

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Nautical Museum Receives 2020 Best of Bronx Award

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of the BRONX AWARD PROGRAM

The winner this year of the 2020 Best of Bronx Award in the museums category was the City Island Nautical Museum.

The City Island Nautical Museum was selected for the 2020 Best of Bronx Award in the museums category by the Bronx Award Program. Each year, this program identifies companies that it believes have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and help make the Bronx area a great place to live, work and play.

The Bronx Award Program is an annual program that honors the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Bronx area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

Various sources of information are gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category on the basis of quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Bronx Award Program and data provided by third parties.

The Nautical Museum's board of trustees was delighted to learn about this award and hastens to point out to those who are interested in visiting that weekend hours are not in effect during the winter. The museum will reopen in April, but in the meantime, those interested in the museum should call 718-885-0507 and visit the website cityislandmuseum.org.

Hells Angels on the Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Last summer, the New York City chapter of the notorious motorcycle club known as the Hells Angels moved into a former American Legion building in Throggs Neck, but this didn't become big news until late December, when various newspapers began to publicize their presence in the Bronx, and even on City Island, because of concerns raised by members of the community.

The group, which started up in the 1940s with chapters around the world, is actually incorporated as a nonprofit religious organization in New York State as Church of the Angels. After selling their original headquarters on the lower East Side in Manhattan last spring, they moved to 241

Longstreet Avenue during the summer, which upset many Bronx residents who live nearby. So far, aside from complaints from neighbors about excessive noise and concerns about safety, the primary trouble was caused by an unidentified rival group of bikers who fired shots at the Hells Angels' property and caused some damage to their building.

Although the president of the local Hells Angels chapter, Bart Dowling, is a longtime resident of City Island, many Islanders were caught by surprise when they learned that the building at 415 City Island Avenue, which houses To Go Express and some residential apartments, had also been purchased by the club. Friends of Mr. Dowl-

ing assured *The Current* that the building on City Island is an investment and would not be used by the club.

City Islanders were also surprised to learn that the attorney Ted Pryor, who lives and works on the Island, had represented the club in these sales. Mr. Pryor has for the past two years served as a part-time legal advisor to Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, who was accused by many neighbors of the new headquarters of having been involved

in the deal, a position that the Councilmen strongly denies.

However, because of the perceived connection, Mr. Pryor resigned from his position with Mr. Gjonaj shortly after the New Year. "I will not allow my work as an attorney in private practice or what I do as a private citizen to be used as a weapon against you," he wrote in his resignation letter.

Water Main Project Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by MATT PANZA

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) has been preparing to install a new underwater water main to City Island from the mainland to replace the water main now on the City Island bridge. The extension of the mainland next to the Sea Shore parking lot is a temporary structure and will be removed after completion of the project (above photo).

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) has been working steadily in preparing to install a new underwater water main to City Island from the mainland, in order to replace the water main now on the City Island bridge.

Many Islanders have been wondering whether the new extension of the mainland next to the Sea Shore parking lot might actually become part of the Catherine Scott Promenade after the completion of the project. According to the DDC office on City Island: "To facilitate the connection of the new water main, DDC built a tempo-

rory land mass adjacent to the promenade. When the water main has been completed, the contractor will remove the temporary structure."

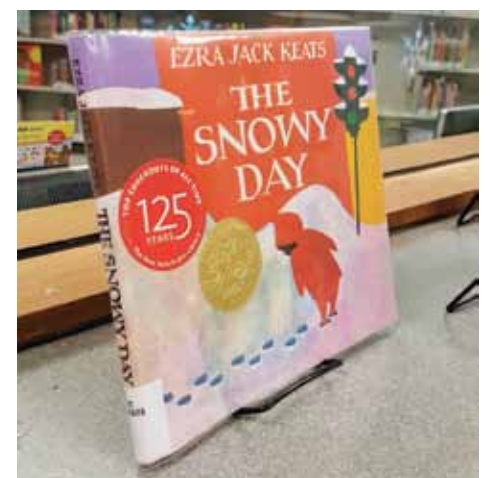
Island residents who would like to be kept in the loop regarding the project may add their names to the DDC e-mail list by calling the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) at 929-447-5407 or e-mailing CityIslandCCL@gmail.com. During non-working hours, Islanders should call 311 and give the project identification number, which is HED564.

Snow Big Deal



Photos by MARK NANI and MATT PANZA

Three inches of soft snow turned City Island into a picturesque winter scene on Jan. 18, 2020. Residents and their dogs watched the snow fall, while young readers checked out an appropriate book from the City Island Library.



BRIEFLY...

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Refreshments will be provided. Please come and give the gift of life.

AN ORGAN RECITAL AT CHRIST CHURCH, on Shore Road in Pelham at the corner of Pelhamdale Avenue, will be presented on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m., to celebrate the installation of the new Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ, a gift to the church from City Island resident Martin Nash to honor Mr. Hennigan, who served as the church's organization and choirmaster for 16 years. The organist, Daniel Roth, is a leading virtuoso widely acclaimed for his brilliant interpretations of organ music as well as improvisations. For tickets (\$30 for adults; \$25 for senior citizens and adults), e-mail www.concertsatchristchurch.org.

CITY ISLAND OYSTER REEF will celebrate Mardi Gras on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club with a fundraiser that will enable the group to purchase scientific equipment for the project. Tickets are \$75 (seniors and students \$50), which will cover the cost of the event, delicious appetizers, gumbo, oyster stew, raw oysters and desserts, as well as wine and beer and music, plus, of course, a contribution to the science fund. For reservations, call Sally Connolly at (917) 841-3301, or Rose Rodstrom at (646) 483-0627. If you cannot attend, donations will be gratefully accepted (and are tax-deductible); just send a check to City Island Oyster Reef, 88 Horton Street, Bronx NY 10464.

"GOD OF CARNAGE," a play by Yasima Resa, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, Saturday, Feb. 22, Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, Feb. 29, and at 3 p.m. on Sundays, Feb. 23 and March 1. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com or purchase them on line by visiting the website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

PICTURE THE GREAT OUTDOORS! The Friends of Pelham Bay Park invites photographers to submit images to a contest with five sections: Seasons, Wildlife, Secret Treasures, Explorers in the Park and Hidden History. The first two categories are complete, but the remaining three are still open for entries. All images must be submitted via e-mail to friendsofpelhambaypark@gmail.com during the period of submission for the specific category. A panel of judges will choose their five favorites in each category and these will be posted on the Friends Facebook page, where visitors can vote for their favorites. The judges will then decide on one Grand Prize winner to be announced at the Spring Fundraiser on April 2, 2020. Each photographer is asked to include a caption, subject of the image, when and where it was taken and the photographer's name. For more information, e-mail friendsofpelhambaypark@gmail.com.

CORRECTION

In the December issue, a letter to the editor from Carol Fitzpatrick contained an error in the second paragraph, which should have read: "There were several outstanding issues, but the most important one for City Island, I believe, was the issue of transportation to Hart Island [not City Island] after the transfer of jurisdiction to the Parks Department."

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THE ISLAND CURRENT
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Photo by MARY McINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group starts up its 21st year with the production of Yasmina Resa's play "God of Carnage." Rehearsing here are (l. to r.): Robert McEvily, Elizabeth Paldino, and Matthew A. Tomasino, with Pam Johnston, stage manager, in front.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during November and December 2019 and January 2020. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - CRIMINAL TRESPASS
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY
- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A VEHICLE
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 1 - FOUND DEADLY WEAPON

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Nov. 19, 2019, to Jan. 21, 2020.

11/21 - On Ditmars Street at 8 a.m., a male Islander told police that he was harassed outside his home by another Islander. The dispute reportedly arose over an Airbnb rental.

11/22 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 33, and charged him with DWI at 2:34 a.m. on Marine Street. The defendant was observed driving 45 mph in a 25 mph zone. When they stopped him, police detected the odor of alcohol on the defendant's breath.

12/9 - An Island female reported an incident of grand larceny at 10 a.m. The victim said she received a phone call from an unknown person impersonating a U.S. Marshal agent who told her to send \$1,900

by mail. She withdrew the money from her account and sent it in response to the call, which police believe was a scam.

12/10 - At 9 p.m., a staff member at P.S. 175 on City Island Avenue heard a noise by the front entrance. He opened the door and two unknown persons threw rocks at him in an act of harassment.

12/10 - An Island male reported an incident of criminal trespass at 11:57 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The complainant told police that an unknown male entered his property without permission.

12/15 - On City Island Avenue, an off-Island female was driving her vehicle when it was struck by an object thrown by unknown persons, causing damage to her front windshield at 4 p.m.

12/16 - At 4:30 p.m. on Centre Street, an Island male, 13, reported an assault. The complainant told police that three males called him names, shoved him and threw a skateboard at him. There were no injuries.

