest-running science fiction series in network TV history. It stars David Duchovny as conspiracy theorist Fox Mulder and Gillian Anderson as realist Dr. Dana Scully. Both are FBI special agents who investigate unexplained, mind-bending cases known as "X-Files." Although the government is convinced that the outlandish reports are false, for most of the series, Mulder and Scully stop at nothing to prove that "the truth is out there." Mitch Pileggi appears as Walter Skinner, their direct supervisor. William B. Davis is the primary villain known as the "Cigarette Smoking Man," and Nicholas Lea (Alex Krycek) is an FBI Special Agent who works with Mulder on temporary assignment. A major premise of the series is that Mulder's sister

was abducted by aliens as a child. I didn't binge watch it this year, but after its original airing, I bought the series on CD, and my older son and I watched a few episodes together every few nights over the course of a year. In addition to the television series, two feature films have been released: in 1998 the film *The X-Files*, which took place as part of the TV series continuity, and then in 2008 the stand-alone film *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*. There was a reboot of the series for 16 episodes over two seasons in 2016–18, but unfortunately it was dreadful.

And until next time, be well and safe, get vaccinated when you can, wear a mask and happy viewing. . .

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# HALF A CENTURY OF GARDENING

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

*Spring is in the air. The sky is blue, the birds are singing, and the tulips are flowering. The earth is awakening from the long winter slumber. Many other trite phrases describe the serene beauty of spring. The serious gardener, however, realizes that now is the time to make the plans that will determine the outcome of his garden for the coming year.*

With these words, Tom Ombrello began "The Green Umbrella," *The Island Current's* first gardening column, which appeared in March 1972. He continued to give practical advice and inspiration to Island gardeners for another four years, covering all aspects of gardening from lawn care to vegetable gardens, from planting bulbs to growing window-sill herbs. When he became too busy with work to continue, a number of Island gardeners were invited to contribute columns for a short-lived series called "How Does Your Garden Grow." A column by Marilyn Sinclair, former president of the Garden Club of City Island, sought to inspire Islanders: "Gardening is such a rewarding avocation that anyone who engages in it will find joy and satisfaction among the beauty and perfection of living plants."

*The Current* did not publish a regular gardening column again until 1985, but in the December 1971 issue, the Garden Club of City Island began 50 years of steady reports with an enthusiastic column by Jacqueline Kyle Kall, one of the club's founders. "As I recall," she wrote, "it all started when my sister-in-law Rita Kyle, disgruntled with the meager activity on the part of the City in improving and developing our park areas, called together a few of the more active and liberated ladies of City Island to discuss the out-foxing of the City." She goes on to explain how she had been elected the first president of the club when she left the February 1961 meeting to change the diapers of her son Christopher.

From the very beginning, the Garden Club was extremely active, engaging in everything from planting street trees to replace the dying elms along City Island Avenue to presenting workshops and flower shows. The club was delighted when the 100 rose bushes it had planted at the bridge park (now Catherine Scott Promenade) survived a drought only to find that vandals later destroyed them one night. The enthusiasm shown from the very beginning of the club continues today with regular columns in most issues since 1971. These columns do not include gardening advice but celebrate the club's seasonal decorations, including wreaths for many organizations, as well as tree guards, flower containers on many street corners, and maintenance of the grounds at the Post Office and the Pelham Cemetery.

In April 1985, *The Current* launched a new, if short-lived, series of gardening columns by Tom Thurston, a professional horticulturalist, who wrote an especially helpful essay on the subject of gardening during a drought emergency: "it is time to consider all the ways to keep on gardening, and yet save water. . . . Through proper plant selection, correct watering procedures, efficient mulching, and good planting techniques, gardening can go on."

