

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## RALLY REDUX FOR LADDER 53

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Council Member James Vacca rallied Island residents to protest the Mayor's fire house cuts, backed up by several city officials, including (top photo, l. to r.) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Dave Hochausher of the Throggs Neck Volunteer Ambulance Corps., former Comptroller Bill Thompson, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Steve Cassidy and Ed Brown of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York and Al Hagen of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association. More than 200 Islanders and residents of surrounding communities showed up, and several spoke up to register

As a front-page article in the *New York Times* announced on May 30, 2012, the City Island community was again gearing for its annual spring ritual battle to save Ladder 53 for the fire house on Schofield Street. When Mayor Bloomberg presented his draft budget for fiscal year 2013 (which starts July 1, 2012), cuts at 20 fire houses were included, although the affected fire houses were not specified. However, because Ladder 53 has the lowest number of runs in the city, it always appears on the Mayor's list, and City Island residents, led by Council Member James Vacca and sponsored by the City Island Civic Association, anticipated the worst and rose up in protest by attending a rally on June 4 at St. Mary's school gym.

In what has become known as a yearly "budget dance," the threatened fire house cuts have been announced by the Mayor every year since 2009 and then eliminated by the City Council at the last minute. City Islanders have held rallies, candlelight marches and trips to



City Hall hearings to protest the proposed cuts, joined by elected officials and other dignitaries, as well as by leaders of the firefighter unions.

This year's rally attracted more than 200 Island residents, who heard statements from a number of officials, including at least two potential mayoral candidates—former Comptroller Bill

Continued on page 13

## CITY ISLAND BEER

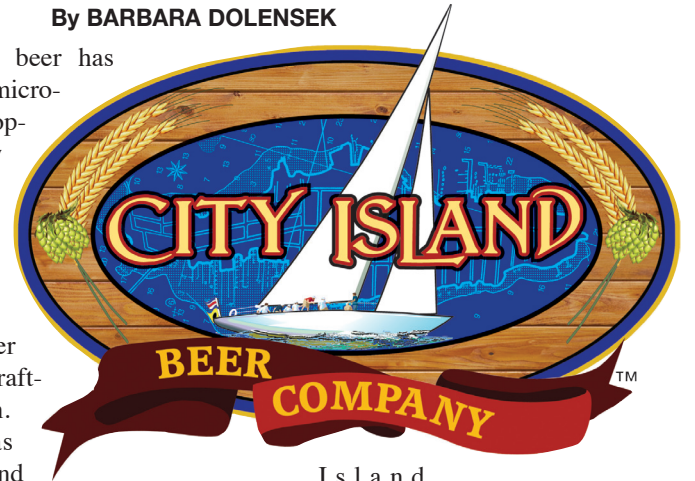
By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As demand for craft beer has risen in recent years, new micro-beer brands have been popping up all around the New York City area. Now City Island will have its own brand to satisfy the taste-buds of Islanders and off-Islanders alike. The newly formed City Island Beer Company will have its craft-brewed beer available soon.

The company was started by a group of Island residents, including Paul Sciarra and his wife, Antoinette, their friend Kenneth Kos and Paul Sciarra's brothers, John and Jeff. They realized the need for a high-quality local craft beer in an area that is underserved in this category. The idea came about when the brothers, who had honed their brewing skills as a hobby in the Sciarra residence on City Island, began to develop a following among family and friends for their hand-crafted brew. "They tried our beer and liked it better than some of their favorite brands, so we knew it was time to go commercial," Paul Sciarra told *The Current*.

Why City Island? "People already know of City Island for boating, great seafood restaurants and summer fun," Paul says. "Why not for craft beer? The Island has a rich maritime history that includes craftsmen who worked as shipbuilders of many types of vessels, including successful defenders of the America's Cup. We plan to bring another type of craftsmanship to City Island."

One of the first things that the City



Island

Beer Company set their sails for was an effectively designed company logo, and without hesitation, they sought out the well-known local artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner for this important task. "Marguerite is wonderful to work with, and she really captured what we feel is the essence of our company, our product and City Island," Paul said.

Thanks to some recent media coverage, the City Island Beer Company has attracted interest from many local pubs and restaurants, as well as larger New York City venues. Paul estimates that their initial batches will be sold out before they even get to market. "People really seem to want a local product."

The planned first release later in the summer or early fall this year will be an American-style pale ale, called, appropriately enough, City Island Pale Ale, and other styles will follow. When the time comes, ask for City Island Pale Ale at your local pub or restaurant, or wherever great beer is sold and raise a glass to the latest City Island craft!



City Island Beer Company entrepreneur Paul Sciarra proudly shows off the company's first offering, a pale ale. Logo designed by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner above.

## BRIEFLY...

**LAWN PARTY:** The family and friends of John Gilder will host the third annual Lawn Party in his memory at the Morris Yacht Club on Saturday, July 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. The entry price will be \$50, as it was last year. Proceeds fund scholarships in his name with the goal of setting up an endowed scholarship at his high school in Greenwich and another at Fordham University. For more information and reservations, contact Jack Jokinen at [jack.jokinen@gmail.com](mailto:jack.jokinen@gmail.com) or call him at 941-224-6530.

**THE 2012 CITY ISLAND REUNION** Back by popular demand, there will be another huge City Island Reunion on Aug. 18, 2012, at Ambrosini Field. Come reunite and celebrate with friends and family, some you haven't seen in decades and some you saw on Aug. 21, 2010, at the last reunion! Listen to live music by local bands, past and present. There will be lots of entertainment for kids of all ages, including volleyball, basketball and softball games, so bring your glove. There will be a memorial board to post photos of beloved family and friends. Reunion t-shirts and tank tops will be available for sale. We will provide many Port-a-potties this time and will have a few barbecues going. Bring your own food and beverage, chairs and tables and even a pop-up tent if you'd like to create your own cabana. Admission is \$15 per person to cover expenses; kids 12 and under get in free. Proceeds will be donated equally to the Boys and Girls Scouts of City Island. Please walk to the reunion if you can so there will be parking for those who are coming from out of town. Also, please walk if you plan on drinking alcohol; we don't want anyone getting hurt or going to jail! We're going to party again, celebrating all of our great memories and the people of City Island!



Photos by RICK DEWITT

On May 30, 2012, police from the 45th Precinct, along with NYPD Harbor and Coast Guard vessels, responded to a 911 call regarding swimmers near the City Island Bridge. After searching the waters with negative results, it was determined that a swimmer, originally thought missing, did in fact resurface and swim to shore.

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Photo by MARK NANI

On June 20 around 11:30 p.m., drivers on City Island Avenue were surprised to find this SUV on its side near St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Police investigating the accident closed City Island Avenue in both directions, forcing drivers to reroute onto Minneford Avenue. No other vehicles were involved.

## ISLANDER ARRESTED FOR GUN POSSESSION

On May 24, 2012, an Island resident, Jonathan Castillo, was arrested by police officers of the 45th Precinct for possessing a loaded firearm and aiming it at another Islander. He was arrested again on June 7 for violating an order of protection against that Islander, according to the Bronx District Attorney's office.

Mr. Castillo was charged with six offenses, four for the criminal possession of a weapon, one for menacing in the second degree, and one for possession of ammunition. On June 8, he was charged with criminal contempt for violating an order

of protection, a spokesperson from the 45th Precinct told *The Current*.

According to the District Attorney's office, Police Officer Sybil Ramos, who made the arrest on May 24, was informed by Islander Steve Owens that the defendant had in his hand a black and silver firearm and that he cocked the firearm and pointed it in the informant's direction. The informant then reported that the defendant then walked toward him pointed the firearm and said, in effect, "I'm going to pop you. Do you really want to die? I'm a drug dealer not a thief."

Mr. Castillo is due back in court on July 2.

## 45 BLOTTER

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

- 3 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 4 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 – ASSAULT
- 1 – CRIMINAL CONTEMPT
- 1 – MISSING PERSON
- 1 – DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE

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

5/22 – On City Island Avenue at 8:15 p.m., an Island male, 18 was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon. Police found a gravity knife in plain sight in the defendant's vehicle.

5/22 – Police are investigating an incident of aggravated harassment. At 10 a.m. on Hawkins Street, a resident received threats made over the phone.

5/23 – On Fordham Street and King Avenue at 11:40 p.m., police arrested a male Islander, 18, and charged him with assault after a victim reported that he allegedly punched him in the face and on the back causing lacerations. The victim refused medical attention at the scene.

5/24 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 19, and charged him with four counts of criminal possession of a weapon (see story this page).

5/24 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 26, who was stopped for other violations, including an open container of alcohol. After a search, police found a gravity knife in the defendant's pants pocket and a quantity of mari-

juana.

5/25 – Officers from the Conditions Team were conducting a Traffic Safety Checkpoint at 10:30 p.m. at Bridge Street and City Island Avenue. An off-Island motorcyclist, 23, stopped at the checkpoint, was unable to provide a valid driver's license and was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

5/27 – Police are investigating a robbery on Tier Street at 4:30 a.m. A resident was walking to his front door when unknown perpetrators wearing masks threatened him with a gun. The victim turned over property to the perpetrators and they fled the scene on foot. Police are reviewing surveillance video tapes from the time of the incident.

5/29 – At 9 p.m. on Winters Street, a resident reported that his vehicle was missing.

5/30 – Police from the 45th Precinct, along with NYPD Harbor police and Coast Guard, responded to a 911 call regarding a group of swimmers near the City Island Bridge. After searching the waters with negative results, it was determined that a swimmer, thought missing, did resurface and swim to shore. The incident is considered closed.

6/2 – At 12:45 p.m., an Islander, 49, was arrested and charged with assault. The complainant stated that he was performing at a bar on City Island Avenue when an altercation broke out. He told police he was punched in the face by the defendant.

6/16 – An off-Island male, 36, was arrested and charged with assault on City Island Avenue at 6:45 p.m. The husband allegedly slapped his wife and threatened her.

6/20 – A male, 26, was reported missing after being seen swimming off a marina on City Island Avenue. At approximately 11:12 p.m., officers from the 45th Precinct responded to a water rescue around the area of 150 City Island Avenue. Several Westchester County residents were boating in the City Island area, and some of the boaters reportedly went for a swim off the side of the boat. The boat and the swimmers became separated, and one of the swimmers was still unaccounted for as *The Current* went to press. All resources were used to locate the swimmer, including NYPD Harbor and Aviation, FDNY, Coast Guard, and Scuba Units. No results were achieved in the search.



Photo courtesy of 3M PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the 2012 graduating class of Public School 175. First row, bottom (l. to r.): graduates Lily Kolb, Justin Ramos, Hannah Glick; faculty Karen Heil; Tina Gisante, parent coordinator; Amy Lipson, principal; and faculty Jessica Marron; graduates Catherine Langkamp, Michael Bellocchio, Kathleen Kramer, Karina DeSantis. Second row, faculty Kathleen Wiehler; graduates Francesca Paradiso, Devin Dyal, Briana Powers, Scott Cruz, Valerie Kornitchouk, Michael Pirraglia, Ashley Goldman, Emmett Shanley, Amanda Devlin, Shabri Cummings, Chloe Brelsford; faculty Jeanne McDonald, Helen Masotti. Row three: faculty Andrew Scopp; graduates Shaban Paljevic, Nicholas LaBriola, Amanda Beqiraj, Michael LaBriola, Nora Kuka, Nicholas Gjonaj, ShaiAnn Lubelli, Michael Santomassimo, Shannon Faulkner, Dominik Comerico, Gabriel Gojani; faculty Wayne Lafreniere. Top row: Xavier Medina, Robert Weyhrauch, Francesca Strazzera, Jean Luis Gonzalez, Alexis Candelaria, Trevor Zelaya, John Desgroseilliers. Not pictured, Ameer Baksh.