1/5 - On City Island Avenue at 5 p.m., a female Islander found four unloaded firearms while cleaning a former tenant's house. The weapons were turned over to police.

1/9 - Police arrested an off-Island female, 30, on City Island Avenue at 7:15 p.m. Officers observed her driving a vehicle with a defective tail light. When they stopped the vehicle, police ran the driver's license and found it had been suspended.

1/17 and 1/18 - Two incidents occurred at the City Island Little League building on City Island Avenue. At 7 p.m. on Jan. 17, unknown persons damaged the building by breaking the door, outside lights and some glass in an act of criminal mischief. On Jan. 18, unknown suspects committed a burglary by breaking into the building and removing items belonging to the Little League.

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2019 CI Recap: New Beginnings and Bittersweet Endings

By KAREN NANI

The last year of the decade was special for City Island in many ways. New organizations were formed with exciting missions, while other traditions and projects finally ended.

It took more than five years, but the City Island Bridge project was basically completed in 2019, including the fortified new sea wall and the reopening of Catherine Scott Promenade. The “Welcome to City Island” sign, installed by the Garden Club of City Island, was put back in the park. One of the bridge finials from the old bridge finally found a resting place in the Legion triangle in July.

Almost as soon as the bridge work ended, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) started the installation of a subaqueous water main that will replace the existing water main now sitting on top of the bridge.

It was the end of an era for the century-old St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program in 2019. The last moderator of the program, Islander Bill Whelan, told *The Current* that St. Mary’s basketball will not survive without more support from Island parents and players. “We are at the end of the program due to lack of interest. The remaining players from Bantam third- and fourth-graders and Tyro fifth- and sixth-graders went to play at Our Lady of Assumption (OLA), St. Mary’s sister parish in the Bronx.”

St. Mary’s basketball program grew throughout the last half of the 20th century and into the 21st century, often fielding as many as six competitive teams and an intramural program. The St. Mary’s teams, both boys and girls, competed successfully in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

In contrast, the 2019 City Island Little League season got off to a rousing start in April with the announcement of a grant from the YES Network for repairs and new equipment. League president, Dom Esposito announced the grant and introduced all the teams and their coaches. There were senior, major, minor and t-ball teams competing once again, thanks to the support of many Island businesses and organizations.

The City Island Drift group worked with volunteers young and old to continue enhancing the nautical spirit of City Island by launching several new projects on Via-Community Day in May. Tree pits along the avenue were mulched and planted, and beautiful images of boats were mounted on gates and fences. The Drift’s most ambitious plan was to start a major effort to restore the once-famous oyster population in City Island’s waters. The project was inspired by the experience of other groups, including the Billion Oyster Project, whose goal is to repopulate New York Harbor with oysters for the purpose of removing pollutants and to build oyster reefs that will protect the shoreline against storm surges and flooding.

During the summer, a new not-for-profit group, called the City Island Oyster



Reef, was formed to continue and expand the efforts begun by the Drift. Volunteers are working with City Island restaurants and have already begun to collect shells and store them in a location where they can cure for a year before being placed in the water. The Reef, working in coordination with the Billion Oyster Project and other groups, has special committees doing scientific research and educational programs along with reef building.

The first annual City Island St. Paddy’s Day 5K race was held on March 9 to benefit the 20th anniversary of the City Island Theater Group (CITG). More than 125 runners of all ages took on the race route, which started at Clipper Coffee and Hawkins Park, went over the bridge and back down to the southern end of the Island, with the finish line at the Snug.

Speaking of theater, there were SRO crowds for the historic 20th season of the City Island Theater Group (CITG), which produced three well-received shows in February, May and November: “A Few Good Men,” “Auntie Mame” and the crowd-pleasing musical “Mamma Mia.” Reserve your seats early for the 2020 season!

A number of Con Edison projects resulted in unusual structures on City Island in 2019 that raised eyebrows and questions from Island residents. For example, a large white block was constructed in the lot behind the fence at 220 City Island Avenue, which is in fact a battery storage unit. Con Ed also worked on other projects on City Island, including the April installation of new remote operating valves on the park side and at the entrance to the Island near the Legion triangle.

In May, the City Island Nautical Museum mounted an exhibit of eight student designs focused on transforming the vacant land adjacent to the City Island Bridge, known as the City Island Gateway. The



Photos by RICK DeWITT, MARY McINTYRE, MATT PANZA and RON TERNER

During the year 2019, Islanders welcomed some new beginnings, while other traditions and projects ended. It took more than five years, but the City Island Bridge project was basically completed in 2019. One of the finials from the old bridge finally found a resting place in the Legion triangle in July (top photo left). The century-old St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program came to an end in 2019 after years of fielding championship boys and girls teams (photo above). SRO crowds packed Grace Church parish hall for the historic 20th season of the City Island Theater Group (CITG), which ended with the crowd-pleasing musical “Mamma Mia!” (second photo above). The second annual ViaCommunity Day in May included the start of a major effort to restore the once-famous oyster population in City Island’s waters (bottom left photo).

students developed their designs during a semester-long studio class at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and also of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on City Island, which held a celebration at a well-attended Serviceman’s Dinner Dance in November.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in March 1919 as a patriotic veterans’ organization. It evolved from a group of veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the country, focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities. The Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on City Island was chartered four months later, on July 23, 1919, and named for the first soldier from City Island to die in World War I. Over the past hundred years, the Post has been active in the City Island community and dedicated to the aid of veterans and their families.

In November the New York City Council voted to transfer the control of Hart Island from the Department of Correction to the Department of Parks and Recreation, after many years of discussion, with Islanders speaking up both for and against the transfer, which will likely take place in 2021.

Islander residents also celebrated milestones in 2019: Lucy Zec’s 90th birthday; Susan Chadwick’s 70th birthday; and the 50th wedding anniversaries of Bette and David Carman, Pete and Dina Patrenicola and Greg and Irene Penny. Rabbi Shohama Weiner of Temple Beth-El retired after 18 years as head of City Island’s Jewish community. July 1 marked the last day of school for Amy Lipson, who had served as principal of City Island’s public school since 2005. She presided over her last eighth-grade graduation on June 21. Longtime P.S. 175 teacher Pat Cambria also retired in 2019 after 30 years of lovingly educating the Island’s elementary school children.

City Island Avenue also reflected beginnings and endings. A new community group, City Island Rising, was formed to help improve quality of life on the Island. But, unfortunately, several “For Sale” signs appeared on the block between Fordham and Hawkins Streets on City Island Av-

enue, most notably announcing the sale of the New Way Market, which everyone calls “Connie’s” for its owner. Many residents were unhappy to learn that Connie and her family are retiring, but they have been in business here for 36 years, and it’s time for the family to move on. But, in a sign of hope, several new businesses, including a juice bar, the Sea Breeze Deli, are opening, and the Library Bar is being renovated for Bob Carmody’s new real estate office. The empty storefront next to Eden Beauty Bar now houses Bob Carmody’s new real estate office.

Islander weddings in 2019 were well attended by happy family members and friends, including the marriages of Michele Immediato and Karl Neddermeyer, Kristina Ciuti and Al Hein, and Kimberly Nye and Erol Dulos.

Islanders mourned the loss of several beloved clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in 2019, including Alice Stuttig, Ann Sullivan, Faye Jordaens, Ed Shipp, Jennie Varian, Ben DiGregorio, Inge Otto, Christopher McGowan and Pat Dolphin.

Prominent politicians visited and supported Island projects in 2019. U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez held an SRO town hall in June, and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto obtained a state grant to support the Nautical Museum, the City Island Oyster Reef, the Little League, the City Island Theater Group and the Garden Club. Alessandra Biaggi visited the Island several times, most recently to address the City Island Civic Association, and Mark Gjonaj attended many events and meetings here.

Meanwhile, our columnists kept readers well informed on a variety of subjects related to City Island, including gardening (Mary Colby), parenting (John Scardina), taxes (Ed Heben), bird and animal life (John Sheridan and Maria Sutherland), Talebearer (Maria Seiciki), School News (Virginia Dannegger) and movies (Marsha Treiber). Our photographers, Rick DeWitt, Matt Panza and Ron Terner captured the many Island events on film from first communions to Viacomunity Day to the last SMSS basketball teams.