Resident Doris Straus began a column called "The Island Garden" in June 2002, giving very useful advice on dealing with drought after having gardened for 12 years on City Island and working for 8 years at the New York Botanical Garden. She advised improving the soil, applying a thick layer of mulch, using a soaker hose and water-soaking crystals, and not fertilizing the plants. She also recommended drought-tolerant plants, including perennials as well as annuals. She continued to contribute her advice until December of 2003, and for many years Island gardeners



Photos from Island Current archives

City Islanders have loved gardens for many years, as evidenced by the gardening columns that have appeared in *The Current* since the 1970s. The paper has also covered many events sponsored by the Garden Club of City Island, from flower shows and holiday decorations to cleaning up the Avenue or installing planters filled with flowers.



went without sage advice.

Happily, in November 2012, Mary Colby, who has had an art studio on City Island for nearly a decade, wrote her first column for *The Current*, giving advice about buying and planting bulbs for spring blooming. Through that winter, she wrote about winter gardening, ordering seeds, and preparing for springtime, a pattern than she has maintained for more than a decade. In March of 2017, she combined her two specialties by describing the relationship between painting and gardening:

*Take the following example: I worked on a large painting for a month, tweaking little things here and there, nibbling at it, noodling away. Yet from the beginning the main figure was all wrong. Still I continued, and after an evening of having at it, after hour upon countless hour of fruitless endeavor, I took my brush and obliterated the offense. Alone the painted hedge was fine, but in conjunction with the rest of the painting, it was a sore reminder of the failure of good components working together.*

*This is also true of gardening. Many people garden safely, refusing to throw out any living thing and thereby contributing to their jumble of incohesive planting and ruining the overall effect for the sake of one plant. What I'm trying to say is that if you have a tired garden or if you are just plain tired of it, oust a few things, it makes one feel lighter to have a change.*

Although Mary wrote these words long before the Covid-19 pandemic, I'm sure all of us will identify with her recommendation that ousting a few things will make us feel lighter, whether it is in the garden or in our homes, where many of us have spent the past year cleaning out closets, giving away books and sorting photographs.

Now that the warm weather has finally arrived, we can shrug off our winter coats and get out into the garden, knowing that we will be following in the footsteps of several Island gardeners whose words of wisdom appeared in *The Island Current*.

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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.



Detail of oil portrait of Sue at age 35 by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

### Rev. Susan Lillian Chadwick

Rev. Susan Chadwick passed away on March 3, 2021, at the age of 71, after a four-year struggle with bulbar palsy, a form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Sue was a clam digger, born on Aug. 11, 1949, to Islanders June and George Chadwick. She graduated from P.S. 17 and Christopher Columbus High School. Sue was one of the first crew chiefs of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC), and she loved sailing, swimming, skiing and ice skating. She was also an avid needlecrafter who specialized in knitting and crocheting.

Sue Chadwick was the type of person who could do anything she set her mind to. For a while during her 30s, she took up jogging, ran several 5K and 10k races and set her sights on the NYC Marathon. And, yes, she did cross the finish line! This same determination guided her through two careers as well.

In 1970, Sue began a 21-year career at Traveler's Insurance Company in White Plains as a rater, a position that included the rating and preparation of policies and the training and supervising of new employees. Juggling a busy work schedule, she still managed to attend the College of New Rochelle's School of New Resources and received her B.A. in May of 1981. While Sue worked her way up to becoming an assistant manager at Traveler's and was about to be tapped as a vice president, her heart drew her in a different direction.

In September of 1987, Sue began studies at the New York Theological Seminary, and she earned her Master of Divinity in May of 1991. While a student there, she worked as a student assistant at Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC) on City Island and at Christ United Methodist Church in New Rochelle. After receiving her M.A. and being ordained, she worked as the Resident Chaplain in New York Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Sue was finally able to fulfill her calling when she was appointed pastor of the Verbank United Methodist Church in Verbank, NY. She found great joy not only in leading her congregation but also in helping within the community through the church food pantry and fellowship dinners during the holidays. Eventually, she even joined a local prison ministry. She later served as interim pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in New Rochelle.