## IT'S GRADUATION TIME AGAIN!

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

### Public School 175

At the June 22 ceremony, principal Amy Lipson made the following presentations.

The City Island School Principal's Award was presented to Michael Pirraglia. The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence was given to Kathleen Kramer; both the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence and the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement were given to Francesca Strazzera, and Michael Bellocchio was the recipient of the Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance.

At the Awards Dinner on June 20, the following presentations were made: the New York State Senator Jeffrey Klein Civic Award for Student Leadership to Francesca Strazzera; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Award for Academic Achievement to Michael LaBriola; the City Council Citation for Achievement to Nicholas LaBriola, and the City Council Speakers Achievement Award for Academic Excellence, Achievement and Community Service to Valerie Kornitchouk.

Lily Kolb received the NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement; the City of New York Commission on Women's Issues Junior High Leadership Award went to Briana Powers; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was given to ShaiAnn Lubelli and the Blanche Schwartz Award to Francesca Paradiso.

The Association of Assistant Principals Certificate of Merit was presented to Michael Pirraglia; the NYC Public Advocate Award for Academic Achievement was given to Catherine Langkamp; the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement and Character went to Ameer Baksh, and Kathleen Kramer received the Alice Persteins Award for Outstanding Service to School or Community- Involvement with Conviction and Moral Strength.

The Gloria Misurski Award for Fair-

ness and Love of Learning went to Hannah Glick; the Alice Connolly Award for Service was given to Ashley Goldman; the Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* was presented to Nora Kuka and the Christine Jorgensen Community Service Award went to Briana Powers.

The America Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156 essay contest winner was Nicholas Gjonaj; the winner from the Legions Woman's Auxiliary was Alexis Candelaria; a check was presented by AARP Chapter 3303 for Most Improved Student to Ashley Goldman, and AARP Chapter 318 gave a check for School Service to Michael Santomassimo.

The UFT presented awards in individual subject areas: English Language Arts, Ashley Goldman; Mathematics, Kathleen Kramer and Michael Santomassimo; Science, Francesca Strazzera and Michael Bellocchio; Social Studies, Kathleen Kramer and Nicholas Gjonaj; Computers and Technology, Nora Kuka and Michael Santomassimo. The Physical Education Award went to Michael LaBriola and Catherine Langkamp; the Music Award to John Desgroseilliers, and Francesca Strazzera won the Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award.

Students on the honor roll were; (Gold) Ameer Baksh, Michael Bellocchio, Alexis Candelaria, Lily Kolb, Valerie Kornitchouk, Kathleen Kramer, Nora Kuka, Michael LaBriola, Nicholas LaBriola, Catherine Langkamp, Michael Pirraglia, Briana Powers, Michael Santomassimo, Francesca Strazzera, (Silver) Devin Dyal, Nicholas Gjonaj, Hannah Glick, ShaiAnn Lubelli and Francesca Paradiso.

The P.S. 175 Effort Awards were presented to Michael Bellocchio, Alexis Candelaria, Amanda Devlin, Hannah Glick and Gabriel Gojani.

The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to Ameer Baksh, Michael Bellocchio, Chloe Brelsford, Alexis Candelaria, Amanda Devlin, Devin Dyal, Shannon Faulkner, Hannah Glick, Gabriel Gojani, Ashley Goldman, Lily Kolb, Valerie Kor-



Photo courtesy of LIFE TOUCH

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea School graduating class of 2012. Top row, l. to r.: Angelique Cordero, Nia C. Drew, Chelsea Francois, Ashlie Howell, Dana Johnson and Azaria Laster. Second row: Brianna Marrero, Erynn Owens, Taisja Roberson, Briana Smith, Destiny Vargas and Jared Candelaria. Third row: Kyle Caso, Fernando Gonzalez, Andrew Henderson-Hill, Graham Herrera-Murphy, Ryan Mendez and Nicolas Murdock. Fourth row: Eddie Ocasio, David Ozoa, Douglas Skinner, David Stephens, Jahquell Terry and Jabari Weste. Bottom row: Father Michael Challinor, Pastor; Mrs. Jane Dennehy, Principal; and

nitchouk, Kathleen Kramer, Nora Kuka, Nicholas LaBriola, ShaiAnn Lubelli, Francesca Paradiso, Briana Powers, Michael Santomassimo and Francesca Strazzera.

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

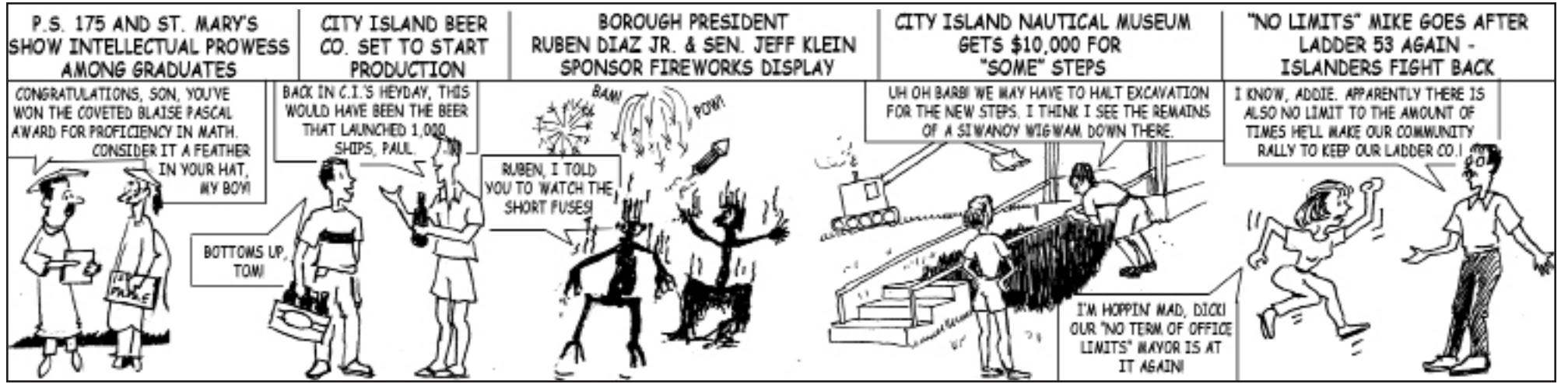
At St. Mary's graduation on June 15, principal Jane Dennehy made the following presentations.

The General Excellence Awards, donated by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, were presented to Jabari Weste and Graham Herrera-Murphy. Awards were also given in individual subject areas, including the Religion Award to Fernando

Gonzalez, the Mathematics Award to Jahquell Terry, and both the Social Studies Award and the Science Award to Jared Candelaria. Nia Drew received the Language Arts Award; the Creative Writing Award went to Erynn Owens, and the recipient of both the Reading Award and the Computer Award was Azaria Laster. The Gold Medal for Art went to Dana Johnson, the Gold Medal for Music to Ashlie Howell and the Physical Education Award to Eddie Ocasio.

The American Legion Award from Post

Continued on page 16



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

**Cemetery of Shame**

To the Editor:

I have just come from cutting the grass around the graves of my parents, aunts and uncles. I take care to place flowers there and have the bushes trimmed regularly. But I was so fed up with the condition of the cemetery that I posted a sign on the stone. If anyone ever rated a "foul wind" award, it would be the management of Pelham Cemetery.

Many of my friends and relatives are buried in what I consider sacred ground, and their loved ones live down the street from the cemetery and thus are able to keep the graves in good order. But many live thousands of miles away and would not rest easy if they knew of the deteriorating conditions. What can be done to get them to "do the right thing"?

**Tony Pascazio**

*Editor's note: A meeting of owners of lots in Pelham Cemetery will be held on Tuesday, July 24, at the Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue.*

**Community Board 10 Protests Removal of Ladder 53**

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

Each year the Office of Management and Budget and the Fire Department of the City of New York recommends the removal of the overnight ladder service from the City Island fire house. This recommendation is based on the number of calls answered by this particular unit. While the number of calls for this particular ladder company may be smaller than others, we submit that relying solely on the number of service calls is faulty and belies a certain misunderstanding of the Island's unique status. For instance, this ladder company is not permitted to leave City Island.

City Island is just that, an island, and its only connection to the mainland is the City Island bridge, which is over 100 years old and structurally compromised. The main street of the community is City Island Avenue, the only uninterrupted north-to-south conduit. If Ladder 53 were to be closed during the nighttime hours, the nearest ladder companies, located in Pelham Bay and Co-op City, would have to traverse the New England Thruway, the Pelham Bay drawbridge, Bartow Circle and the City Island bridge. An alternate route exists over the Hutchinson River Parkway, but it is over the Amtrak bridge, which is currently under construction, an equally cumbersome route that still requires the crossing of the City Island bridge. Whichever unit responds will result in a ladder company arriving on City Island 9 to 10 minutes after the first alarm, giving City Island the dubious distinction of having one of the longest response times



Photos by ANTHONY PASCAZIO

Some of the lot owners at Pelham Cemetery on City Island have complained recently about the condition of the grounds and the quality of perpetual care. The next meeting of lot owners will be on Tuesday, July 24 (see *Calendar*).

of any community in the city.

Additionally, by removing Ladder 53 from nighttime service, the Department will be removing the one apparatus assigned to City Island that carries most, if not all of the specialized life saving equipment. This decision also removes from City Island the protection of the tall ladder, which is used to reach the upper stories of buildings and to extinguish fires above the street level. This ill-conceived decision places the residents of City Island in jeopardy.

In closing, the Board would like to impart to the Committee its belief that the proposed closing of Ladder 53 is both fiscally imprudent and dangerous.

**Community Board 10**

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# After Year-Long Search Grace Welcomes New Priest

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by CAROLINE COPPOLA

Grace Church's new priest, the Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia, is welcomed to the parish by (l. to r.) Paul Nani, a member of the Grace vestry; Karen Nani, head of the search commit-



Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia and husband Jeremy Bacon.

Grace Episcopal Church is delighted to announce the arrival of a new priest, the Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia, who will begin

her ministry at Grace Church this summer. Ordained nearly 13 years ago, she has served in parish ministry for more than 10 years and is looking forward to working with dedicated and generous people in both the church and the community.

She is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary in New York City and has held positions in various dioceses, most recently with the Episcopal Diocese of New York, first as assistant curate at Trinity Wall Street and then as a supply priest for the diocese. A poet and a writer, she has studied with the poets Billy Collins and Tom Lux and is currently working on several literary projects.