Thanks to our subscribers (who for-

Continued on page 13

<p>WES RODSTROM AND CONSOLIDATED FEATURED ON AMERICAN PICKERS</p>	<p>RAVE REVIEWS FOR HARLEM YACHT CLUB AND STEWARD ANNE BOOTH'S CUISINE</p>	<p>CI NAUTICAL MUSEUM WINS 2020 BEST OF THE BRONX AWARD</p>	<p>RABBI SHOHAMA RETIRES AND IS HONORED BY TEMPLE CONGREGATION</p>	<p>WATER MAIN TEMPORARY PENINSULA HAS ISLANDERS WONDERING</p>
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We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

City Island Lights Up

To the Editor,

This year the holiday lights sparked all the way down the Island, thanks to the contributions made by the following City Island businesses: A Quality Glass, the Lobster House, Captain Mike's Diving Service, Carmine De Donato CPA, Century 21, the film funds maintained by the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce, the City Island Diner, City Island Realty One, the Crab Shanty, Frosch Travel, Hailing Port, Haim Joseph Marina, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Lickety Split, Mary Colby Studio Gallery, the Morris Yacht Club, Robert Arthur King architect, Seafood City, Starving Artist and Z.I. Sanchez architect.

Thanks also to Skip and Louise

Giacco and Lickety Split for providing electricity to the Christmas tree, Menorah and park fence lights.

Paul Klein



Photo by RON TERNER

With Appreciation

To the Editor,

We wish to thank all of Jean's dear friends and the City Island Community for their heartfelt condolences on Jean's passing. Your support is overwhelming. The sharing of love and loss is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten, as will she.

Sincerely,

The family of Jean D'Allesandro

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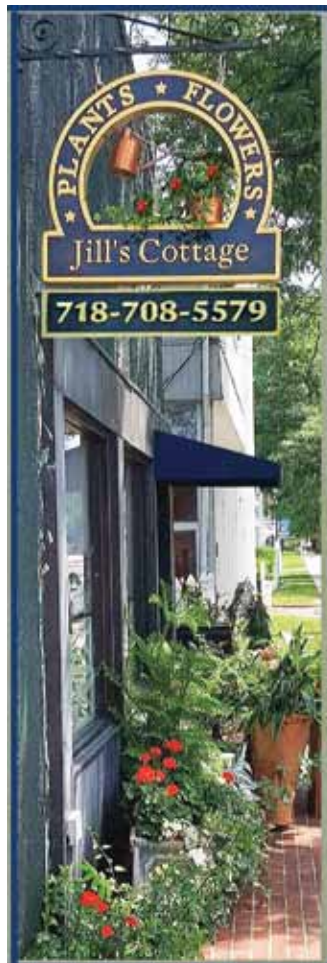
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Chamber 2019 Awards: Celebrating the Community

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Chamber of Commerce held its 109th annual awards celebration on Dec. 14, 2019, at the Pelham and Split Rock Golf Course, and a lively crowd attended to honor the contributions of several individuals and businesses to the City Island community.

Skip Giacco, president of the Chamber of Commerce and leader of the Lickety Split band, began the awards ceremony by welcoming City Councilman Mark Gjonaj, and thanking everyone for their part in making the past year a successful one for the Island.

Councilman Gjonaj presented the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award, named for the first president of the Chamber, to Bernardino (Dino) Esposito and Danny Pirraglia, the owners and founders of the Seafood City Restaurant. The restaurant was established in 2002 and is family-oriented, offering a place for children to have fun as well as seafood. He also noted that the owners have been very generous to the community, making donations to local churches, community programs, the Nautical Museum and athletic organizations for young people.

The councilman also recognized the contributions to the community made by two businesses, the Crab Shanty, which is operated by Michele Howard Debitetto, and Joseph Mandarinino of the Lobster House, and his wife, Marie. Although both families now live off the Island, Michele is a genuine clam digger and Joe has spent many years on City Island, working his way up from waiter to bartender to manager and now owner of the Lobster House.

Tom Smith, a second-generation City Islander, has been an active community volunteer for the past 30 years, and his contributions were recognized by Fred Ramftl, who presented Tom with the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award. Tom Smith has been treasurer of the City Island Civic Association for many years, and he has served as president of the Fordham Street Beach Club and the Community Center. He is now president of the Pilot Cove Manor Housing Development Fund Co. and serves on Community Board 10 and the Montefiore Medical Center Community Advisory Board. In accepting the award, Tom noted that his regular contribution of the tide chart to *The Island Current* probably gets the most attention of any of his activities, since it ap-

pears on many refrigerator doors throughout the Island.

The Garden Club of City Island was awarded the Catherine Scott Achievement Award by Cathi Swett, who presented the award to Judy Judson, the organization's president. The club has been active in many programs to beautify the Island, from renovating and maintaining the garden in front of the Post Office to helping the Parks Department renovate Hawkins Park, establishing and caring for more than 30 planters along City Island Avenue and providing holiday decorations for community organizations, the Pelham Cemetery and Hawkins Park. The club was recently responsible for installing tree guards between Fordham and Hawkins Streets as well as contracting for the selected pruning of trees and the cleaning of tree pits. Formed in 1961, the club continues to provide education about plants, gardens and ecology in addition to its beautification efforts.

Peter Del-Debbio, commander of the American Legion Post #156 on City Island, presented a Special Certificate for Community Service to the Ulmer family, which has contributed so much to City Island over the years. A sixth-generation City Islander, John Ulmer accepted the award on behalf of his wife, Linda, and their family. In 1968, he was a charter signer of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC), and both he and Linda became certified Emergency Medical Technicians, teaching first aid courses and CPR classes. They have been active members of the Leonard Hawkins Post for many years; John proposed and ran the first pumpkin sale, now a beloved annual event, and Linda has served as a president of the Auxiliary. For many years, John was administrator of the Pelham Cemetery, arranging for maintenance of the cemetery, burials, and record keeping.

Three Barbaras then stood at the podium on behalf of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum. Barbara Dolensek, vice president of the CIHS, presented the Nautical Heritage Award to Barbara Hoffman, an active trustee of the museum and administrator of the gift shop, and to Barbara Harrison, a trustee who has lent her expertise over the years to the installation of exhibits in the museum, among other contributions. All three Barbaras spoke about the importance of celebrating City Is-



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Deserving volunteers and business owners were honored at the City Island Chamber of Commerce dinner on Dec. 14, 2019. Shown above are the award winners and Chamber officers (seated, l. to r.) Linda Ulmer, Judy Judson, Barbara Harrison, Marie Mandarinino, Joe Mandarinino and Barbara Hoffman. Standing: Skip Giacco, John Ulmer, Councilman Mark Gjonaj, Dino Esposito, Dan Pirraglia, Tom Smith, Michele Debitetto and Paul Klein. Outgoing president Skip Giacco, along with Paul Klein, presented the awards to dedicated City Island organizations, including the Garden Club of City Island.

land's unique history and hoped that other Islanders will be interested in volunteering their time to the museum, even if they don't answer to the name Barbara.

In acknowledging several new businesses on the Island, Skip Giacco expressed optimism about City Island's commercial future. In spite of a few empty storefronts, the fact that several successful shops have opened along City Island Avenue is a very encouraging sign for the future. These businesses include Clipper Coffee, Dominick's Market, Janos and Theresa Gallery, Jill's Cottage and John Foley's Rarities & Obscurities.

Skip also acknowledged the hard work put in by the Chamber board throughout the year and expressed special thanks to Paul Klein and Louise Giacco for helping to make the awards event a success. He also acknowledged the important role played by Peter La Scala, the previous president of the Chamber, who continues to support City Island.

All in all, this impressive list of honorees brought out an impressive crowd to the event, and everyone enjoyed a fine dinner and the opportunity to dance the evening away after they applauded the honorees for their significant contributions to the community.

Skip Giacco to Step Down as Chamber President

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Jan. 16, Skip Giacco submitted his resignation as president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since 2009. As of press time, the Chamber officers had not selected a replacement, although they plan to do so as soon as possible.

Skip told *The Current* that he felt the time was right to step down, in spite of the fact that business on City Island continues to have its ups and downs, mostly ups in the past couple of years. He believes that the time has come for someone with new ideas to bring them to the community, but he and his wife, Louise, have no plans to leave the Island. They will, of course, continue to run Lickety Split and provide music for parties and other get-togethers.

Paul Klein, vice president of the Chamber, spoke for the board by saying: "It has been a pleasure working with Skip all these years. His vision of City Island's potential has successfully guided us through many situations with both other organizations and our elected officials. His goal of creating a unified community for the benefit of all is his legacy and remains a work in progress. Louise Giacco has been a force behind Skip and an unofficial member of the board. She has gone above and beyond

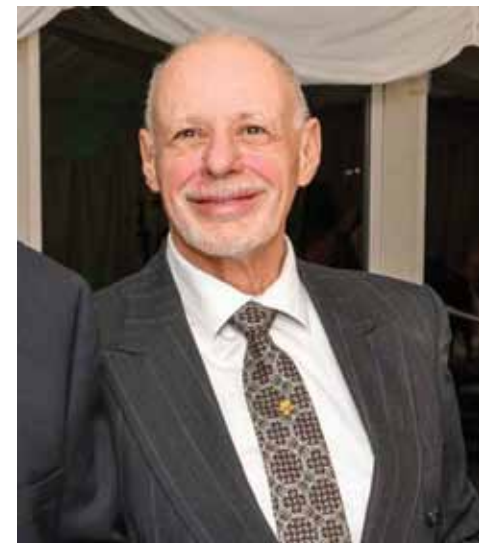


Photo by RICK DeWITT

Skip Giacco resigned as president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, after serving for 11 years. He presided over his last Chamber Awards Dinner in December 2019 (above).

to keep things moving in the right direction, attending many board meetings, coordinating our very successful annual awards dinner dances, doubling as our financial secretary and administrating critical tasks. Their contributions will be deeply missed."