Sue Chadwick's greatest wish came true when she was able to return to City Island, thanks to popular demand from parishioners at TUMC. It is not usual protocol for a pastor to serve in a hometown church, but an exception was made in her case, and Sue served on City Island for almost 14 years, another break with protocol that speaks to her popularity.

While a pastor at TUMC, Sue instituted the first food pantry there. The current pastor, Rev. David Jolly, recently told the family that the pantry will be renamed in her

honor.

Sue's last parish was the Trinity United Methodist Church in Lagrangeville, NY, and during her time there, she also served as pastor to a second church in the area, once again showing her commitment to lesser-funded parishes that cannot afford full-time clergy.

Sue retired in 2014 and moved back to City Island, where she remained actively involved in the church. Although ordained as a Methodist minister, she heartily embraced all the practices of faith on City Island and was well known and loved by their spiritual leaders.

For Sue, the church had some hefty competition, and that was her family, particularly her nephew and nieces, for whom she played a role more like a grandmother than an aunt. What is most remarkable is that Sue kept her good spirits and her sense of humor throughout a devastating disease. She kept a gaudy clown wig and a red rubber nose near her recliner and would put them on at odd moments as if to say "Lighten up!"

The family is planning to hold a memorial service for her at TUMC when restrictions are lifted and they invite all who knew her to come and share their stories, the funnier the better (she would have wanted it that way).

Sue was predeceased by her brother, George, and his daughter, Autumn, and is survived by her sister, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, brothers Robert and Peter Chadwick, nephew Benjamin and nieces Sarah, Olivia, Violet and Lillian Chadwick.



### Rosalie L. Phillips

Rosalie L. Phillips, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away peacefully on Feb. 17, 2021, at the age of 95.

She was born in the Bronx as Rosalie Lippe on Nov. 20, 1925, and her family moved to the Island in 1926. She attended P. S. 17 for kindergarten and then went to St. Mary's school when it first opened, since it was closer to her home on King Avenue. She was president of the Newman Club at Christopher Columbus High School.

Rosalie met Warren, her future husband, at the Fordham Skating Rink, where they shared a love of roller skating. They wrote to each other during World War II, when Warren was serving in the Navy, and they were married at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church soon after his return home in 1946.

Rosalie's bold personality and organizational skills made her a born leader. She had a long history of volunteering, starting in 1957 as a member of the executive board of P. S. 17's Parents Association, where she served for 14 years. While she was president of the P.A., she helped convince the city to allocate the old Nevins Yacht Yard property for a new school, P.S. 175. She secured space in the old school, P. S. 17, for the Community Center and joined the effort to establish the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, all housed in the old school building. During the same time, she was a Girl Scout leader and a supportive parent for the Boy Scouts.

As Vice President of the City Island Civic Association, Rosalie was an advocate for quality-of-life issues, such as defeating the plan for expansion of the garbage landfill into the Hutchinson marshland. She also worked with others, among them Virginia Gallagher, for the height restriction in the community established by City Island Special District Zoning.

She was the first health intern at P. S. 175 and served for 10 years. She retired to Florida with her husband, where they could enjoy their shared love of swimming, which had, of course, begun on City Island. She considered all the volunteers with whom she worked as her friends and always kept City Island in her heart.

Rosalie was predeceased by Warren Phillips, her husband of 59 years. She is survived by her son, Warren Jr., and his wife, Carole; her daughter, Amy, and her husband, Lenny. She also leaves five wonderful grandchildren, Michael, Julia, Laura, Leah and Andrew, as well as two nieces and a nephew, Georgea, Olivia and Phil.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations in her name to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum in her memory are welcome.