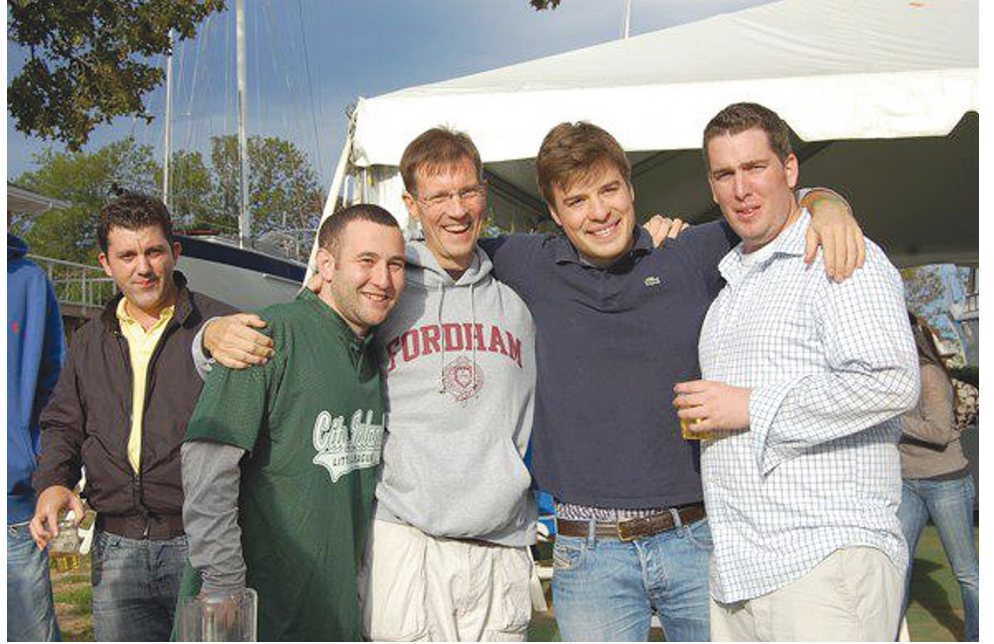
She has served as a member of the Diocese of New York's Children and Family Ministry Committee and earlier as a member of the Bishop's Task Force for Faith Formation in the Diocese of Virginia. She has also served as a mission intern, worked on several ecumenical committees and was a founding member of the planning team for Jewish/Christian Dialogue Training in Washington D.C.

The parish at Grace Church has been well served by supply priests since August 2011, when their vicar, the Rev. Patty Alexander, left to join the faculty at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, a position she still holds. The search committee at Grace undertook the lengthy task of conferring with parishioners and then reviewing potential candidates; the vestry of the church made the final selection.

The Rev. Garcia, who briefly served Grace as a supply priest last winter, will live in the rectory adjacent to the church. She is joined on the Island by her husband, Jeremy Bacon, who has worked as a pianist in New York City for over 25 years. He studied with jazz legends Don Pullen and Fred Hersch and trained classically with Sophia Rosoff. He has performed in New York at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Birdland, the Bluenote, Smoke and Smalls, and toured widely in the United States, Europe and Japan. He teaches piano and Tai Chi.

The couple looks forward to moving to City Island and learning more of its rich history and culture.

# FIRST JOHN GILDER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



The John Gilder Memorial Fund was founded in memory of Islander John Gilder, who passed away at the age of 23 in August 2009. His friends and family started the fund in his name with the goal of setting up an endowed scholarship at Fordham University. The fund awarded its first Fordham scholarship this year with donations from a variety of activities, including a second Lawn Party at the Morris Yacht Club last year (top photo, l. to r.) with Robert Rico, Jason Breines, Mark Gilder, Bruce "Skip" Burnett and Jack Jokinen. The fund also sponsored a City Island Little League team for the 2012 season (bottom photo).

The John Gilder Memorial Fund awarded its first Fordham scholarship this year to Kara Oliveri, a student who met the fund's goals in honoring John's memory. As many on City Island know, John Gilder passed away at the age of 23 in August 2009 as the result of an undiagnosed heart condition, and to honor his memory, his friends and family started a scholarship fund in his name with the goal of setting up an endowed scholarship at his high school in Greenwich and another at Fordham University. This year, thanks to the help of the community, the fund-raising goal was achieved, and a scholarship was awarded at Fordham three years ahead of schedule on Monday, April 23, 2012 at an awards dinner.

John loved his Fordham years in the business school, was proud of having been born in the Bronx and was an exceptionally giving individual. The needs-based scholarship will therefore be awarded to students enrolled in the College of Business Administration (CBA) or are in the GLOBE program. John had a great love of fishing and Long Island Sound, and the families would prefer that that the recipient share his affinity for the water. He was also

a devoted supporter of the New York Yankees baseball team, and the family hopes that the recipient share his affinity for the Yankees. Any student from City Island who applies will be given preference.

Kara Oliveri was an ideal recipient, thanks to her work at Fordham, her Bronx pedigree and her desire to give back. And, as the family points out, her passion for the Yankees didn't hurt.

Achievements during the past year to raise funds for the scholarships included a second Lawn Party at the Morris Yacht Club; the second year sponsoring a City Island Little League team, which had a great year; hosting a golf outing in Austin, Texas, which helped raise money for meal on wheels; and hosting a trip to a Yankees game to raise funds to sponsor the Little League travel team as they head into the summer tournaments. This year the family and friends will celebrate John's life at the third annual Lawn Party at the Morris Yacht Club on Saturday, July 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. The entry price will be \$50 as it was last year.

The fund is currently accepting donations from any and all local businesses that can be used for raffle items so that it may continue to fund scholarships and have a positive impact on the community.

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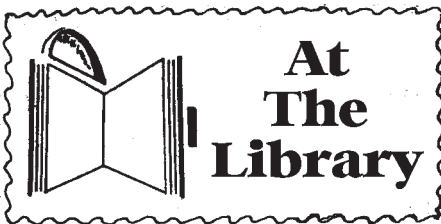
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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

As of July 1, 2012, **Edward Heben, CPA**, is leaving Citrin Cooperman & Company LLP and returning to the individual private practice of taxation, general accounting, business valuations, forensic accountings, fiduciary accountings and litigation support services. Until further notice he can be reached at the Citrin Cooperman offices, 709 Westchester Avenue, Suite 200, White Plains, New York 10604; telephone: 914-949-2990 x 3356; cell: 914-925-1120; fax: 914-517-4469.

Burck's Boat store has FEMA emergency preparedness publications and Atlantic hurricane tracking charts. They are free.... Burck's 526 City Island Avenue Bronx, New York 10464 718 885-1559.



**City Island Branch Library Events for July 2012**  
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Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**July Children's Programs**

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

**Bilingual Birdies: A combined special program for the summer:** Every Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. on July 10, 17, 24 and 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Newborn to 5 years.

**Patriotic Arts and Crafts:** Tuesday, July 3, at 3:30 p.m. All ages.

**Special Program: Rhythm and Sound in Theater:** Utilizing percussion instruments from all over the world, John Berger of Urban Stages will show how percussion is used in theater and in other mediums to tell stories, create moods, and enhance movement. Monday, July 16, at 3 p.m. Ages 4 and over.

**Little Red Riding Hood:** In this updated version with an all-new twist of an all-time favorite, the Wolf and Red both learn some valuable lessons on the way to Grandma's house. Presented by Puppets to Go. Monday, July 23, at 2 p.m. For ages 4 and older.

**Reading In The Shade.** Come to Orchard Beach, cool off under a tree, and listen to your favorite children's stories told by a staff member or volunteer. Please call the branch or look for our flyers for the exact dates and times. For all children's events for the month of August, flyers will be posted.

**July Young Adult Programs**

**Board Games:** Every Monday at 2 p.m.

**Music Video Choice:** Every Tuesday at 2 p.m.

**"Yu-Gi-Oh!":** Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

**Game On:** Every Thursday at 2 p.m.

**Tweens and Teen Lounge:** Every Friday at 2 p.m.

**Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament:** Saturday, July 21, at 12 noon. Prizes will be given to the winners. Registration required.

**July Adult Programs**

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

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

**Introduction to Facebook:** Find lost friends and make new ones. Friday, July 13 and 27, from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Film: James Patterson's "Kiss the Girls":** Alex Cross, a Washington D.C. cop and forensic psychologist, learns that his niece, who is going to college in North Carolina, is missing. So he goes there and learns that the police think she's among the victims of someone who calls himself Casanova and kidnaps young girls and kills them. Kate, one of his victims, escapes and tries to help Cross find his niece. (Paramount Pictures 2 hours, rated R 1997) Stars Morgan Freeman and Ashley Judd. Saturday, July 14, at 2 p.m.

**Arthur Miller's "Focus":** Based on the Arthur Miller novel, this film follows Lawrence Newman (Macy), a Christian but "Jewish-looking" man, as he and his wife struggle to survive in their anti-Semitic neighborhood in the final months of World War II. Suddenly victims of racial hate and persecution simply because of the way they look, they find themselves unexpectedly aligned with a local Jewish store owner as they take a stand against this unwarranted treatment. In the midst of a physical struggle, Newman must also face a personal internal battle between just fitting in and standing up for what is right. Stars William H. Macy, Laura Dern, David Paymer, Meatloaf. Paramount Classics; directed by Neal Slavin (Rated PG-13; 106 minutes; 2001). Saturday, July 7, at 2 p.m.

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

**Bartow-Pell Summer Events**

On Friday, July 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., relax to the sounds of live music from Kelly and the Hermanos, explore the mansion, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. Then hop on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley for a ride to City Island. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$8 adults, \$5 seniors & students; members free.

On Monday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, you are invited to join the NYC Compost Project in the Bronx and help the museum build a greener, healthier and more sustainable city as garden trimmings are recycled into compost. Pitch in with chopping, mixing, sifting and other compost-bin maintenance tasks as you learn tips and techniques for setting up and managing your own compost system.

The Shutter Shop on Shore Road Restoration Workshop will take place from Monday, July 30, through Friday, August 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The 1840s Greek Revival Bartow mansion features interior window shutters—sadly in need of repair—that help protect from summer's sun and winter's chill. Participants in the shutter restoration workshop will learn how to safely remove lead paint, prepare and paint wood surfaces, restore old hardware, and more under the

guidance of preservation/restoration specialists. The workshop is offered in partnership with Historic House Trust of NYC and Adventures in Preservation. Lunch is provided; participants must be 18 or over. Registration required; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org). Cost: \$295 (covers snacks, lunch, and insurance).

The first Friday in August, the 3rd, from 5:30–8:30 p.m., the Bronx Seaside Trolley will make a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to the Bartow-Pell Mansion and on to City Island. The mansion will offer live music and light refreshments, and you will be able to explore the mansion and stroll through the garden. Registration is requested; the cost is \$8 adults, \$5 for seniors and students; members free.

BPMM Adventures: Summer Sessions will be offered from Monday, Aug. 6, through Friday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Why spend those hot summer days in your house when you could spend them in ours? Children entering grades 1 through 4 are invited to solve mansion

mysteries, gather around the wigwam and discover the Children's Garden at Historic Bartow-Pell in a week-long program full of creative crafts, fun games, gardening and more. The registration deadline is July 23. The cost is \$150 per child; members \$120 per child. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Valerie Albanese-Fraher, program manager, at [valbanese@bpmm.org](mailto:valbanese@bpmm.org) or call 718-885-1461.

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# ISLAND RESIDENT RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Herbert H. Schaumburg, MD, a resident of City Island since 1962, recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he has worked for the past 48 years.

Dr. Schaumburg, Professor of Neurology and Pathology at Einstein, has served the institution in multiple capacities—as a superb clinician and researcher, departmental leader and consummate educator. He currently maintains a laboratory devoted to experimental neurotoxicology and an active clinical neurotoxicology practice at the Montefiore Medical Center, and he is the neurology consultant for the New York City Poison Control Center at Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. Schaumburg has conducted evaluations of neurotoxic outbreaks in India, Egypt and Latin America and has written 118 papers in the peer-reviewed literature in neurotoxicology. He was co-editor of the textbooks *Experimental and Clinical Neurotoxicology* and *Disorders of Peripheral Nerves*.

For his investigations of adrenoleukodystrophy, he twice received the Moore Award from the American Association of Neuropathology. He has received extramural funding for his laboratory from the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, as well as from industry.