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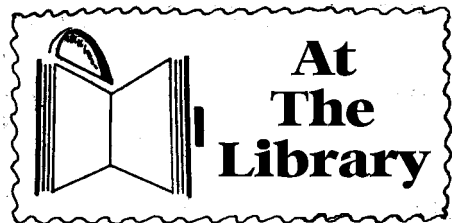


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Visit the **Clipper Gallery** exhibition opening featuring the photographs of Ben Zucker on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Clipper Coffee, 274 City Island Avenue.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Tiny Tots: Learn, grow and have fun through educational play! Ages birth to 4. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Feb. 7, at 11:30 a.m.

Books and Bites: Every week, come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! We will be reading "The Bridge Home." Thursday, Feb. 6, 13 and 27, at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Crazy Little Thing Called Love: Learn how to write your very own love song! We'll listen to some popular examples, and then walk you through the steps of writing your very own lyrics and putting it to original music. With accomplished Singer-Songwriter Joanna Schubert, participants will brainstorm together what a "love" song can be about—from the romantic angle to beloved pets or even a place they love to visit. Our teacher will bring instruments so each song can fully come to life! Presented by Urban Stages. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 4 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Looking for a quiet place to get some homework done? Take advantage of library resources to catch up on homework, study and read. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m.

Game Jam: Get in the game! Whether it's using the Wii or going old school and getting out the board games, this is the perfect way to relax at the end of the week! Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Wacky Wednesdays: Take some time halfway through the week to explore technology, research and the arts with different activities. Every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Feb. 5: Design Your Perfect Library; Feb. 19: How A Heart Pumps; Feb. 26: Dream Clouds.

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, word searches, and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun: Come express yourself by getting crafty at the City

Island Library! Regardless of your experience level, please join us and glue, tape, cut, stamp, string, embellish and decorate your way to a beautiful keepsake or a thoughtful gift. Thursday, Feb. 13, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Computer Lab Assistance Monday: C.L.A.M. is here to shell out answers to your tech questions! Use one of our desktops or laptops, or bring your own device. Smartphones, e-readers, and tablets are welcome as well. Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, Feb. 6 and 20, at 5 p.m.

Crossword Crunch: There's no "I" in team, but there is a lot of fun in solving puzzles with friends! Join us in unwrapping the clues and attempting to complete the entire puzzle before time runs out! Who's ready to savor the sweet taste of victory? No registration required. Thursday, Feb. 13 and 27, at 5 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Feb. 10 and 24, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to

help one another along in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resumé Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movie: Feature

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movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m. Feb. 1: To Kill a Mockingbird; Feb. 8: The Learning Tree; Feb. 15: Crooklyn; Feb. 22: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?; Feb. 29: Loving.

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!

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CITY ISLAND DECKED FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Photos by GINGER DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT, MATT PANZA and RON TERNER

For the second year, City Island businesses sponsored holiday lights along City Island Avenue. The team at the City Island Post Office, including Magali Rivera, Cynthia Gonzalez, Vanessa Vazquez, Jim Wu and manager Waldemar Piegdon (top left photo), decorated the lobby and handled Islander packages and mail during the busy holiday season. The tree was lit in Hawkins Park on Nov. 29, accompanied by carol singing led by Elizabeth Farnum (second photo, left). Island revelers and shoppers made their way to the Community Center Carnival on Dec. 8 (bottom photos, left), the Girl Scout Bake Sale on Dec. 15, and the PSS Senior Center holiday lunch on Dec. 16 at Grace Church (first and second photos, right). Trinity United Methodist Church presented its Children's Christmas Pageant on Dec. 15 (third photo, right), followed by a visit from Santa. On Dec. 22, organist Ken Farnum and his carolers sang beautifully at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church during Lessons and Carols (fourth photo, right), and Temple Beth-El's Rabbi David Markus lit the menorah in Hawkins Park (third photo, left). Finally, Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School celebrated the birth of Jesus with a joyous pageant on Christmas Eve (bottom photo, right).



John & Linda Ulmer

As recipients of the Community Service Award from the City Island Chamber of Commerce for their decades of volunteerism to multiple City Island Organizations including CIVAC, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, Boy Scout Troop 211 and Pelham Cemetery.



Barbara Harrison Kaye

As Recipient of the Nautical Heritage Award from City Island Chamber of Commerce for her significant contributions to documenting and memorializing the role the people of City Island played the in shipbuilding and sail making over the past 150 plus years.

We Thank You all for all that you do and wish you
Sincere Congratulations!

Joy of Cooking (and Sailing)

By KAREN NANI

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Something is cooking at the Harlem Yacht Club, and it has been extra tasty for the last five years under the stewardship of Anne Booth. She and the membership director, Anthony Rosco, are excited about the 2020 season at the club, on both land and sea.

As most City Islanders know, the Harlem Yacht Club (HYC) is not in Harlem, but it did start out there. The club, now on Hunter Avenue on City Island, was initially founded at 124th Street and the East River in June of 1883. It spent most of its first two decades three blocks further south, at the old Randall mansion (former home of the same family that owned Randalls Island), and it also operated a "station" at College Point, from which most of its regattas were conducted. In 1894 the club gave up its station at College Point in favor of one on property it had purchased on City Island.

The College Point clubhouse was towed to the new site, but it was replaced by a lovely Victorian building in 1898, when it was decided that a larger structure was needed. Unfortunately, the building burned in 1915, but it was promptly replaced by the club's current three-story building, which houses a bar, a restaurant and a members' lounge on its main floor, as well as a second-story ballroom and third-floor offices and steward's quarters.

"The deck and bar area were remodeled and expanded after the December storm of 1992," Mr. Rosco told *The Current*. For those who want to dine or hold a private event at the club, there is now an atrium, which holds up to 50 people, as well as an outdoor deck and the upstairs ballroom, which holds over 100 people with a dance floor and band. All these venues have beautiful water views and are frequently used for bridal showers, weddings, birthday parties and other celebrations.

In 2015, club officers were looking for a new steward to run their kitchen and catering operation. Anne Booth, who was providing catering services for the Huguenot Yacht Club in New Rochelle, heard about the position and came to City Island to interview for the job. "I had never been to City Island, and I was awed when I arrived on the avenue and at the club." Anne is a graduate of Oberlin College and the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). While working on her undergraduate degree at Oberlin, Anne pursued the culinary arts by cooking in the kitchens of campus cooperatives, as well as in local restaurants. After graduation, Anne moved to Portland, OR, and formally began her career as a professional chef. After a few years of work in Portland's lively and diverse restaurant industry, Anne decided to formalize her passion by attending the CIA in Hyde Park, New York.

After graduating from the CIA in 2000, Anne worked as a private chef in Bedford, NY, and Greenwich, CT, before becoming an executive chef and a general manager at two private clubs in Manhattan. In 2002, she began to cater private parties, and the pleasure she derived from creating her own menus and managing her own ingredients and staff led to the establishment of Anne Booth Catering in 2005 in Westchester

County. This is a full-service on-site catering company that features local high-quality food from both garden and pasture. Anne and her husband, Kwon Chong, specialize in weddings, fundraisers, private parties and other special events in New York City, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Luckily for club members and Island residents, Anne is able to maintain her catering business while also serving as steward for the Harlem Yacht Club. "During the boating season (May to November)," she says, "we serve lunch and dinner five days a week to members and guests, along with catered events for club members and Island residents." Although the club is closed for lunch and dinner during January and February, special events can be celebrated there at any time. "All Islanders are welcome and, of course, we have reciprocity with the other City Island Yacht Clubs for meals, sailing races, and other events," Mr. Rosco explained.

Anne's menus and special events are getting rave reviews. "Our regular lunch and dinner menu starts with traditional American fare, including oversized burgers, fried seafood baskets, steaks and pastas. There are specials every week, usually other ethnic foods, such as Mexican and Asian, as well as a kids' menu" she proudly explained.

Anne has also brought her culinary creativity to the Harlem Yacht Club with themed dinners, such as Opera Night with Freddie Lando, a Lobster Bake, Jazz Night, Movie Night and special BBQs, as well as the customized menus she and her staff offer for private parties. Islander Ginger Dannegger held her daughter's bridal shower in the atrium in 2018 and was thrilled with the food and service. "Everyone at the party went back to the buffet table for seconds, and there were no leftovers by the end of the shower."