### Charles F. Gross

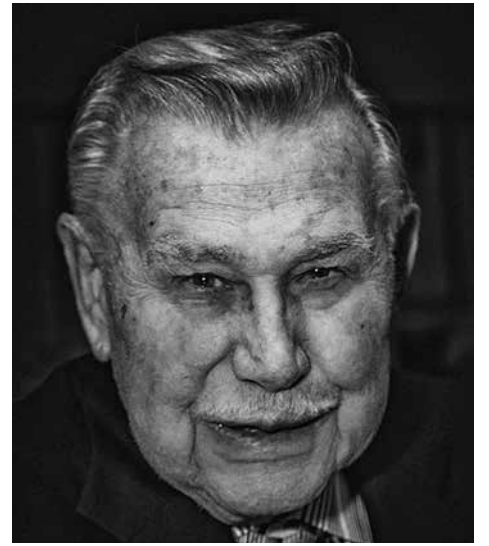
Charles (Charley) F. Gross, former Island resident, died peacefully on March 14, 2021, in Silver Spring, MD, after living to celebrate his 100th birthday with his wife and family.

Charley was born in New York City on March 10, 1921, and spent most of his childhood on City Island. He worked at the sailmaker Ratsey and Laphorn after graduating from high school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 19, 1943, and served in the 29th Infantry Division, 29th Signal Company during World War II; he landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day, earning the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in military operations. He also received a Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal and a WWII Victory Medal.

He married the love of his life, Theresa (Terry) Lassandro, on Aug. 7, 1948. They moved from City Island to Burlington, VT, where they had their daughter, Amy, and where Charley received his BS from the University of Vermont. They then moved to Kingston, RI, where they had their first son, Kenneth, and where Charley received his MS from the University of Rhode Island. From there, they moved to Bellefonte, PA, where they welcomed their second son, Timothy, and where Charley began his long career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an agronomist at the U.S. Pasture Laboratory on the Penn State campus.

Charley had a deep appreciation of the outdoors and enjoyed gardening, camping, fishing and taking his children on country walks to pass on his love of nature. He relished taking rides in the mountains and parks of Pennsylvania. Some of his favorite times were summer vacations at the Outer Banks of North Carolina with Terry and their extended family. He had a passion for classical music, art and science and was a voracious reader, spending hours in libraries, bookstores and flea markets. He gave his family and friends books he knew they would enjoy; to open a book and read his personal inscription brings a warm feeling to all of us.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years and their children, Amy (Lester); Ken (Leah) and Tim (Kim), and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A private service will be held at Centre County Memorial Park in State College, PA.



### Louis H. Juers

Louis Henry Juers, for many years a resident of City Island, passed away on Feb. 21, 2021, after a short illness.

Lou was born on Dec. 23, 1929, the son of the late Arthur and Louise Juers. Lou worked for many years as a sales representative for the Stella D'oro Biscuit Company after serving in the U.S. Navy.

Lou became an active member of City Island's Pelham Lodge #712 in June 1960, the beginning of many years of activity and involvement with the Island community. The highlights of his Masonic career included serving as the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York from 1996 to 1998. As part of his Masonic activities, Lou was involved with the Masonic "Say No To Drugs" program (for Bronx-based elementary schools), the Masonic Blood Donor Program held three times a year on City Island, food distribution programs during the pandemic (for City Island residents), and he worked with Councilman Mark Gjonaj for the renaming of Schofield Street as "Freemason Way."

Lou was honored with a life-time achievement award at the annual Bronx Masonic District Charity Ball in November 2019. He was also an active member of Minnehaha Chapter #227 Order of the Eastern Star and belonged to several other Masonic concordant bodies.

He is survived by his wife, Sonja (Rasmussen); his sister, Christine; five children (Wayne, Judy-Lou, Douglas, Warren and Eric), as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services for Lou were held on Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Schuyler Hill Funeral Home, followed by a private cremation.



### Mary Bollati

Island resident Mary Bollati died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 9, 2021, at the age of 70.