Dr. Schaumburg served as vice chair of the Department of Neurology from 1977 to 1984, as interim chair from 1984 to 1986, and as chair from 1986 to 2004. Long associated with the second-year course on the nervous system and human behavior, he is responsible for the peripheral neuropathy and neurotoxicology sections, as well as other clinical aspects of the course, and



**Dr. Herbert H. Schaumburg**

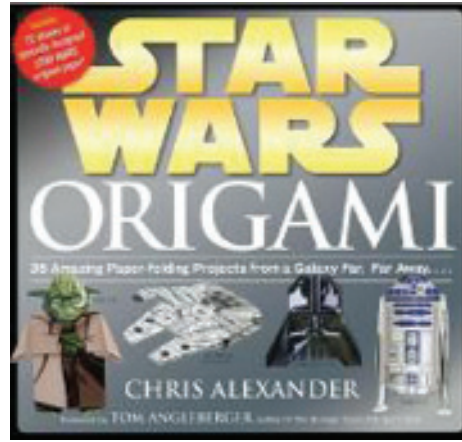
currently serves as its co-director with Dr. Joseph Arezzo. His students have praised him as a committed, energetic and stimulating educator who is genuinely interested in fostering their learning.

In recognition of his excellence in teaching, Dr. Schaumburg was elected to the Leo M. Davidoff Society in 1979. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed a medical internship at Vanderbilt University Hospital, a neurology residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a fellowship in neuropathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Schaumburg was married for 41 years to his late wife, Joanna Schaumburg, and their daughter, Kristen, also an Island resident, works as an ornithologist at the Bronx Zoo. Three years ago, Dr. Schaumburg married Dr. Lucy Brown, who lived for many years on City Island and is also on the staff at Einstein.

# Star Wars Origami

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



didn't know how to write, design or document origami models. He said "So teach yourself." And 15 years later the book is a reality."

Chris has taught at Star Wars Celebration, and his creations have been in museum exhibits around the country. He also created the Star Wars Origami website to promote origami as another way of representing the Star Wars universe. "One of the hardest parts was deciding which models would be included. I wanted to represent all six movies as evenly as possible, introduce first-time folders to some of the other aspects of origami (like starting with triangular paper or models that take two or three sheets of paper) and have something included for all ranges of folding experience. In the end we decided on 36 models, and I think there's something for everyone to enjoy. I have a lot more Star Wars origami figures and am always creating new ones, so I hope there will be an opportunity to publish them as well."

His favorite design is Jabba the Hutt, which is difficult to make but doesn't take too long. "It's usually the one I make if someone wants a model but doesn't know what to ask for. I think in the book we call him a Jedi Master level model. The book has levels of models designed to challenge all levels of experience. Even if you've never so much as crumpled up a piece of paper to throw it away, the instructions included will guide you through the levels as you gain confidence and experience. A few of the hardest models will challenge even experienced folders."

Chris, now a resident of Lancaster, California, has published two other books, "Difficult Origami" and "Sort-Of-Difficult Origami," but he cautions readers not to let the names scare them off. They are part of a four-book series intended to encourage young folders to start with the basics and develop their skills. His work is represented in a book called "World's Best Origami," edited by Nick Robinson, and he is now putting together a book that will feature a new form of origami, which follows the traditional rules but has an additional (and secret for now) rule that makes it unique.

Little did anyone think when Chris Alexander was growing up on City Island that he would become part of the Star Wars phenomenon. But his mother, Jan Alexander, a resident of Winters Street, may have had a clue when she realized that his two passions—origami, which she had taught him at age 4, and the Star Wars series, which he discovered at 13—blended into what is now widely recognized as "Star Wars Origami."

Chris successfully received the necessary approvals from Lucasfilm, and after years of trying, his book on the subject will be published on Aug. 7 by Workman Publishing. For a preview, go to the Workman website or amazon.com, or visit Chris's website, [www.StarWarsOrigami.com](http://www.StarWarsOrigami.com), where you can see him with George Lucas and John Williams, as well as many of his original figures based on characters and vehicles from the films.

Chris told a reporter for Insider, a Star Wars fan magazine, that his very first Star Wars figure was a B-Wing. "I'd been teaching a penguin to a class of first graders, and while driving home I was thinking about the basic shape. A penguin has short stubby feet, little wings, and a head very similar to the B-Wing. I pulled out a piece of paper and started modifying the model and presto . . . my first original Star Wars model. After that, I set a goal of inventing an X-Wing by the end of the month. It only took three weeks. A friend asked what else I'd created and suggested I write the Star Wars origami book. I explained that I

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Photos by RACHEL NEVILLE  
Dancers posing on or near City Island give a preview of the Ajkun Ballet Theatre's 2012-2013 season. Riding horseback in Pelham Bay Park or on a carriage on Shore Road, scaling rocks along the shoreline or braving the chilly ocean waters in Orchard Beach, ballerinas of the Ajkun Ballet Theatre, whose main office is here on City Island, gave a preview of the company's 2012-13 season. The campaign is set to launch with "Hamlet," a world premiere by choreographer Leonard Ajkun, to be performed at MMAC Theater in Manhattan on Oct. 25, 26 and 27, 2012. The season will continue with "Legacy, The Odyssey of Albania" and the holiday favorite "Nutcracker," which will be performed in New Rochelle. In 2013, the company will take the images of City Island on tour to Albania, Italy and Australia. For more information and to see all the photographs, visit [www.ajkunbt.org](http://www.ajkunbt.org).



## Island Resident Wins Honors

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Many Islanders may not be aware that one of their neighbors, a soft-spoken woman named Fran Maturo, is a very special individual whose contributions to the Bronx community have been honored recently by the Bronx Times, which named her one of this year's 25 most influential Bronx women, and by the Community Council of the 45th Precinct.

Ms. Maturo has lived on City Island since the 1980s, when she moved here to raise her two daughters, Lynn and Lauren Calta, after her husband passed away. She grew up in the Allerton area of the Bronx and went to Holy Rosary School, Preston High School and Mercy College. She began her career of service to families and children as a counselor for the Cardinal McClosky Home for Children and the Joseph P. Kennedy Home for Children, where she became a unit manager and case manager.

She earned a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and in 1979 joined the staff of the Archdiocese of New York Drug Abuse Prevention Pro-

gram (ADAPP) as a social worker and counselor. By 1995 she had advanced to executive director of ADAPP and oversaw all the programs within the schools in the Archdiocese, including Preston. In 1998 she expanded ADAPP's scope by forming the Throggs Neck Community Action Partnership (TNCAP), promoting a healthy community with a particular focus on youth, underage drinking and drug use.

"You can provide students with the counseling they need," she told the Bronx Times, "but if the conditions in the community don't support healthy living for children, you're not getting anywhere." By working with the parents, schools, businesses, law enforcement and elected officials, TNCAP hopes to enable children to grow up to resist drugs and alcohol.

Ms. Maturo was recently honored during Women's History Month by Congressman Joseph Crowley and received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Preston High School. And on May 9, she was honored at the 45th Precinct's Community Council breakfast.

## FOUR BADGERS BIKING ACROSS AMERICA



Photo by DOMINIQUE PARIS

The Langkamps getting ready to bike across America (l. to r.) Jonathon, Jay, Gina and Catey. Missing from photo: three bikes.

Five years ago, Jay and Gina Langkamp left their small hometown in Wisconsin, along with their son, Jonathon, and daughter, Catey, and came to New York City to become teachers. After surviving a summer at the New York City Teaching Fellows program and a few years teaching high-needs students, they apparently decided that life was still full of appealing challenges. They decided to fly out to Oregon and spend this summer bicycling all the way back home to City Island, where they have lived for the past three years.

The timing is right. Jonathon, who graduated from P. S. 175 two years ago, is about to become a junior at the Aviation High School in Queens, and Catey, a superb soccer player, graduated this June from P. S. 175. As Jay writes in the family's hilarious blog, *4badgersbiking.blogspot.com/2012*, "If we don't do this trip now, we will probably not have a chance again."

So far, the trip has taken a lot of planning. The first (and easiest part) was determining the route. They knew they wanted to go through their home state of Wisconsin, where they could stay a week with friends and family. But there were a lot of other places between Oregon and New York that needed serious study. For example, they found it difficult to tell from a map which days they would be biking uphill and which downhill, and they also wanted to minimize their chances of getting eaten by wild animals. So they relied heavily on Google, as well as on the advice of friends and relatives, and found a plausible route across the country, which

should (if all goes well) bring them back to City Island by Aug. 19, their wedding anniversary.

Part of the planning, of course, has entailed getting a lot of equipment and losing enough weight so that they can carry all that equipment; downloading books onto the family iPad so that they can read en route without carrying books; and having enough spare parts on hand so they don't get stranded between Riverton and Casper, Wyoming, or wherever. There have been a few glitches so far, including a stolen bicycle, a loose screw and Catey's decision that she preferred to train for the Great Plains rather than for the mountains.

The Langkamps decided that it would not be smart to leave their house empty for the weeks they will be away, but happily they found someone in their alma, the NYC Teaching Fellows program, who needed a place to stay, so that at least is no longer a problem. Gina and Jay will keep up their blog as long as their iPad holds up, and many of us here at home will share their experience by expending about as much energy as it takes to turn on a computer.

From time to time Jay wonders if they might have as many loose screws in their heads as on their bicycles, but then he reminds himself that "if Gina and I can walk into classrooms of high-needs students in high schools in the poorest congressional district in the country after a brief summer orientation and survive, we can figure out a way to deal with a bicycle breakdown in the middle of South Dakota!"

Bon voyage, Langkamps, and god speed!

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### JULY

Tues., July 24, **Pelham Cemetery Lot Owners meet**, 7:30 p.m., Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue. This meeting is for lot owners only.

Sat., July 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Barbecued or baked chicken with rice and beans.

Tues., July 31, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### AUGUST

Sat., August 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: meatloaf with potatoes and vegetables.

Tues., Aug. 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Once again we welcome Fr. Alex Iheonunekwu, who will be returning to us from Nigeria for the summer months. We hope he will meet many friends as he serves our parish during July and August.

Our Thrift Shop will be closed during July and August and will open again in the fall. Watch for our opening date!

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation, and we encourage everyone to join us at one of our Masses that day. These are scheduled for 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Plans are under way during the summer for our Outdoor Mass on Sept. 15. This is always a lovely evening. Mark your calendars and plan to be with us that evening.

Have a safe and pleasant summer.

**Sr. Bernadette, OSU**

### City Island Republicans

Currently we are gathering signatures to put everybody on the ballot for November. If someone comes around, please sign the petitions to help get our ticket onto the ballot. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue, has for 78 years provided an exciting place for observance for Jews of all ages who come from many different communities and cultures. We are a spirited congregation that gathers together under the leadership of the stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Reb David Evan Markus, our associate spiritual leader.

Located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, we conduct Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m., and our doors are open to all. We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Rabbi Shohama and Reb David will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on July 6 and Mike Eiron will sponsor the oneg in memory of his parents, Rae and Howard Eiron.

On Sunday, July 22, we will have a barbecue at 2 Bay Street (Ken and Steve's

waterfront lawn and patio). The barbecue starts at 4 p.m. The outdoor service that follows will start at 7:30 p.m. Please rsvp to [shul.bythesea@verizon.net](mailto:shul.bythesea@verizon.net) or 718-885-3090.

Speaking of outdoor sunset services, our annual Shabbat by the Sea service will also take place at Ken and Steve's marvelous location on Friday, Aug. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

All other Friday services will be community led, often by Bob Berent and his accordion. Check our website ([www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org)) for more information. Happy sailing.