Today the club enjoys a complement of about 155 members, both boat owners and social members. Anne and Anthony continue to experiment with different specials for members and guests, including "Thirsty Thursday" happy hour with bar food complementing the regular menu.

The club's fleet of over 100 boats comprises 80 percent sail and 20 percent power. For racers, they offer events to match any experience level: a full schedule of club races, participation in the local EBYRA handicap events, and an active J/24 one-design fleet. For those who don't sail, they even offer cardboard boat races (where the idea is to paddle across the finish line before your boat sinks beneath you). You can read all about the club's history and programs at their website www.hyc.org.

The Harlem has a year-round social schedule, starting with International Night in January and running through to the December holiday party (when Santa shows up by boat). In between, the club offers everything from a winter darts tournament to formal dinner dances, accompanied by Anne's delicious menus.

The Harlem Yacht Club has three classes of membership: active, intermediate and social. All classes, except for social, are available as either an individual membership, or as a family membership shared



Photo by KAREN NANI

Good things are cooking at the Harlem Yacht Club under the stewardship of Anne Booth (right) and membership director, Anthony Rosco.

by a couple. "We also offer a summer affiliate program for people who want to try the club out before deciding to join, and we have lowered our social membership cost to \$25 a month to encourage more Islanders and off-Islanders to join," Mr. Rosco explained.

To inquire about membership, please email membership@hyc.org or come to one

of the open houses held during the spring. Don't forget to try some of Anne's tasty dishes while you are there. You can check out her club menus on their website or visit her catering site at www.annebooth-catering.com. And if you are a customer of Apple Bank, be sure to notice that the bank is featuring a wonderful photograph of the club's dock in their calendar for 2020.



Photos by RON TURNER

Island clergy and longtime members of Temple Beth-El lovingly honored Rabbi Shohama Harris Wiener on Nov. 24, 2019, at a luncheon at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course (top photo, center in green). Rabbi Shohama retired after 18 years as spiritual head of City Island's "Shul by the Sea."

AMERICAN PICKERS COME TO TOWN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Monday, Dec. 16, Islanders were delighted to get a chance to go behind the scenes at Consolidated Yachts on Pilot Street by tuning in to a popular show called "American Pickers" on the History Channel.

Wes Rodstrom, whose family owned Consolidated Yachts since 1949, is famous for his collection of seafaring antiques, old cars, boat models, toys and other collectibles, but these are rarely seen by the public. At the request of "American Pickers," however, Wes was happy to show some of his collection to Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, who have been going around the country since 2010 to buy items for resale or for themselves. Every week, they go on the road visiting people's homes, barns, sheds and other places where stuff has been

stored.

Wes was happy to show off his boat models, some of which are quite valuable, and the pickers made offers he couldn't refuse. And as he showed them through the various outbuildings at Consolidated, viewers got a chance to see what else Wes has been accumulating through the years, from old Volkswagen vans to marine equipment. Those who missed the episode can view it On Demand on some cable services (Season 21, Episode 7).

Rumor has it that Wes is planning to end his lease with the owner of the property, Seafaring Realty, which purchased the yard in 2017 and is planning to resell it. Certainly, many Islanders would find it very difficult to imagine Consolidated without Wes and his prized possessions.

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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

FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 11, **Blood Drive** sponsored by the Bronx Masons, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Fri., Feb. 21 and 28; Sat., Feb. 22 and 29; Sun., Feb. 23 and March 1, **CITG "God of Carnage,"** Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Sat., Feb. 22, **Mardi Gras Fundraiser** for C. I. Oyster Reef, Harlem Yacht Club on Hunter Avenue, 7 to 10 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 25, Shrove **Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Sat., Feb. 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Baked ziti.

MARCH

Sat., March 21, **Temple Beth-El 86th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Dance**, Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Feb 2, at 12 noon, followed by the Super Bowl Party. Dues (\$55) are past due for 2020; please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope.

The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

Make note of the following dates for upcoming meetings: Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. is the American Legion Auxiliary meeting; Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. is the Sons of the Legion meeting.

Happy Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 to all Legion family members.

Don't miss our Pig's Knuckle Party on Feb. 29, from 6 to 10 p.m. This event is being hosted by Squadron 156; the cost is \$30 per person, so please sign up and pay in advance.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group kicks off its 2020 season with Yasmina Reza's 2009 Tony Award-winning play "God of Carnage." This is the story of two sets of parents dealing with a fight between their sons, one of whom struck the other with a stick, resulting in two broken teeth. The parents have agreed to meet to talk about the incident in a calm manner. As the evening progresses and the clafoutis (a baked French dessert) almost becomes a fifth character in the room, the parents become increasingly angry and start insulting each other, as well as with their own spouses. Playing the parents are Robert McEvily, Elizabeth Paldino, Kaitlyn Stoltze and Matthew A. Tomasino. The production is directed by Joseph Montano, and Pam Johnston will stage manage. The play will run on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21 and 22; Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and 29, at 8

p.m. and on Sundays Feb. 23 and March 1 at 3 p.m. All performances are at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. See *BRIEFLY* on page 2 for ticket information.

Mary MacIntyre

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Legion Hall.

In December the Quilters by the Sea QOV awarded Quilts of Valor to Frank Hoffman, a Korean War veteran, and Michael Treat, a Vietnam War veteran, in a beautiful ceremony at the hall. The American Legion also recognized Michael Treat with a special award for his decades of service as Vice Commander for Membership. Feb. 8 will be our first Sew Saturday of 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Legion Hall. If you are interested in making Quilts of Valor to honor our local veterans, contact Harlan Sexton at harlan.sexton1@gmail.com.

ALA Mission Training will take place on March 14 in Hartford, CT. Contact Doreen Wall for more information.

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be on March 15 at the Legion Hall; more details next month.

Support the Troops Program: The Auxiliary is partnering with our sister group, Theodore Korony Unit 253, to ship personal supplies to our active service military in Afghanistan. Everyone is welcome to help through purchases or funding. Contact Joanne Valletta at Jcute53@aol.com. There are drop-off bins at the Post, the Island Pharmacy, Trinity Church and the Morris Yacht Club.

Thinking about joining the Auxiliary? Come to any of our meetings, e-mail our membership chairwoman Viki Trifari at wik99@me.com about eligibility, and meet the members of the largest, oldest and most active women's group in our community. We're growing and doing more every year.

Farewell: In December, the Auxiliary said goodbye to long-serving member Margaret M. Fennel. At the wake, we honored her with a Poppy Service.

Gratitude: The Auxiliary recognizes the tremendous effort that our past Unit President and Legion Centennial Dinner Chairwoman Laura Booth put into the 2019 American Legion Centennial Dinner. She was assisted by other members of the Legion family and the hard-working Centennial Committee, which ensured an outstanding and memorable event.

Harlan Sexton

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come in and check out our after-holiday sales, our bag sales and our half-price sales, as well as our Valentine's Day specials, which include bric-a-brac, jewelry and soft items (like stuffed animals). Come in and have a complimentary cup of coffee and crumpets.

Arlene Byrne

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington with Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

You are invited to join Father Coving-

ton's Bible Reading Group, which meets during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the book of Judges.

Sunday School: The group meets on the first and third Sunday each month at 10 a.m., led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 13, and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Ms. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation during the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry with the GraceTones: Guided by our music director, Caroline Coppola, this music ministry began in the fall of 2015 with a handful of singers from the church choir and City Island locals rehearsing hymns and popular music to perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Since then, our membership has grown from 5 to 11 singers who lend our voices to this "feel-good ministry."

We call ourselves the GraceTones and we have sung for the residents at Workmen's Circle Multicare Center in the Bronx, Dumont Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care in New Rochelle, and Sunrise at Fleetwood Assisted Living in Mount Vernon, to name a few. Starting in the fall of 2019, GraceTones had the pleasure of entertaining guests at Pizza Night and Spaghetti Night right here at Grace Church. Over the past year we widened our audience base by performing at City Island venues such as The Artist and Clipper Coffee, and we have been invited to sing in mid-March at the new art gallery on the corner of Hawkins Street owned by Janos and Theresa. As we have believed from the start, "You don't have to sing like an angel, you just need the desire to lift the spirits of those in need!"

Sandy Dunn

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. At other times, services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please arrive 15 minutes early. Services are followed by an oneg* (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

Feb. 7: Community-led services

Feb. 14: Kabbalat Love Shabbat. Join Rabbi David and the Band for a special Shabbat for Love (for Valentine's Day) and the many ways we do love (for the Ten Commandments given in this week's Torah portion, Yitro). Celebratory oneg to follow.