Born on Sept. 15, 1950, to Thomas Byrne and Berenice Hopper, Mary grew up with her four sisters in Westchester Square and Pelham Parkway. She studied at Holy Rosary, Aquinas High School, and Queens College. While in high school she met Richard Bollati, and they were married on Aug. 16, 1975. Mary worked as a social worker with troubled youth for many years at the Astor Home for Children, and after getting her master's degree at the College of New Rochelle, she worked as a high

*Continued on page 14*



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

APRIL 2021									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0220	8.53	0913	-0.76	1458	7.42	2112	-0.07	Thu 01
02 Fri	0313	8.12	1021	-0.30	1601	6.96	2215	0.47	Fri 02
03 Sat	0416	7.64	1140	0.11	1729	6.62	2347	0.92	Sat 03
04 Sun	0550	7.23	1256	0.34	1857	6.58			Sun 04
05 Mon	0115	1.04	0724	7.17	1404	0.36	2007	6.81	Mon 05
06 Tue	0225	0.88	0833	7.32	1505	0.24	2106	7.16	Tue 06
07 Wed	0326	0.55	0932	7.54	1559	0.09	2159	7.51	Wed 07
08 Thu	0420	0.20	1024	7.73	1648	-0.03	2246	7.79	Thu 08
09 Fri	0509	-0.09	1111	7.82	1731	-0.06	2329	7.95	Fri 09
10 Sat	0553	-0.26	1153	7.79	1811	0.00			Sat 10
11 Sun	0008	7.99	0633	-0.30	1232	7.66	1846	0.16	Sun 11
12 Mon	0043	7.92	0709	-0.21	1308	7.46	1914	0.37	Mon 12
13 Tue	0111	7.78	0739	-0.03	1337	7.23	1926	0.56	Tue 13
14 Wed	0127	7.65	0758	0.17	1356	7.03	1937	0.68	Wed 14
15 Thu	0144	7.58	0812	0.35	1416	6.89	2006	0.81	Thu 15
16 Fri	0213	7.53	0841	0.52	1447	6.79	2044	0.99	Fri 16
17 Sat	0250	7.47	0919	0.73	1526	6.70	2128	1.21	Sat 17
18 Sun	0334	7.37	1005	0.94	1613	6.64	2218	1.42	Sun 18
19 Mon	0423	7.25	1056	1.11	1705	6.63	2313	1.55	Mon 19
20 Tue	0518	7.15	1154	1.17	1805	6.73			Tue 20
21 Wed	0014	1.52	0620	7.14	1258	1.08	1909	6.98	Wed 21
22 Thu	0123	1.27	0726	7.24	1405	0.80	2011	7.37	Thu 22
23 Fri	0235	0.80	0831	7.46	1508	0.40	2108	7.84	Fri 23
24 Sat	0342	0.20	0932	7.73	1602	-0.03	2159	8.31	Sat 24
25 Sun	0440	-0.41	1027	7.96	1652	-0.40	2247	8.69	Sun 25
26 Mon	0533	-0.90	1119	8.09	1739	-0.64	2335	8.94	Mon 26
27 Tue	0625	-1.20	1209	8.10	1827	-0.70			Tue 27
28 Wed	0022	9.01	0717	-1.27	1300	7.96	1916	-0.56	Wed 28
29 Thu	0112	8.88	0811	-1.10	1354	7.70	2007	-0.24	Thu 29
30 Fri	0204	8.56	0911	-0.75	1454	7.37	2107	0.20	Fri 30
MAY 2021									
01 Sat	0303	8.11	1017	-0.31	1606	7.07	2222	0.66	Sat 01
02 Sun	0416	7.63	1127	0.08	1727	6.92	2345	0.96	Sun 02
03 Mon	0549	7.32	1235	0.34	1839	6.98			Mon 03
04 Tue	0059	1.00	0706	7.24	1338	0.45	1943	7.20	Tue 04
05 Wed	0204	0.84	0810	7.32	1436	0.45	2040	7.48	Wed 05



**A SPRING MIGRANT PRIMER**

If ever there were a time to get out, with or without a mask on, and study birds, it's now. First and foremost, it's spring migration, and New York City has some of the best viewing around. Take advantage of our proximity to Central Park, Prospect Park, Jamaica Bay or one of the variety of Hawk Watch Stations in our area. Of course, it doesn't get any more convenient than Pelham Bay Park.