**Bob Berent**

### Garden Club of City Island

The flower boxes along City Island Avenue are cleaned and planted and the perennials are blooming in the many public areas that are overseen by the Garden Club of City Island. Have you noticed the beautiful yellow lilies at the Legion Memorial Triangle at the beginning of City Island? Wasn't the Leonard Hawkins Park a wonderful sight to see with all its spring blooms? The lawns and plantings at the City Island Nautical Museum made visitors feel especially welcome to the recent Open House. The "Welcome to City Island" sign, the Brotherhood Tree and the tree pits along City Island Avenue have all been spruced up for the season. We tidied and groomed on New York City's "It's My Park Day" and had our own spring cleanup day. Some new planter boxes are about to arrive and will be blooming soon on a street near you.

A number of volunteers, in addition to our members, have helped us accomplish these projects. The Helping Hands Auxiliary is made up of a group of mostly women (men are welcome but only one has come forward so far) who cannot attend regular Monday Garden Club meetings, but love to help us on weekends with our many projects and tasks. They are a blessing. Equally invaluable are the services of George Callas as gardener who does much of the heavy lifting on our projects.

City Island's residents and businesses, as contributors to our annual Beautification Fund Drive, support our work with much-needed dollars. A hearty thank-you to everyone who has given this year; if you haven't, we hope you will consider a small donation as every bit helps toward making our Island more beautiful.

One particularly enjoyable way to contribute is to attend our annual luncheon. This year's delightful repast was held at the end of May and 90 people turned out to enjoy "The Calla Lilies Are in Bloom," along with the usual raffles and gift baskets.

All City Island residents are invited to become members of the Garden Club and to join our monthly meetings at the City Island Yacht Club. Several sister clubs in the New York State Federation of Garden Clubs enjoy men as members, so don't think of this as an exclusive women's club! If you can't make meetings during the day, join our Helping Hands Auxiliary where you may enjoy the fruits of your labor in seeing lovely blooms emerge from the soil.

**Barbara Harrison Kaye**

### City Island Nautical Museum

On June 12, the Partners in Preservation advisory committee reviewed the applications of the New York City historic sites that had asked for funding, and the City Island Nautical Museum was granted \$10,000, which is not sufficient to cover the cost of new steps but is, as museum supporter Matt Murphy put it, "one step closer."

Although the museum did not achieve the full grant it requested, it enjoyed widespread attention as a result of the voting campaign: attendance is up and membership is increasing. Several community busi-



Photo by JUDY JUDSON

Martha Deese, (l.) and Laura Longo (r.) of the Helping Hands Auxiliary joined Garden Club member Gail Hitt this spring to spruce up the planter boxes along City Island Avenue.

nesses have become corporate members and get credit as such on the website ([www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org)).

Plans are under way for an exciting fall season, with a special exhibition devoted to five of City Island's historic yacht clubs and a series of lectures and other events. And of course we will be starting a capital campaign to raise the rest of the money we need for the front steps.

We are also putting out the welcome mat for those attending the City Island Reunion on Aug. 18, and of course we are open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. throughout the summer.

**Barbara Dolensek**

### Sons of the American Legion

We have several exciting events during the warm months this year. On Saturday, July 7, the Sons of the American legion will host its first annual Moonlight Cruise to the Statue of Liberty aboard the award-winning *Island Current*. The price is \$50 per person and includes beer, wine and soda along with fabulous finger foods. There will also be music. Stop by the Post to sign up. All are welcome!

There will also be a Legion beach party held on Saturday, July 21, at the Fordham Street beach club. There will be food, swimming and games for the kids, so bring the family. Stop by the Post for more details.

The annual clambake will be on Saturday, July 28, at 7 p.m. The price is \$55 and there will be open bar and live music. More details will follow.

Once again the Post is the unofficial "cooling center" for City Island. Stop by the Post and cool off with a drink.

We have started to collect dues for 2013. They are \$30. We will still accept back dues for 2012, which are also \$30. The \$\$ can be dropped off at the Post.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 12, at 8 p.m. There will be no August meeting.

Our officers for the 2012-13 season are Timothy Smyth, Commander; Fred Ramftl Jr., Vice Commander for Membership; Walter Natiw, Vice Commander of Activities; Vic Anderson Jr., Vice Commander for Americanism; James Livingston, Finance Officer; Eugene Valesio, Historian; Thomas Vivolo, Sargeant-At-Arms; Peter Booth, Adjutant; Greg Clancy, Advisor. The Rev. Michael Challinor and Todd Davis are our chaplains.

Fortunately, there have not been any sick or death reports. Stay cool!

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

### City Island Theater Group

The group will once again have a "window unveiling" the evening of Friday, Aug. 24, at 8 p.m. at 282 City Island Avenue. With

many thanks to Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir, CITG invites everyone to come and join them in celebrating theater on the Island.

CITG is pleased to present a staged reading of Moises Kaufman and The Tectonic Theater Project's "The Laramie Project" on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22, at 8 p.m. Auditions will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.\*

We will once again have a table at the Arts and Crafts Fair in September. Please stop by and say hello.

"The Lion in Winter" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart will be CITG's final production for the 2012 season. Auditions will be Friday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.\* Production dates are in early November.

\*These dates are subject to change. Please visit our website [www.cityislandtheatergroup.org](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.org) for more current information as it becomes available.

**Nick Sala**

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous:**  
Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

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

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

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

**NEW CLASSES**

**Summer Art Camp:** Art classes taught by Eileen Stodut offer fun, fun, fun for everyone! Classes that feature painting, collage, paper sculpture, printmaking and many other projects will ignite the imagination! The classes are designed to improve cognitive skills and confidence. Arts and crafts classes for K through 3rd grade, Monday, Aug. 6 through 10, from 10 am to noon; five two-hour classes are only \$125. For more information or to sign up, call Eileen at 914-633-1695. Leave a message! Don't wait until the last minute!

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

(Suspended for the summer)

**Irish Dance:** The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing

in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit [www.deirdreomara.com](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

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

**ADULT PROGRAM**

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

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

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

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

**Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea.** Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Walk-ins are very welcome, as are spectators interested in seeing what the class is all about. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

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

**Tap Dance:** Intermediate level adult Jazz-Tap class with Corinne Grondahl. Let your feet become a musical instrument! Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call 718-309-8041.

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

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

Amy Gottlieb



Photo by RICK DEWITT

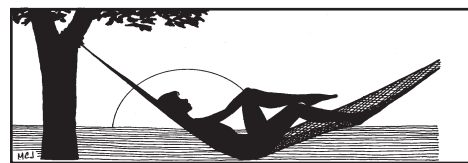
The Trinity Sunday School raised over \$350 for Imagine No Malaria, the United Methodist campaign to eliminate malaria in Africa by 2015. Front row (l to r): Grace Bang, Lydia Jung, Gwen Boyle, Laci Howard, June Bang, Evelyn Song, Esther Song; back row: Kevin Bang, Alice Jung, George Melicharek III, Jessica Melicharek, Simone Karibian, Pat LaPorte (teacher), Wendy Lepp (teacher) and Robert Howard.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

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

Instead of closing for the summer, Sunday school will remain open, so the teachers are looking for helpers to cover the teachers' vacation schedules. If you would like to help, please e-mail Pat LaPorte at [PatL724@aol.com](mailto:PatL724@aol.com). Pat is also collecting addresses and contact information for the new directory; if you want to be included or have new contact information, please let me know.

The Budget Corner is now closed for the summer! The volunteer staff is grateful to the many friends who have donated their gently used items and who came by to shop. Please hold the items you wish to donate until September when Budget will reopen.



**PSS Senior Programs**

**Healthy Exercise Program:** Stay fit this summer with these early morning classes. Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays, leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall.

**Senior Writing Group.** Did anybody ever say to you: "You should write that down?" You just told a story about the "good old days." Your friends laughed, they cried, they smiled. Come write your memories with us. The group meets on

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Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Grace Church Hall. For further information, call group leader Gail Hitt at 718-885-0444. No charge. Everyone is welcome.

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

**Caregivers' Support.** If you are caring for someone or you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and shopping assistance. Please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

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

**Program Services:** Call 718-885-1891 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts for "The Music Man" on July 12. Also great discounts on good seats for Yankees or Mets games. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

**Grace Episcopal Church**

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer is suspended until further notice.

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

Sunday July 1: Lambs Babysitting available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, Aug. 5: Lambs Babysitting available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Monday, Aug. 13: Hearts and Hands, 7:15 p.m., Grace Church Hall. All are welcome to join this knitting group, which makes and provides caps, shawls and lap robes for Calvary Hospital patients.

Scott Meyer

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# LADDER AT RISK

Continued from page 1



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Dick Sadler (photo above) and Addie Cozzi (below) weigh in.

Thompson and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer—who promised they

would never cut Ladder 53 should they attain the office of mayor.

Several Islanders offered various reasons why the City Island fire house should not be cut, the primary reasons being the vulnerability of the island, whose many wooden structures built close together, and the excessive response time for off-Island fire vehicles to reach City Island in case of emergency. Mike Rauh noted that when traffic backs up because of the drawbridges, it would be impossible for a fire truck to get through the Amtrak bridge, which is under construction, and response time would be far beyond the 9 minutes claimed by New York Fire Department officials. Dick Sadler recited from memory the cautionary advice given by his late father, Captain Ed Sadler, who reported having been taught as a fire fighter that an engine is only as good as the ladder company that precedes it.



## THE FINAL WORD (FOR NOW)

"I can now say for the record that the City Island Ladder Co. 53 has been saved. For the fourth time, the City Council has restored fire company funding, including City Island Ladder Co 53. The residents on City Island led this year's charge against the removal and, needless to add, I raised my voice quite vociferously at City Hall on their behalf and on behalf of all residents of our borough. I am most appreciative for the continued support of Speaker Christine Quinn who again stood firm with us against fire company closures," Councilman Vacca stated.



## Against All Odds

Hollywood has spun many stories about the different types of challenges that face people in varied walks of life and how they beat the odds to survive their impossible situations. An all-too-common theme is that of a woman dealing with the horrors of living in a situation of domestic abuse. **Precious** (2008) is set in New York City's Harlem circa 1987. Teenager Precious Jones (Oscar nominee Gabourey Sidibe) is an overweight, abused, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child. When she is invited to enroll in an alternative school, she hopes that her life can head in a new direction. Precious has been viciously abused by her mother (a riveting, Oscar-winning Mo'Nique) and pregnant by her father. Teacher Blu Rain (Paula Patton) encourages her, but Precious must battle unimaginable barriers everywhere in her life. Precious is a symbol for anyone—black or white, male or female—who has ever been devalued or underestimated.

Jennifer Lopez's performance as Slim, the mother of Gracie (Tessa Allen), in **Enough** (2002) is convincing and at times heartbreaking. When her perfect husband, Mitch (Billy Campbell), starts beating her, she embarks on a path that shows her cleverness and incredible resiliency of spirit. Another film with the same theme is **Sleeping with the Enemy** (1991), which stars Julia Roberts as Sara, the wife of the abusive millionaire Martin (Patrick Bergin). Her escape attempt and subsequent triumph, despite the odds, is also inspiring.

Women don't have a monopoly on abusive situations. Derek Luke is outstanding in the title role in **Antwone Fisher** (2002), the story of a young Navy man whose terrible bouts of temper have him sent to the base psychiatrist, Dr. Jerome Davenport (Denzel Washington). The real Antwone Fisher wrote the screenplay of his history of abuse, and it so impressed Denzel Washington that he chose it for his directorial debut. Also on hand is Joy Bryant as Cheryl, another sailor and Antwone's love interest, who helps him learn what normalcy can be. This is an extremely moving film.