Feb. 21: Community-led services

Feb. 28: Kabbalat Shabbat. Join Rabbi David and the Band for a musical welcome to this Shabbat of Giving. This week's portion (Terumah) begins with receiving gifts from everyone with a willing heart.

Bring your willing heart and gifts: there is a lot to give, and we become God's sanctuary. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Other Activities

Feb. 9: Tu B'Shevat "Wine and Cheese" Seder: Mystical Mid-Winter Journey of Spring, starting at 5 p.m. Join Rabbi David and the mystics for this year's Tu B'shevat seder to summon the earth's renewal we call spring. As sap lifts trees to new life, we will lift through Four Worlds, shedding layers to reveal new growth. Selections of quality wine and organic cheeses to be served.

March 8: Purimpalooza at 7:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David (who won't be Rabbi David) and a veritable cast of characters for a super-fun Purim of hijinks, lowbrow, highbrow, hiddenness and revelation. Come in costume, shed inhibition (we have ways of helping!) and prepare for the unexpected.

SAVE THE DATE: March 21: Spring Fling and 86th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance from 6 to 10 p.m. This is a highlight of the TBE year, our annual gala dinner dance to benefit Your Shul by the Sea. Bring your dancing shoes and dress colorfully for this first day of spring. This year's event honors TBE vice president Jodie Sadovsky and Phillis Maucieri and TBE's amazing musicians!

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

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

*Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yearzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to find out more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Paul Klein

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, we will have Blessing of the Throats at all the Masses on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Our monthly holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the First Friday, Feb. 7, from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Our monthly coffee hour will take place on Sunday, Feb. 9, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come enjoy light refreshments with fellow parishioners.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time for prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m.

The Holy Rosary will be prayed Mondays through Friday after the 7 a.m. Mass and Saturdays after 8 a.m. Mass, Sundays, after the 9 a.m. Mass. Rosaries and copies of all prayers will be provided. All are welcome!

Rose Dietz

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.

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

The Winter Member Appreciation Brunch was a great success. Thanks go to all those who helped make it so. And thank you to members for renewing and joining. The Membership Drive will continue for another month. If you need a renewal form, please call 718-885-1145 and we will mail one. For up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or Like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

Reserve your place for A Taste of Italy: Carnevale Time at The Marketplace. Taste a variety of wines and purchase the best of olive oils, cheeses and pastas direct from the wholesaler. Call Francesca at 914-837-6830 for reservations and information.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. And we always want to hear your ideas and thoughts about how to serve the community better.

EVENTS

Carnivale: A Taste of Italy: Sunday, Feb. 23, 1 to 6 p.m. This popular Italian marketplace is coming back to City Island. Mark your calendars and plan on getting the best of Italian products. Tickets for members \$25, for non members \$30. Call Francesca at 914-837-6830 for more information.

Narcan Training: Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. Learn when, why and how to use Narcan on individuals who have overdosed. Narcan will be provided.

NEW

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

Apothecary of Essential Oils: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Learn about the benefits today and how they were used thousands of years in the past. Visit www.thehealingforce.net or call Francesca at 914-837-6830.

Chair Yoga: Call to join Joann for this gentle class with an emphasis on the benefits of stretching and flexing. Contact joannngny@aol.com or 917-853-4719.

Compassionate Journey: NEW DAY. First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. An open support group for anyone who has lost a loved one. Goals are to create a safe, empathetic and supportive environment and offer coping mechanisms for those working through bereavement. Please sign up with Jillian Cea via jcea@gmail.com or 347-419-1222.

Italian for the Traveler, Day and time to be announced. Learn basic conversational Italian with Maria Bortoluzzi and special guest Freddie Lando. Register now; please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Zumba with John: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Have fun, feel energetic and get in shape with John Molina. Call 914-882-0245 for details.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Creative Arts Workshop for Ages 4-6: Tuesdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Beginning Feb. 4. Fun with collage, finger painting, mask-making and more. Call 914-837-6830 to register for this free class.

Valentine Letter Writing & Card Making Workshops: Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for teens and preteens; 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 6 to 10. Materials fee \$5. It's going to be fun. For more details, contact rsangler10464@gmail.com or leave a clear message at 718-885-1145.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. To register for fall classes or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Pre-

school children get together to socialize, have fun and play. Register for the fall with Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Thursdays, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish program for kids grades K through 8 at all skill levels. Register for the fall at espanol-experience.com or call 917-889-4938.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

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

City Island Culinary Club: Second and fourth Mondays, 7 p.m. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters, and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of The Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to the Community Center. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

WW/Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a great new leader, Alex Sokoloff. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia: Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursdays, new time, 6:30 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

AARP Chapter 318

We usually meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. In February our meetings will be on the 5th and the 19th. At the Feb. 19 meeting, we will take names for the St. Patrick / St. Joseph Day luncheon on March 18.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Carroll A. Reid

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.

Each weekday morning, Pastor Dave opens the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time,



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Michael J. Treat, surrounded by his family for the presentation of his Quilt of Valor at the Legion Hall in December 2019,

we pray for children and the schools, for families and individuals, for businesses, for those who are grieving, and for the health of any who we have heard are ill. If you would like to have yourself or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Avenue. Prayer requests can also be sent to david.jolly@nyac-umc.com. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

The Budget Shop is open. Our volunteers are hard at work stocking the shelves and sorting the communities generous donations.

Rick DeWitt

PSS Senior Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

New Series, Money Made Simple, on Fridays at 1 p.m. (open to the public), Anthea Perkinson, CFP, EA; Feb. 7, Keys to Successful Investing; Feb. 19 at 10 a.m.: Hands on: Pull Your Credit Report (limited space; pre-register); Feb. 21: Putting it All together: Constructing a Retirement Income Plan

Feb. 14 at 12:45 p.m.: Valentine's Day Party with singer Richard Rhodes

Feb. 17: Closed

Feb. 18, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Library Day; check out and return books at the Center

Feb. 28, 12:15 p.m.: Movie ("On The Basis of Sex") and lunch

Note: Our social worker returns in mid-February to help with Medicaid, SNAP, SCRIE and more. Call for further information.

New: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Ask Dr. Dick (Dr. Richard Chernaik, MD) will give a 10-minute presentation before answering your medical questions.

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels
10:30 a.m. Balance Exercises
12 to 1 p.m. Lunch
1:15 Singing Group

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training
10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Blood-pressure screening
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

9 a.m. "Stuff: Let's Talk," discussion group with continental breakfast

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy on the second and fourth Wednesdays

1 p.m. Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 on Jan. 8, 22. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. on Feb. 27: Birthday Party

12:30 p.m. Ask Dr. Dick (Dr. Richard Chernaik, MD), who will make a 10-minute presentation before answering your medical questions.

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Zumba. Vigorous cardio and toning

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

12:30/1 p.m. See details in Highlights above.

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information or for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

City Island Civic Association

There was no meeting in December, a long-standing tradition. At the November meeting the officers on the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected: Fred Ramftl (first vice president), Tom Smith (treasurer) and Mark Limardo (corresponding secretary).

The board continued working on its different projects. The Water Safety Committee has been in contact with Bronx Councilmembers Mark Gjonai and Fernando Cabrera, who have been working on important legislation to establish a permanent station for Harbor Patrol in the Bronx. They have been in touch with the Speaker of the Council, Corey Johnson, and the new Police Commissioner, Dermot Shea, hoping to coordinate an event on City Island to update Bronx residents about the legislation.

The Municipal Relations Committee has been working with Bronx DOT commissioner Nivardo Lopez on the dangerous merge where the southbound Hutchinson River Parkway meets traffic exiting I95 south. The request has been assigned to an operational unit and given a case number; a response is expected in February. Other

Continued on page 16



On the Road

There are a plethora of movies that take place “on the road.” Rob Reiner’s **The Sure Thing** (1985) is the story of the cross-country journey of college students Walter “Gib” Gibson (John Cusack) and Alison Bradbury (Daphne Zuniga) as they make their way from New England to Los Angeles, each in an effort to meet their ideal match. Gib is a college freshman who keeps striking out with women, and he is thrilled when his best friend, Lance (Anthony Edwards), invites him to California to meet a beautiful young woman (Nicollette Sheridan), who ostensibly is willing to have a tryst with him. Gib and Alison wind up carpooling with Gary Cooper (Tim Robbins) and Mary Ann Webster (Lisa Jane Persky), an extremely annoying couple. Despite the film’s predictable conclusion, Cusack and Zuniga deliver such engaging performances that the audience is rooting for them to wise up and discover one another from the very first scene. One of the best bits is the mismatched couple being bombarded with an ear-piercing rendition of “The Age of Aquarius” by their dippy traveling companions.