Because of Covid concerns, bird watchers are doing their thing mostly on their own again this year, which we prefer to think of as an opportunity. It gets us out of the house and into the fresh air, number one. And number two, we can do it without the worry that others will find out we don't know half as much about birds as they think we know. It's stress-free, in other words. It's also free parking until Memorial Day weekend. So what are you waiting for?

If there is an additional boost you seek, we have included links below to the sights and sounds of some of the most likely migrants you will encounter in April on even a casual stroll along one of the paths on Hunter or Twin Island. Before you get in the car and go, however, perhaps you have

already noticed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6WNIVPTX5c>. That would be the house finch. We have a pair of regulars that arrived, on cue, a couple of weeks ago.

One of the first warblers in the park is the pine warbler. Look and listen for: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsM08D966kQ>.

Another early arriver is the palm warbler. Here is a link to familiarize yourself with its distinctive look and call: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_wVYfjBkbU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_wVYfjBkbU).

The yellow-rumped warbler is one of our favorites. There is no mistaking its distinguishing characteristic in the field: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7LgVnI6v9M>.

Another early spring migrant to watch out for in the Park is the Eastern phoebe. This is a small, dull gray bird that flits to and from its perch, taking tiny insects on the go: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsH-DDc9hi0>.

If you listen closely, you can almost hear its name in its call: "phoebe... phoebe... phoebe." And, finally, if you did not get a chance to hear the famous common loon's call this winter or early spring, here it is for your listening and viewing pleasure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erYGZszKVP8>.



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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY

## Spring Arrives

How does nature announce spring? From a haze of bluebells in the woods at Bartow-Pell to the skunk cabbage emerging at the Hutchinson River Circle. Egrets build their nests at Turtle Cove, frogs spawn, woodpeckers drum and a triumphant chorus at dawn sings from every rooftop, wire and tree. It is a symphony that everyone is privy to. Whatever your religion, spring is the time of resurrection. You can smell it in the air as the sap rises and the trees spread out their delicate cloaks of light chartreuse. Daylight increases and we are uplifted. The earth bursts forth in all her loveliness, forsythia yellow and weigela pink. Yes, winter is banished as the celandines open like stars underfoot.

Thinking ahead, as in a game of chess, is an attribute when it comes to horticulture. What will I be needing in my garden come July and August? This year I am banking on dahlias. I've never grown them, although I have bought one or two in flower, which is expensive at 35 to 40 dollars a pop. Buying tubers is cheap, however, and I am now potting them up in good composted soil in six-inch pots. Be mindful to leave the necks exposed, and water them lightly to begin. Store them inside in a warm place in the sun until they get going and all danger of frost has past. On warmer days take them outside. They will need to be repotted to larger containers before going into the ground.

Another way to increase stock is to take cuttings once the shoots have emerged to form six leaves. I have tried this, and it really does produce flowering plants almost as quickly as the tubers, albeit smaller ones. Dahlias are heavy feeders. I am told that tomato food is great for them, and they do need copious watering, but, again, go light early on.

Claude Monet used dahlias combined

with sunflowers, cosmos and zinnias to great effect. These will give you a big, gorgeous display of flowers for months well into October, and if some nice slender tall grasses (Calamagrostis Karl Forester) can be added, your garden will be fantastic in the sun.