**Boyz in the Hood** (1991) chronicles the trials and tribulations of three young African-American males growing up in south central Los Angeles. When young Tre (Cuba Gooding Jr.), a bright underachiever, begins to show signs of trouble, his struggling professional mother (Angela Basset) sends him to live with his father (Lawrence Fishburne), who is a strict disciplinarian. There he befriends Ricky (Morris Chestnut), an up-and-coming football star, and Doughboy (Ice Cube in a standout performance), a drug dealer. Over the years, each chooses his own path, but when a rival gang causes a tragedy, the "boyz" must make decisions that will decide who will survive and leave the ghetto.

Illiteracy is another theme where the odds are against people who have this problem. **Stanley & Iris** (1990) stars Robert DeNiro as Stanley Cox, an inventor who has, surprisingly enough, never learned to read. He is a sweet, intelligent man, who is devoted to his father (Feodor Chaliapin). When he tries to help recently widowed Iris King (Jane Fonda), whose purse has been stolen on a bus, they discover that they work at the same place

and become friends. This excellent film explores the barriers an illiterate person must face in his everyday life.

**The First Grader** (2010) is the remarkable true story of Kimani Ng'ang'a Maruge (Oliver Musila Litondo), an illiterate member of the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya, who at age 84 decides to enroll in a rural primary school. The film moves back and forth in time between his 2003 interactions with the primary school teacher, Jane Obinchi (Naomi Harris), and his brutal memories of his participation in the Mau Mau uprising against the British in the 1950s. This film provides a rich glimpse of Kenya and shows the inspiration a person of any age can be to a nation.

A movie that is timelier now than when it was filmed is **Not Without My Daughter** (1991). Betty (Sally Field) is an average American wife married to an Iranian physician, Moody (Alfred Molina). When they take their daughter, Mahtob (Sheila Rosenthal), to meet Moody's family in Iran, Betty finds herself trapped in a foreign country with no rights at all as Moody has decided to stay in his homeland. This is a true story of a resourceful and courageous woman who is unwavering in her resolve to free her daughter and herself from involuntary captivity.

Moving to another era in time, we look at Adrien Brody's Oscar-winning performance in **The Pianist** (2003). It is the story of Polish Jew Wladyslaw Szpilman, a classical musician who managed to survive the Holocaust through fate and incredible good luck. The film was directed by Roman Polanski, who himself survived the Holocaust through the chance kindness of strangers.

Another Holocaust film uses humor as a tool of survival. Roberto Benigni co-wrote, directed and starred in **Life is Beautiful**, the story of Guido, who winds up in a concentration camp with his 5-year-old son, Joshua (Giorgio Cantarini). To protect his child, Guido sets up an elaborate game in which he tells his son that the first person to win 1,000 points will win a real tank, not a toy. It is hard to convey how cleverly Benigni manages to pull this off without trivializing the atrocities suffered by millions of people. It is an inspirational film about human ingenuity rather than politics.

**My Left Foot** (1990) is about overcoming health-related adversity. Daniel Day Lewis received an Oscar for his performance as Christy Brown, who was born with cerebral palsy into a poor but loving Irish family in Dublin. He only has control over his left foot, but the rest of his body is in constant rebellion against him. Yet Christy becomes a writer and a painter. I remember reading his book when I was a child, and his story is a haunting accomplishment.

In **Regarding Henry** (1991), Harrison Ford stars as Henry Turner, a slick, ruthless corporate attorney who bullies his teenage daughter, Rachel (Mikki Allen). He also cheats on his wife, Sarah (Annette Bening), and treats everyone from the maid to his assistant with cruel selfishness. When tragedy strikes him, after a long coma, Henry survives only to find that he has no memory and must relearn everything from reading to tying his shoes. Henry's therapist (Bill Nunn) helps him reconnect with his family and become a better person than he once was.

Russell Crowe received an Oscar nomination for his brilliant portrayal of Nobel Prize Winner John Forbes Nash Jr. in 2001's best picture, **A Beautiful Mind**. One of the greatest mathematicians of our time was a victim of schizophrenia. With the help of his wife, Alicia (Jennifer Connelly, Best Supporting Oscar winner), he works to overcome his descent into madness and regain his ability to function in academia. This was truly a remarkable achievement.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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## ORCHARD BEACH PAVILIONS UNDERGO STUDY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

During the month of June, the Department of Parks and Recreation held two community meetings, one at Community Board 10 and one at the Community Center on City Island, to announce a major year-long study being done of the Orchard Beach facilities, specifically the structures that have suffered deterioration during the past 75 years, and to elicit community comments on the facility.

Although the landmarked pavilions are well known for their historic and architectural significance, the damage caused by alkali-silica reaction in the concrete has resulted in cracks and other problems. Scaffolding erected to protect the public also masks the architectural interest of the buildings, which were constructed by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s under the supervision of Robert Moses, the powerful superintendent of parks under Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

The Parks Department has been concerned for some time about the condition of the pavilions and, undoubtedly spurred by an exhibition and lecture created by City Island resident Deborah Wye at the City Island Nautical Museum, co-sponsored by the Parks Department and Friends of Pelham Bay Park, New York City has launched a pre-scoping study to develop a master plan for the site.

The study will have three major steps: first, to gather data relating to structural issues in the buildings and to assess conditions; second, to explore alternatives for the site, with possibilities ranging from repair to replacement of the structures; and third, to present a master plan with recommendations. Although most planning studies are part of a capital funding project, this study is being undertaken under the aegis

of the Office of Management and Budget in advance of any capital proposal.

The purpose of the community meetings was to gather ideas and suggestions from areas near Orchard Beach, especially with regard to how the site is used throughout the year and suggestions for new amenities. Any major renovation or replacement would cost a great deal, and the Parks Department would want the facility to be able to support itself and its maintenance into the future. Most of those present reported that they very much enjoyed access to Orchard Beach, usually in the off-season when it is not crowded, and seemed in favor of supporting such amenities as a good restaurant, night-time access, facilities for exercise, an ice-skating rink, kayak and rowboat rental and classes and so on.

One resident expressed the feelings of many when he said that one of the most attractive elements of the Orchard Beach facility was the buildings themselves. Although no one yet knows what the study will recommend, it was reassuring to hear Hector Aponte, Commissioner of Bronx Parks, express his hope that the pavilions would be preserved.

**Molly Schroeder, Ph.D.**

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## City Island Theater Group Presents "The Laramie Project"

By MARY MCINTYRE

On Oct. 6, 1998, a cold, bitter night, Matthew Shepard was pistol-whipped on the head, tied to a cattle fence, robbed and left to die on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. Matthew was 21 years old, a political science major at the University of Wyoming, and gay. Eighteen hours later, he was found by a biker who had trouble believing that what he saw attached to the fence was human. Shepard was taken to a local hospital and died six days later from head injuries.

Two local men were charged with the crime. The murder was denounced as a hate crime, and it brought attention to the lack of hate crime laws in various states, including Wyoming.

One month after the event, the members of Tectonic Theater Project traveled from New York City to Laramie and conducted more than 400 interviews with 100 of the townspeople. Using these interviews, personal journal entries from the Project's members, and published news items, Moises Kaufman and the company wrote a play they called "The Laramie Project," which was later made into a film for HBO.

The piece has been seen by more than

30 million people around the world. Many productions in the United States have been picketed by followers of Fred Phelps, head of the Westboro Baptist Church, whose followers are portrayed in the play picketing the funeral of Matthew Shepard as they did in real life.

Was it a hate crime? Or was it a random, senseless assault and robbery? City Island Theater Group is proud to present the play as a staged reading on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22, and auditions are scheduled to be held on Aug. 17 and 18. Be sure to attend the "window unveiling" on Friday, Aug. 24, at 8 p.m. at 282 City Island Avenue.

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

JULY 2012									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0420	-0.29	0959	7.19	1618	0.21	2212	8.41	Sun 01
02 Mon	0518	-0.64	1103	7.46	1722	-0.04	2315	8.55	Mon 02
03 Tue	0612	-0.89	1200	7.71	1820	-0.23			Tue 03
04 Wed	0012	8.59	0703	-0.98	1253	7.88	1914	-0.31	Wed 04
05 Thu	0106	8.50	0752	-0.91	1344	7.96	2006	-0.27	Thu 05
06 Fri	0159	8.30	0840	-0.69	1434	7.94	2058	-0.11	Fri 06
07 Sat	0251	7.99	0928	-0.35	1525	7.84	2150	0.14	Sat 07
08 Sun	0345	7.63	1015	0.05	1618	7.69	2244	0.43	Sun 08
09 Mon	0441	7.27	1104	0.47	1712	7.53	2340	0.72	Mon 09
10 Tue	0539	6.95	1154	0.85	1809	7.40			Tue 10
11 Wed	0037	0.94	0638	6.74	1247	1.16	1905	7.34	Wed 11
12 Thu	0135	1.06	0736	6.65	1341	1.36	2000	7.35	Thu 12
13 Fri	0229	1.06	0831	6.67	1434	1.45	2052	7.42	Fri 13
14 Sat	0331	0.98	0923	6.77	1523	1.44	2140	7.53	Sat 14
15 Sun	0408	0.84	1011	6.92	1608	1.36	2224	7.64	Sun 15
16 Mon	0451	0.68	1055	7.07	1647	1.22	2301	7.74	Mon 16
17 Tue	0530	0.51	1133	7.21	1718	1.04	2327	7.83	Tue 17
18 Wed	0603	0.36	1201	7.35	1745	0.81	2343	7.95	Wed 18
19 Thu	0628	0.20	1217	7.53	1816	0.56			Thu 19
20 Fri	0011	8.10	0650	0.04	1241	7.78	1853	0.32	Fri 20
21 Sat	0047	8.20	0720	-0.12	1315	8.02	1934	0.15	Sat 21
22 Sun	0128	8.22	0757	-0.20	1355	8.20	2017	0.07	Sun 22
23 Mon	0212	8.11	0838	-0.19	1439	8.30	2105	0.09	Mon 23
24 Tue	0301	7.89	0922	-0.06	1528	8.28	2157	0.22	Tue 24
25 Wed	0353	7.56	1012	0.16	1620	8.16	2256	0.42	Wed 25
26 Thu	0451	7.19	1107	0.44	1719	7.99			Thu 26
27 Fri	0012	0.59	0557	6.88	1211	0.71	1826	7.85	Fri 27
28 Sat	0155	0.54	0720	6.74	1338	0.84	1948	7.82	Sat 28
29 Sun	0310	0.26	0855	6.90	1515	0.67	2116	7.98	Sun 29
30 Mon	0412	-0.11	1003	7.24	1622	0.33	2222	8.22	Mon 30
31 Tue	0508	-0.45	1100	7.60	1720	-0.01	2319	8.40	Tue 31
AUGUST 2012									
01 Wed	0559	-0.68	1151	7.89	1813	-0.27			Wed 01
02 Thu	0010	8.47	0646	-0.75	1239	8.08	1902	-0.39	Thu 02
03 Fri	0058	8.41	0732	-0.67	1324	8.14	1949	-0.35	Fri 03
04 Sat	0143	8.21	0814	-0.44	1408	8.09	2034	-0.17	Sat 04
05 Sun	0227	7.91	0855	-0.09	1451	7.93	2119	0.14	Sun 05
06 Mon	0311	7.56	0932	0.31	1533	7.72	2203	0.51	Mon 06
07 Tue	0356	7.19	1004	0.73	1618	7.48	2250	0.89	Tue 07
08 Wed	0447	6.86	1027	1.12	1708	7.26	2343	1.23	Wed 08
09 Thu	0546	6.61	1102	1.44	1807	7.10			Thu 09
10 Fri	0043	1.46	0649	6.48	1151	1.70	1911	7.05	Fri 10
11 Sat	0142	1.54	0750	6.51	1302	1.85	2009	7.12	Sat 11
12 Sun	0238	1.47	0845	6.66	1427	1.80	2101	7.27	Sun 12
13 Mon	0328	1.28	0935	6.89	1522	1.61	2147	7.46	Mon 13
14 Tue	0412	1.02	1018	7.14	1607	1.31	2223	7.66	Tue 14
15 Wed	0451	0.72	1053	7.40	1645	0.94	2249	7.87	Wed 15
16 Thu	0524	0.42	1117	7.67	1720	0.55	2314	8.08	Thu 16
17 Fri	0551	0.13	1140	7.97	1756	0.18	2348	8.27	Fri 17
18 Sat	0621	-0.13	1211	8.28	1835	-0.13			Sat 18
19 Sun	0027	8.37	0655	-0.31	1249	8.52	1917	-0.31	Sun 19
20 Mon	0109	8.35	0733	-0.37	1331	8.65	2002	-0.34	Mon 20
21 Tue	0155	8.19	0816	-0.28	1417	8.64	2050	-0.21	Tue 21
22 Wed	0244	7.90	0902	-0.04	1506	8.47	2145	0.07	Wed 22
23 Thu	0337	7.51	0954	0.32	1601	8.18	2251	0.42	Thu 23
24 Fri	0438	7.10	1053	0.73	1704	7.85			Fri 24
25 Sat	0030	0.66	0557	6.79	1218	1.05	1826	7.59	Sat 25
26 Sun	0154	0.59	0745	6.83	1406	1.00	2012	7.65	Sun 26
27 Mon	0301	0.34	0857	7.15	1517	0.68	2122	7.90	Mon 27
28 Tue	0400	0.02	0956	7.54	1617	0.26	2220	8.16	Tue 28
29 Wed	0452	-0.26	1048	7.91	1710	-0.11	2311	8.33	Wed 29
30 Thu	0541	-0.44	1136	8.17	1759	-0.36	2359	8.37	Thu 30
31 Fri	0625	-0.46	1220	8.30	1845	-0.45			Fri 31