In **Rain Man** (1988) Dustin Hoffman stars as Raymond, an autistic savant who has been institutionalized since he was a child. Tom Cruise appears as his brother, Charlie, neither man being aware of the other’s existence. That changes when their father dies, leaving all his money to Raymond. Charlie begins the movie as a con artist, but when the brothers take a cross country trip together, Charlie’s feelings towards his brother change. Cruise gives a very special, nuanced performance which I have always thought was underrated.

Driving Miss Daisy (1989) stars Jessica Tandy as Miss Daisy, an elderly southern woman whose son, Boolie (Dan Akroyd), is concerned for her safety. He hires widower Hoke Colburn (Morgan Freeman) to drive her car. Thus begins the 25-year friendship from the 1940s to ‘70s of a black man and a Jewish woman. The cast also boasts Patti LuPone as Boolie’s snobby wife, Florine, and Esther Rolle as Miss Daisy’s cook and housekeeper. The richness of the acting is exquisite. The film won four Academy Awards including Best Picture, Actress (Tandy), Screenplay, and Makeup.

Thelma and Louise (1991) stars Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon in the title roles as two working-class friends who together have planned a weekend getaway from the men in their lives. Brad Pitt’s performance as a sweet-talking hitchhiker to whom they give a ride garnered universal attention, despite only a few minutes’ worth of screen time. After an unfortunate encounter in a bar parking lot, the two women decide to go on the run. The pair is pursued by a police officer (Harvey Keitel), who is sympathetic toward their plight. He chases them to the Grand Canyon, where the women make a fateful decision about their lives in a truly unforgettable ending.

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994) is a very quirky art film about three Australian drag queens who travel across Australia in their bus “Priscilla” to perform in a casino stage show in a remote town. Hugo Weaving stars as Tick/Mitzi, Guy Pearce as Adam/Felicia and Terrance Stamp, in an extraordinary performance, as the transsexual, Bernadette. This is a funny, outrageous and poignant film. It features some of the most outlandish costumes to ever win an Academy Award.

Boys on the Side (1995) is the story of three women: a singer named Jane (Whoopi Goldberg) and her friend Holly

(Drew Barrymore), who are given a ride west by Robin (Mary-Louise Parker), who advertises for someone to share the driving with her. They are wildly different in character, Jane being a cynical lesbian, Holly a man-crazy reckless bundle of energy, and Robin a competent, compulsive but fragile woman with a secret. Their friendship turns them into a family as events force them to curtail their journey in Tucson. Matthew McConaughey is on hand as Abe, a cop who is Holly’s love interest; and Anita Gillette is delightful as Robin’s mother, Elaine.

Writer/director Spike Lee’s drama **Get on the Bus** (1996) is about a busload of black men traveling to Washington DC for the “million man march.” The outstanding cast includes Charles S. Dutton as the organizer of this particular bus trip; Andre Braugher as a homophobic aspiring actor with a huge chip on his shoulder; Ossie Davis as a laid-off factory worker; and Richard Belzer as a white Jewish bus driver whose presence draws attention to some of the less noble motivations of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. This is a fascinating, thought-provoking drama.

Smoke Signals (1998) is a film that was written, directed and co-produced by Native Americans. In 1976, an infant survives a fire that kills his parents. In the present day, the infant has grown up to become a nerdy teenager named Thomas (Evan Adams), who lives on Idaho’s desolate Coeur d’Alene Indian reservation with his grandmother (Monique Mojica). When a stoic athlete, Victor Joseph (Adam Beach), learns of the death of his father, Arnold (Gary Farmer) in Phoenix, Thomas offers to pay for the trip if he can accompany Victor. The odd pair travel by bus to Arnold’s small trailer in the desert, where they meet Arnold’s friend Suzy Song (Irene Bedard), who provides unsettling truths about him.

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

Writer/director Cameron Crowe’s **Almost Famous** (2000) pays homage to the 1970s. It stars Patrick Fugit as William Miller, a 15-year old whiz kid, who gets assigned by Rolling Stone Magazine to do a story on the rock group Stillwater. He travels on their tour bus, much to the consternation of his college professor mother, Elaine, played hilariously by Frances McDormand, who leaves a message for him wherever he goes, “Don’t do drugs!” This is a funny and insightful coming-of-age movie.

Little Miss Sunshine (2006) is a bitersweet comedy about an unconventional family which goes on a road trip to take young Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin) to the rather appalling “Little Miss Sunshine” beauty pageant. The other passengers on the relic VW bus include her father, Richard (Greg Kinnear), his wife, Sheryl (Toni Collette), Sheryl’s suicidal brother, Frank (Steve Carell), their teenage son, Dwayne (Paul Dano), and Grandpa (Alan Arkin).

Based on the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, **The Road** (2009) stars Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee in a bleak post-apocalyptic dramatic thriller. They star as a father and son walking alone through a devastated America. Trying to survive, they push a shopping cart of scavenged food across the country toward the sea, where they hope it will be warmer. They must avoid roving gangs of brutal humans who will turn them into slaves or worse. Charlize Theron appears in flashbacks as wife and mother of the pair. The desolate landscape and outstanding acting make for a haunting film.

Nebraska (2013) is a black and white drama starring Bruce Dern as Woody Grant, a cantankerous old man from Missouri, who is convinced that he has won a million-dollar magazine sweepstakes. Much to the exasperation of his wife, Kate (June Squibb), he keeps leaving home and trying to walk to Nebraska to claim the winnings. Consulting with his brother, Ross (Bob Odenkirk), David (Will Forte) grudgingly decides to drive their dad to Nebraska so Woody can finally be convinced it’s all just a scam. Along the way they have a disastrous visit with family. Oscar nominations included Best Picture, Actor (Dern), Supporting Actress (Squibb), Director, Screenplay and Cinematography.

Wild (2014) is a 2014 American biographical adventure based on Cheryl Strayed’s 2012 memoir “Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail.” Reel-

ing from years of self-destructive behavior, the dissolution of her marriage to Paul (Thomas Sadowski), and the death of her mother (Laura Dern), Cheryl (Reese Witherspoon) decides to hike more than a thousand miles on the Pacific Crest Trail, alone and with zero outdoor experience. The film powerfully captures the journey of a young woman who has decided to halt her downward spiral and put her life back together. I had the good fortune of participating in a Q&A at the Pelham Picture House, where I found her to be one of the most authentic and candid people I’ve ever had the privilege to meet.

The film **Green Book** (2018) is a comedy/drama biopic inspired by the true story of a 1962 tour of the Deep South by African-American classical and jazz pianist Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and Italian-American bouncer, Frank “Tony Lip” Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), who was hired to be Shirley’s driver and bodyguard. Although Frank has misgivings about working for a black man, they begin their journey, wisely following recommendations in “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” a guide for safe travel through America’s racially segregated states. The highly educated snobbish pianist and the crude bouncer have a very difficult time getting along, but as the two men experience America’s atrocious racial injustices on the road, they find a newfound respect for each other. Thus, they begin a life-changing friendship that endured for the rest of their lives. The script was written by Vallelonga’s son, Nick Vallelonga, Brian Hayes Currie and Peter Farrelly, in consultation with the Shirley family and estate. The film was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay and a second Best Supporting Actor award for the outstanding Mahershala Ali.

And until next time, happy viewing...

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

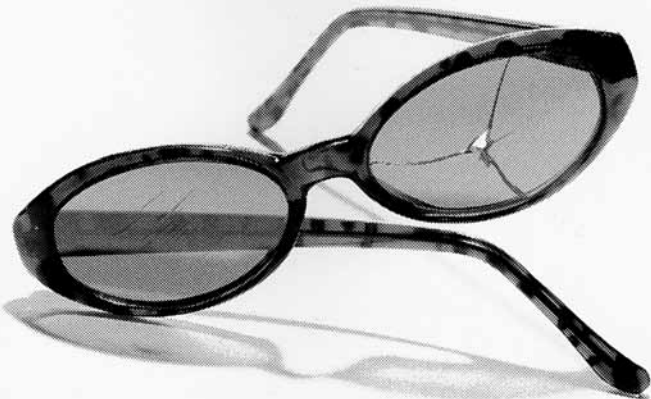


Photo by Michael Muzino

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2019 Recap

Continued from page 3
tunately still read newspapers) and our advertisers, *The Island Current* was there to

cover these beginnings and endings. While many newspapers around the country are failing, the steadfast support of our many readers will keep *The Current* in the black and afloat into our 49th year!




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Several "For Sale" signs appeared on City Island Avenue, including the closing of the New Way Market, which everyone called "Connie's" for its owner and which had been in business for 36 years. 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and also of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on City Island, sponsor of the annual patriotic Memorial Day parade in salute to those who served (bottom photo).

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Cormac McEnery, Esq.