But what if you have shade? If you want flowers, I find that in dappled to heavy shade a spring garden is what you should be after. Beginning with snowdrops, hellebores and primroses, the garden is flush with color. If you are a collector, there are many rare and choice spring ephemerals (plants that disappear and re-emerge next spring) to choose from—trilliums, bloodroot, may apple and cardamine pratensis, the cuckoo flower. From dicentra, the bleeding heart, to dutchman's breeches, there are so many amazing flowers that need shade, and if paired with ferns and hostas can create a jeweled carpet of delight. In light shade, rhododendrons, dogwoods, camellias and box can give height and shape, creating a four-season picture.

Enjoy this blessed April. I must disagree with T.S. Eliot. April is not the cruellest month but the fairest.

Mary Colby is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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## Obituaries

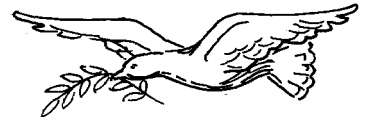
Continued from page 12

school guidance counselor in the South Bronx and Yonkers until her retirement in 2011.

In 1979, Mary and Rich moved to a house on Fordham Street, where they raised their four children. Along with her kids, Mary became involved with many organizations on City Island, including St. Mary's Basketball, City Island Little League and St. Mary's CCD. She spent many summers as a member of the Fordham Street Beach Club. She will be remembered for her boisterous personality, her love of crochet and card games and her devotion to her family and friends.

Mary is survived by her husband, Richard; her children, Catherine Gutman (Craig) of Dobbs Ferry, Thomas (David) of Florida, Michael (Jayme) of Yonkers and Matthew (Amanda) of City Island; her five beloved grandchildren, Charlie, Ryan, Claire, Dylan and Gabriella; her sisters, Marjorie Doyle (Nicholas), Elizabeth Mazzella (John) and Dorothea Falco; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her sister Eleanor.

Following a celebration of her life at St. Mary's on Feb. 13, she was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY.



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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: [marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com](http://marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com). Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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## City Island Yacht Club



### 2021 WINTER-SPRING EVENTS

#### Open House

Saturday, April 24 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Come to CIYC and learn about programs for boat owners, time share in our club boats, the new kayak membership, and social membership. ASA courses at CIYC start at the basic (101) level and go up to advanced cruising. We have an award-winning junior sailing program as well. This program also features training for future racers.

#### Spring Seminars

FREE Wednesday Night Public Seminars April 14 through May 5

Bring a friend! Sharpen your sailing skills and prepare your boat before the season starts. Expert presentations about:

- Boat maintenance
- Racing
- Cruising

Refreshments will be served. Limited seating so RSVP now.

Seminars start at 7:30pm. Please RSVP (718) 885-2487

#### Big Tom Racing General Meeting

Tues, April 12, via Zoom

After a great inaugural season, Big Tom is back! Learn more about this successful Wednesday night series and the plan for 2021. Please RSVP [BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org](mailto:BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org) or (718) 885-2487 for zoom link.

#### Also note: Big Tom Skippers' Meeting Wed, May 12

Racing starts Wed, May 19



### City Island Junior Sailing 2021

Full Day Program 9am-4pm (With optional extended care.)

- Classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, grouped according to skill.
- All instructors are certified by US Sailing, the national organization of sailing, and have First Aid/CPR training.
- For children, ages 8-16. Scholarships and discounts available!
- Swimming proficiency required.

#### 2021 Program Schedule

Session I June 29 - July 2  
Session II July 5 - July 16  
Session III July 19 - July 30  
Session IV Aug 2 - Aug 13

Gala Awards Dinner Aug 12 (additional cost)

All sessions are held at:  
City Island Yacht Club  
63 Pilot St.  
City Island, NY 10464

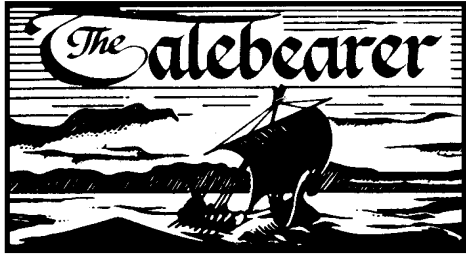
Contact us at:

City Island Junior Sailing  
[www.cityislandyc.org/JuniorSailing](http://www.cityislandyc.org/JuniorSailing)  
[city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com), (347) 692-0696 (Junior Sailing Office)

Find out more at the CIYC Open House  
Saturday, April 24 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.