**HORSESHOE CRABS, CONTINUED**

By most accounts, 2012 was not a good year for horseshoe crabs on City Island. The numbers appeared to be way down. If so, then an unfortunate trend that has been documented all along the Eastern seaboard may have new support.

To our knowledge, there are three possible explanations for the dwindling horseshoe crab population. The first is medical. The blue blood of horseshoe crabs is used by the United States Food and Drug Administration for testing all new drugs intended for human consumption. The blood contains something called Limulus Amoebocyte Lytate (LAL), which is used by researchers to detect the presence of certain bacteria. To harvest horseshoe crabs for scientific research, one must first obtain a horseshoe crab bio-medical harvesters permit.

To harvest horseshoe crabs to sell as bait or food, a horseshoe crab commercial bait harvesters permit is required. Every year the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission determines how many horseshoe crabs may be harvested commercially in each of the Atlantic States. In 2012 New York was allocated 170,000 horseshoe crabs. To make sure that the law is being complied with and that New Yorkers do not exceed their portion of the quota, fishermen are required to file monthly reports. In May, June and July, when horseshoe crabs mate, weekly reports are required.

Horseshoe crabs may be harvested rec-

ationally, too, but there are limits. No more than five may be taken each day. And they must be for that person's own use; he or she may not sell them. Mature crabs don't have many predators, although we have heard stories of horseshoe crab meat on the menu in Chinatown. Rather, it is the young crabs and even the eggs that are near the bottom of many a food chain. Juveniles are a favorite food of eel, flounder and striped bass. Shorebirds such as sandpipers and sanderlings dig up the eggs for sustenance.

One shorebird that did not make any list that we could find is the mute swan. At around the same time that horseshoe crabs were coming to City Island shores to spawn, we began to notice deep impression in the sand. At first, we believed them to be the work of female horseshoe crabs, who bury their eggs for their protection. Then we noticed the swans. They would swim up to the shore line and begin to beat the sand with their webbed feet, which kicked up food for themselves and their young.

Of course, we can't be sure if any of these explanations accounts for the ostensible decline of the horseshoe crab population. Taken together, however, and with not a lot of imagination, it is easy to conclude at the very least that they must account for something. No? As usual, comments and questions can be directed to [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

Have a wonderful and safe summer! See you all in the fall!

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## MR. AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRAINING

By BUTCH NIEVES

The world of fitness and weight loss is often confusing, with contradictory information swirling about. I'm going to cut through the confusion and make things really simple for you. Below is a list of five foods that you should never eat. These foods will derail your fitness and weight loss efforts every single time. In addition, I will suggest a healthy substitute for each of these off-limits foods. By simply swapping out the items below you will quickly and effortlessly become healthier, leaner and fitter than you are today.

**Do-Not-Eat #1: Anything Fried.** Fried food is loaded with fat and calories while offering zero nutritional value. It's a lose-lose! Sure, fries and chips taste good, but healthier items also taste good. Just say no to the deep fried items on your menu. You'll be thinner, healthier and won't have greasy fingers.

**Try This #1: Broiled.** If you simply must have a French fry, then make them at home in your oven. Use sweet potatoes, as these are a more complex carbohydrate. Cut into matchsticks, drizzle with a tablespoon of olive oil along with a dash of salt, then place in your oven on broil. Mix every five minutes until the fries are tender on the inside and crispy on the outside.

**Do-Not-Eat #2: White Bread.** White bread products have zero nutritional value and are quickly converted by your body into sugar. So you might as well eat a cupcake. Even breads that are technically wheat but are as soft and smooth as white bread should be avoided. Don't be afraid to discard the bread from your sandwich or to push away that bread basket. Your waist will shrink and you'll lose that bloated feeling that high-carbohydrate meals give you.

**Try This #2: Sprouted Grain Bread.** If you must have bread, then stick with sprouted. Sprouted grain bread is a lot easier on your digestion and is packed full of nutrients. Two delicious brands are Food For Life's Ezekiel bread and Manna Organics. Sprouted grain breads are often kept in the freezer section since they don't contain preservatives to prolong shelf life.

**Do-Not-Eat #3: Creamy Salad Dressing.** You were so good to order a salad, but then you ruined it by drenching the salad in fattening creamy dressing. Just a few tablespoons of creamy dressing contain more than 20 grams of fat and hundreds of calories.

**Try This #3: Vinegar Dressing.** Salad dressing is meant to lend flavor to the salad, not fat and calories. Vinegar-based dressings pack amazing flavor in with minimal fat and calories. You can even mix your own dressing at home. Take high-quality vinegar, fresh lemon juice, salt and pepper, your choice of dried herbs, and a bit of olive oil.

**Do-Not-Eat #4: White Rice.** I'm sure by now you've heard that white rice is not a healthy choice. Just like white bread, white rice has zero nutritional value, other than calories. Fiber and vitamins have been removed, and the glycemic load will quickly prime your body for storing fat.

**Try This #4: Brown Rice.** Brown rice has three times the amount of fiber, more B vitamins as well as other nutrients, won't sky rocket your blood and will keep you feeling fuller for longer. That should be enough to convince you to swap your large pile of white rice out for a small pile of brown rice.

**Do-Not-Eat #5: White Sugar.** Sugar and high fructose corn syrup are the epitome of anti-fitness food. Nothing will destroy your progress, expand your waist and

cause your energy levels to plummet the way sugar will. If you only take away one do-not-eat food from this article please let it be sugar.

**Try This #5: Fruit.** Don't turn to artificial sweeteners to get your sweet fix. Instead turn to nature's wholesome source of sugar: fruit. Eat organic fruit that is seasonal and locally grown. Stay away from dried fruit and fruit juices, as these are high in simple calories.

### The 7 Deadly Dieting Mistakes

It's a common problem. You've been on a diet for weeks and aren't losing weight as you thought you would. It may be that you're consuming more calories than you think. Keep reading to discover seven sneaky habits that may be sabotaging your weight loss efforts.

**Mistake #1: Forgetting Liquid Calories.** It's easy to forget that the things you drink have calories, some with more than you would think. In fact, some beverages have more calories than an entire plate of food. It is estimated that about 20 percent of your daily calories come from what you drink. So, as you drink your juice with breakfast, rehydrate with a sports drink at the gym or drink a glass of wine at dinner, think about the calories you're adding. For calories' sake, it's best to avoid all sweetened sodas, sweetened or flavored coffee drinks, sweetened tea and smoothies. Replace these high-calorie drinks with water, skim milk and unsweetened herbal tea. Because while they taste great, liquids generally don't satisfy hunger, so they are just empty calories.

**Mistake #2 Meal Skipping.** Many dieters think they will cut their calorie intake by skipping a meal, usually breakfast, but this is a mistake. Research has shown that those who skip breakfast actually weigh more than those who eat three meals a day. Skipping a meal usually causes you to eat more calories during the day, because you're so hungry. So aim to eat three (or more) meals a day. A healthy breakfast that will keep you feeling full all morning contains protein and fiber. An example would be whole-wheat toast and an egg.

**Mistake #3: Oversized Portions.** Just because restaurants load your plate with a mountain of food doesn't mean you should eat that much at home for a normal meal. Remember that your stomach, like your heart, is the size of your fist. If you don't think you can fit much food into your fist, you're right. And contrary to what mama taught you as a child, you don't have to eat all the food in front of you. To eat a little less, use smaller plates and eat more slowly so you will know when you're full. (And take home half of what you were served at the restaurant for an easy meal at home!) Also, remember that portion control also applies to healthy foods, as they too contain calories.

**Mistake #4: Too Many Extras.** A salad is a healthy, low-calorie option, at least it is until you add dressing, bacon, cheese and croutons. These add extra calories fast. One tablespoon of dressing contains 75 to 100 calories. It's no wonder grilled-chicken salads at a fast-food restaurant can have more calories than a hamburger.

**Mistake #5: Blaming Your Genes.** Many people give up on dieting or think there's no hope when it comes to meeting their goal weight because of their genes. Just as you may share your father's hair color or your mother's eye color, there is a small chance you also share your parent's body type. However, this is no excuse for doing nothing about trying to lose weight. Stick to your diet and exercise plan and you

should definitely see results.

**Mistake #6: Eating Without Thinking.** It happens to everyone. You're tired after a long day and you just want to veg in front of the television or read a good book. Unfortunately, mindlessly eating is often involved. You may think that since it's not on a plate, it doesn't matter, but every bite you take counts. When it comes to a successful diet, make rules for appropriate times to eat. And don't always feel the need to eat when relaxing. Try sipping on water or tea, chewing gum or simply don't put anything in your mouth.

**Mistake #7: Eliminating All Treats.** Dieters often become overzealous in their plan and completely rid the house of all the food they enjoy, including chips, sweets,

snacks or any other high-calorie food. This commitment may last a few days until you can't tolerate it any longer and you overindulge on what you deprived yourself of. A better plan is to allow yourself a treat every once in a while.