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



Twins Oliver Vincent and Joseph Theodore Bivona were born on Jan. 12, 2021.



Addison Blake Burnett was born on Feb. 21, 2021.

Keep up the good work, Mike Rauh, who got his finisher's medal for his virtual marathon!

Happy 30th wedding anniversary to Minneford Avenue's Elizabeth and Kenneth Farnum, who celebrate on April 20. And happy birthday wishes to Elizabeth, whose birthday is on April 22. With love from Mom and Deb.

Griffin and Kara Burnett are thrilled to introduce the newest member of their family, Addison Blake Burnett, born Feb. 21. Sweet perfection! Her big sister, Olivia, is so excited to be promoted!

Kudos to clam digger and former Earley Street resident Linda Reville Eisenberg, who received top honors in the 2021 Guild Hall Artist Members Exhibition in East Hampton, NY. The longtime artist created an oil-on-canvas portrait entitled "Lee," a portrait of her husband, Lee Eisenberg, an editor of Esquire during the 1970s and 1980s and later of Time Magazine. The portrait was selected out of 420 entrants by the judge, Antwaun Sargent, who said, "I liked the humor. I liked her play of color and command of painting."

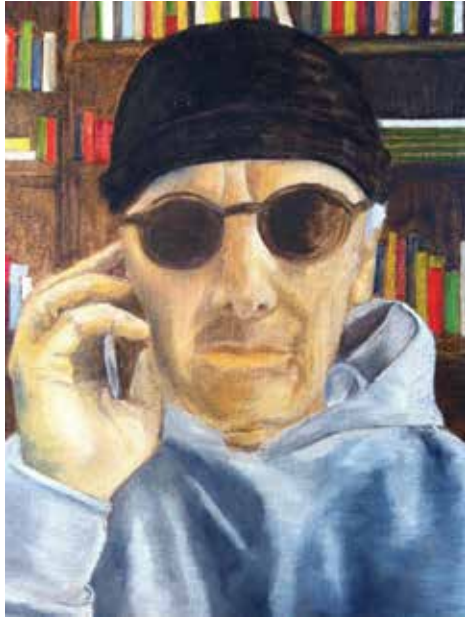
Theresa and Joseph Bivona welcomed their new twin grandsons, Oliver Vincent and Joseph Theodore, on Jan. 12. Parents Nick and Antoinette are thrilled too!

Happy 28th birthday wishes on April 16 to former City Island resident Joey Buonocore.

Belated March birthday wishes from your family and friends to Chris Butterworth.

Happy birthday wishes to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, who celebrates her big day on April 23. With love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Happy birthday to the "Talebearer,"



This portrait by Linda Reville Eisenberg received top honors in the 2021 Guild Hall Artist Members Exhibition.

Maria Swieciki, on April 25.

April birthday wishes to David Butterworth, Ann McIntyre and Peggy Eberhart.

Birthday wishes over the bridge to former Islanders Carol Gauss McKenna and Eric Rauhauser, who celebrate their big days in April. Also, happy birthday on April 30 to Leah Nani.

Welcome to the world, Richard Anthony Pena Jr., born Nov. 3, 2020. Proud parents are Richard Pena and his fiancée, Gina Ghinanni.

Hoping everyone is well and staying safe!

**Maria Swieciki**

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Photo by JAMES BREEN

Islander Mike Rauh received his finisher's medal for his virtual marathon in 2020. It was his 42nd consecutive New York City Marathon.



Photo courtesy of DIANE PENA

Richard Anthony Pena Jr. was born on Nov. 3, 2020

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