Remember that everyone makes mistakes, but be smart and don't let these common pitfalls keep you from meeting your weight loss goal! It's easy to only focus on the foods that you're not supposed to eat when on a diet, but by changing your focus to all the foods that you are able to freely eat, you'll stay motivated and stick with it. Pack as many non-starchy vegetables as you'd like into your daily diet, as well as fresh, seasonal fruits. Experiment with different methods of preparation for exciting variety.

Improved Student Award and check were presented to Ashlie Howell; the City Island AARP Chapter 318 Award and check for Outstanding Service to School, Home and Community were given to Destiny Vargas; the Mary Ann Clancy Memorial Award for Excellent Character (gift card) was given to Brianna Smith.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Scholarship for Academic Achievement was presented to Graham Herrera-Murphy and the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto of the Assembly of the State of New York Award for Perseverance was given to Kyle Caso.

The Principal's Award (Gold Medal and check) for the student who exemplifies the true spirit of St. Mary, Star of the Sea school in every way was presented to Jabari Weste; the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Home-school Association Awards for Outstanding Service to the School were given to Fernando Gonzalez, Brianna Marrero, Eddie Ocasio, Destiny Vargas and Jabari Weste. The Gold Medal for Service at The Lord's Altar went to Graham Herrera-Murphy; the Perfect Attendance Award went to Chelsea Francois. The Computar Typing Contest for Speed and Accuracy award winners were Taisja Roberson, Azaria Laster and Ryan Mendez.

Congratulations to all the award winners and all the 2012 graduates!

## GRADUATIONS

Continued from page 3

156 for the best essay entitled "Why is it Important to Vote?" was presented to Jared Candelaria. The Ladies Auxiliary of Leonard Hawkins Post 156 gave its award to Nia Drew for the best essay entitled "Why is the Role of the First Lady Important to the Presidentship?"

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Commodore John Barry "Father of the American Navy" American Studies Medal was presented to Graham Herrera-Murphy; the St. John's University Women in Science Society Certificate of Recognition was given to Nia Drew; *The Island Current* Catherine Scott Literary Award and check were presented to Taisja Roberson, who also received the Computar Incorporated 2012 Student of the Year certificate.

The Comptroller of the State of New York Thomas DiNapoli Certificate of Recognition of Outstanding Overall Achievement went to Fernando Gonzalez and Eddie Ocasio; the Comptroller of the City of New York John C. Liu Certificate of Scholastic Achievement was given to Dana Johnson and Jahquell Terry; the Public Advocate for the City of New York Bill de Blasio Certificate of Excellence was awarded to Jared Candelaria and Ryan Mendez; the Senator Jeffrey Klein Award for Outstanding Student Leadership was presented to Nicholas Murdock and Taisja Roberson.

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# JUNIOR SAILING PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL SUCCESS

By JOHN SCARDINA

## How having your child learn to sail can help in the classroom, too

Learning to sail is a complex activity. Sailing uses all part of the brain, engaging visual, auditory and tactile/kinesthetic learning styles. Sailing also develops resilience, cooperation skills and a sense of environmental awareness. Here are a few reasons why you should enroll your child in a junior sailing program:

Current brain research suggests that activities that engage both sides of the brain—the language-oriented left hemisphere and the spatially-oriented right hemisphere—lead to better overall brain health. Sailing involves the language and sequencing of maneuvers (such as tacking and jibing), as well as the spatial awareness of your self, your sails, your boat and the surrounding waters. You are constantly switching sides, using each hand on the tiller and reorienting yourself in space and time. You are also making lots of decisions, a process that engages the brain's prefrontal lobes (the last part of the brain to fully develop).

Visual learners are always monitoring the scenery and tracking the boat and its movement through the water. Auditory learners engage crew members with commands, listening for the wind and the luffing of the sails, and maintaining vigilance for auditory aids to navigation. Tactile and kinesthetic learners feel the wind on their face, move their bodies across the cockpit as they move the tiller and experience the physical thrill of gliding through the water on a wind machine.

Resilience is a vital skill for life-success: the ability to bounce back from adversity with positive outcomes and optimism. Sailing provides multiple chances to bounce back—from a poor tack, from a dropped winch handle or from a wrong-way maneuver on the tiller—and provides an immediate opportunity to “get back on course.”

Cooperative learning is an increasingly valuable learning skill in our interconnected world. Each both with two students is an on-board classroom for teaching how to communicate, how to get along and how to work together to achieve a goal.

A love of the natural world is a gift you can give to your child through sailing. In an era when children are spending more time indoors using computers and other screen devices, sailing offers a perfect opportunity to get outside, be active and enjoy this beautiful planet.

So what are you waiting for?

*John Scardina is a school psychologist, parent educator and child development specialist who lives on City Island. He is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain, a certified sailing instructor (American Sailing Association) and the owner of his beloved 30-foot sloop Sunbow. Check out his website [www.ThinkLaughLearn.com](http://www.ThinkLaughLearn.com).*



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# FAIR FOR ALL!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The annual Arts and Crafts Fair filled City Island Avenue with vendors and eager customers on June 2 and 3, 2012. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the fair also attracted many City Island organizations, including the City Island Theater Group (second photo). The City Island Nautical Museum (third photo) celebrated the completion of the Partner in Preservation campaign, which resulted in a \$10,000 grant toward the refurbishing of the steps. The Lickety Split band provided musical accompaniment under the direction of Skip Giacco (bottom photo). Good weather helped make it another successful fair for all.




The City Island Poem

# Sanctuary

You know you are home  
as you climb the bridge rise,  
temperature falling,  
an earthy whiff of a  
salty ebb tide.

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# SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY



Photos by JOYCE MULCAHY

These two photographs illustrate the enchantment of sailing life on City Island. Have a great summer!

## 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.



George Melicharek

### George Melicharek

George Melicharek, a longtime City Island resident, passed away on May 1, 2012, at the age of 73.

Born on June 15, 1938, in New York City, George attended City College and, after serving for four years in the U. S. Army, he graduated from City College. He worked for many years for the U. S. Department of Education.

He married Carmen Lizarazo on June 29, 1963, and about 20 years ago they moved with their three children to City Island, where Carmen's brother, John Lizarazo, lives. He volunteered for years for the City Island Little League and was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

George is survived by Carmen, his beloved wife of 49 years; their three children: Mariann Melicharek-Kessler, George Melicharek Jr. and John Melicharek; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on May 6, 2012.

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**CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS:** Sweatshirts (Children's and adult), T-shirts, Mugs, Post cards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090, [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

**CUSTOM PET RUGS:** immortalize your pet. We create a rug from art we draw from photos. Awesome! Call Katie 718 885-2929.

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**BURCK'S BOAT STORE:** Boat supplies, customer parking, Master-Visa. 526 City Island Avenue Bronx, New York 718-885-1559.



Photos by JOANNE BROGAN and BARBARA DOLENSEK

The annual Blessing of the Fleet, sponsored by the City Island Power Squadron and the Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post #156, took place on Sunday, June 24, 2012, and 97 boats of all shapes and sizes participated. Standing by the colorful wreath were (l. to r.) Bob Berent of Temple Beth-El, Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia of Grace Episcopal Church, Chris Ojar, Ed Shimansky, Troy Sill, Franz Alvarez, Noelva Vigoya, Kevin Keane, Pastor Yu of Trinity United Methodist Church and father Michael Challinor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Members of the Legion were Dave Carman, Ed Shipp, Peter Booth and Tom Lynch.

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

Another boy for the DiMaio family! Colin James (CJ) was born on May 25, 2012, to proud parents Michael and Christina. His big brothers, Trevor and Ryan, are thrilled with their new baby brother. Elated grandparents are Dr. Paul Brenner and Julia and Frank DiMaio. Aunt Erika, Aunt Eileen, Uncle Larry and cousins Will and Michael are very excited about the newest arrival!

Happy birthday to our sweet granddaughters, Kayla Fusco, who turns eight on July 4, and her sister, Alyssa Fusco, who celebrates her fifth birthday on July 23. Have fun on your special days! Love, Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Happy July birthdays to Susan Rauh and her sister, Beth Rota. Also, a very happy seventh anniversary to Beth and Matt Rota. Love, Mom and Dad.

Happy July 18 birthday to Great-grandma Carmellia Ramftl from Gianna. Happy fifth birthday to Gianna Ramftl with love from Mom and Dad. Happy July birthdays to Great-Grandma and Gianna with all our love, Grandpa Fred, Grandma Joan and Uncle Fred.

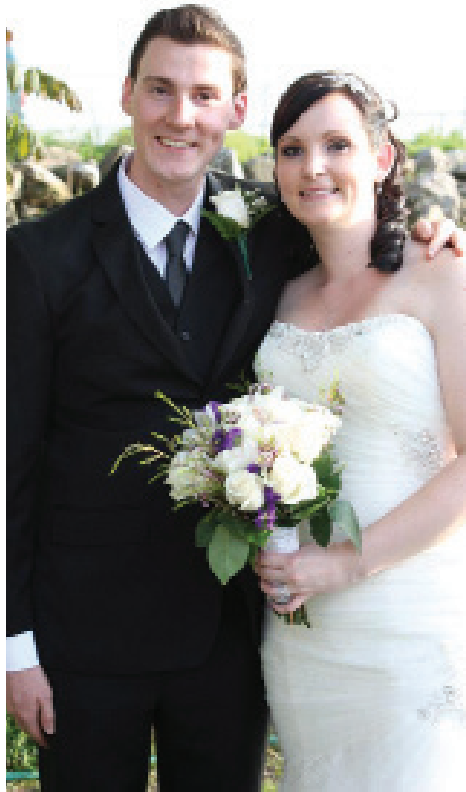
Best wishes across the miles to Ellen Dierenfeld in St. Louis from all your City Island friends and former neighbors.

Many happy returns to Minneford Avenue's Jack Doyle, who will celebrate his birthday on Aug. 9. With love from the Doyle and Butterworth families.

She's 21! Happy birthday to Bay Street's Maria Christina Swieciki, who celebrates her big day on Aug. 22.

Congratulations on Aug. 16 to Nolan Quinn, who will celebrate his birthday. Have a wonderful day!

Happy birthday on Aug. 30 to Marine Street's Samantha Emerick.



Brian and Kim Moore were married on May 12, 2012.

Happy birthday wishes to Bay Street's Stephen Swieciki, who turns 26 on Sept. 2.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Brian and Kim Moore, who were married on May 12 at the City Island Yacht Club. The happy couple, who reside in Fairfield, California, were toasted by proud parents Lisa and Charlie Moore of Minneford Avenue and John and Priscilla Best. A honeymoon in New Orleans followed the festivities.

Best wishes go out to Deborah McManus who retired from teaching in June. Mrs. McManus taught at P.S. 175 for 21 years and will always be remembered by her many City Island students. Enjoy your retirement.

Happy birthday to Sally McPherson on July 25 from all her Current friends (and former neighbors)!

And to all our friends and neighbors, have a safe and fun summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BRENDA PROHASKA

St. Mary's Junior Varsity softball team wins a championship for the first time! After making it to the championship game several times, this year St. Mary's Junior Varsity won the championship game on June 9, 2012, at Spellman High School. The coaches in the back row (l. to r.): Marcos Negron, Kristin McConaghy, Mike Prohaska and head coach Mike Cambria. Standing (l. to r.): Dusty Rose Prohaska, Catherine Ficke, Alexa Herrera-Murphy, Thalia Colon, Brianna Lozada and Gianna Cambria. Front row: Meghan McConaghy, Caeleigh Patterson, Emma Annanowsky, Alexandra Henning, Emily Guadio, Samantha



Colin James DiMaio, born May 25, 2012.

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