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

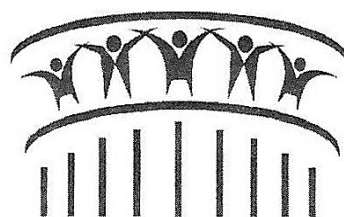
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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary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

FEBRUARY 2020									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0341	6.79	1001	0.98	1606	6.16	2213	0.94	Sat 01
02 Sun	0429	6.77	1056	1.06	1701	6.00	2305	1.07	Sun 02
03 Mon	0522	6.81	1159	1.03	1803	5.97			Mon 03
04 Tue	0003	1.10	0620	6.94	1317	0.83	1911	6.10	Tue 04
05 Wed	0105	1.00	0720	7.18	1434	0.46	2018	6.39	Wed 05
06 Thu	0210	0.74	0819	7.51	1531	0.00	2114	6.79	Thu 06
07 Fri	0315	0.36	0915	7.87	1620	-0.46	2203	7.22	Fri 07
08 Sat	0413	-0.08	1007	8.19	1706	-0.86	2249	7.62	Sat 08
09 Sun	0506	-0.48	1058	8.41	1750	-1.14	2335	7.95	Sun 09
10 Mon	0558	-0.78	1147	8.47	1834	-1.26			Mon 10
11 Tue	0021	8.15	0650	-0.94	1238	8.34	1920	-1.21	Tue 11
12 Wed	0109	8.19	0744	-0.91	1330	8.03	2008	-0.98	Wed 12
13 Thu	0200	8.08	0843	-0.73	1426	7.58	2100	-0.61	Thu 13
14 Fri	0256	7.83	0950	-0.45	1531	7.07	2202	-0.17	Fri 14
15 Sat	0403	7.53	1105	-0.19	1652	6.63	2317	0.23	Sat 15
16 Sun	0525	7.30	1217	-0.05	1814	6.43			Sun 16
17 Mon	0032	0.47	0642	7.24	1324	-0.06	1923	6.45	Mon 17
18 Tue	0139	0.51	0748	7.34	1425	-0.17	2024	6.63	Tue 18
19 Wed	0240	0.41	0847	7.50	1520	-0.30	2118	6.87	Wed 19
20 Thu	0334	0.25	0939	7.66	1610	-0.39	2207	7.11	Thu 20
21 Fri	0423	0.11	1027	7.76	1656	-0.40	2252	7.29	Fri 21
22 Sat	0507	0.03	1110	7.77	1737	-0.32	2332	7.39	Sat 22
23 Sun	0547	0.03	1149	7.68	1813	-0.16			Sun 23
24 Mon	0009	7.40	0622	0.10	1223	7.52	1843	0.05	Mon 24
25 Tue	0038	7.35	0648	0.20	1247	7.32	1858	0.24	Tue 25
26 Wed	0056	7.28	0700	0.28	1301	7.14	1904	0.33	Wed 26
27 Thu	0110	7.27	0721	0.33	1324	7.00	1930	0.39	Thu 27
28 Fri	0138	7.28	0755	0.41	1358	6.85	2006	0.50	Fri 28
29 Sat	0214	7.27	0836	0.55	1439	6.67	2048	0.68	Sat 29
MARCH 2020									
01 Sun	0256	7.22	0922	0.72	1525	6.48	2135	0.89	Sun 01
02 Mon	0344	7.16	1014	0.89	1619	6.31	2227	1.09	Mon 02
03 Tue	0438	7.11	1113	0.98	1719	6.25	2326	1.19	Tue 03
04 Wed	0538	7.13	1224	0.92	1826	6.36			Wed 04
05 Thu	0032	1.12	0643	7.28	1350	0.62	1939	6.68	Thu 05



HAPPY TRAILS

This year's Christmas bird count in the Bronx was the 95th consecutive outing. And while playing a part—a very tiny part—in something that the legendary Roger Tory Peterson once had a hand in has a certain transcendent appeal, it would have been much more appealing had there been more birds to count. You know you're having a bad day when the most interesting find is a raccoon asleep in a tree. Still, the company was pleasant and informative, and we look forward to many more bird counts down the line.

If the weather has you hunkered down, or if the birds on your own excursions have been wanting, you may want to consider a change of scenery. The good folks at the New York City Audubon have regular weekend getaways to Montauk for the winter waterfowl that congregate there. And in May, they're going to Maine for a week. They call it their "Puffins, Warblers and Lobster Boats: The Enchanting Coast of Maine" overnight getaway.

Audubon must be onto something with their getaways. A closer look at a few of the birding magazines we subscribe to reveals a plethora of travel opportunities for birders. Opportunities that include festivals, trade shows and something Bird Watcher's Digest calls a "Reader Rendezvous," a carefully planned trip to where the birds are. In 2020, for example, there are plans to go to Costa Rica, Australia and Brazil, as well as a number of North American destinations.

Festivals for birders come in all shapes and sizes. There is a small three-day festival in Washington called "Wings Over Willapa" (wingsoverwillapa.org); a medium sized festival in Arizona called "Wings Over Willcox" (wingsoverwillcox.com); and a very large one in Ohio aptly named "The Biggest Week in American Birding" (thebiggestweekinamericanbirding.com).

If a warmer climes are your thing, there is always Texas. The beaches and marshes of Galveston and Port Lavaca seem to be popular destinations for birders. Perhaps the most popular in Texas is Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. According to Audubon, "more species of birds have been recorded in Laguna Atascosa (417) than at any other national wildlife refuge in the nation."

There are even African safaris for birders! An outfit called Lawson's Birding, Wildlife and Custom Safaris will take you to Kenya, Botswana and South Africa, among other South and East African nations. Check them out at www.lawsons-africa.co.za.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo courtesy of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
Seed sowing time

Winter Green Thoughts

What sustains us through the dreary cold months? A new hobby, interesting friends or a good book? I might add that rest should be considered. Yes, rest. In winter we should celebrate hibernation, but how do we do that if we are busy Americans? In Italy, they know about taking time out. Two o'clock and the shops close until five and reopen until ten. How civilized to be off somewhere—a nice lunch or to bed for a nap. Plants sleep but are not dead; every bud and flower is alive but only resting, except for the winter stars that I have heralded ad nauseam. My sincere apologies, but let me once again encourage you to buy some shrubs and trees that will not only be awake but in flower during the biting cold. They will cheer you and interest you, I promise. Catalogue ordering is best for these, as some are difficult to find.

The delicate fragrance of the winter sweet chimonanthus is superb, with its blossoms opening wide in the sun come January. The pyracantha, or fire thorn, is laden with berries all along its arching branches. Don't you dare prune the shining hollies, for their natural shape is stunning. Take a shear to these and you will only deter their grace. The same goes for evergreen trees. To trim is to scar; therefore, don't do it. Cardinal willows and red twig dogwood fire up a snowy scene and look great with an orange witch hazel like the variety Diane. To

this you might add some heathers, laid out in rivers between some small evergreens. Imagine this picture with a few white Himalayan birch trees as a backdrop. Who needs flowers?!

Yet we do want flowers, and hellebores will furnish the shade with their nodding, drooping sepals come February. These flowers don't have petals, just sepals, which are tough and can endure the cold. It is said that they like sweet alkaline soil, but in the woods upstate they flourish in a very acid one.

Seed orders have begun to arrive, and by mid- February it will be time to sow perennials and half-hardy annuals like poppies, foxglove, hesperis, and ammi (false Queen Anne's lace). I like to use three-inch pots so I won't disturb the roots, and they will be ready to plant out in May. If you do use flats, then prick them out by holding them by the leaf. I leave two plants per pot, and when they are a bit further along, I discard one, so the one left can grow unhindered. Use a fine rose-head watering can and keep the seedlings moist but not over watered in full sun or part shade, depending on the species requirements. I am using grow lights this year, as window space has become limited,

You can also sow seeds in small flats and then re-pot them individually when the seedlings have two true leaves. It is a good practice to raise flowering plants in this way, as you can have five or ten of each variety with little cost. Even if you only seed two or three kinds, a larger number of plants will create more natural pictures and give your garden eye-popping, rhythmic pleasure. You might consider growing one spring, one summer and one autumn blooming selection. Annuals by and large can be directly sowed into the soil. Zinnias, gloriosa daisies and pot marigolds are favorites.

I dream on, as it is still winter, but already the snowdrops are pushing through and the buds of the witch hazels are fattening. It won't be long before the world turns a beautiful shade of chartreuse once again.

CITY ISLAND PENDANTS

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Organization News

Continued from page 11

areas being investigated are the lighting at the Bartow Circle, the traffic light survey for Pilot Street and the lighting on City Island Avenue. Some potholes are being filled.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, in the Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Please bring your annual dues to the meeting (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership). If you cannot make the meeting, please take the time to send your dues to P.O. Box 117, City Island, or pay online at Paypal.com to this e-mail address: city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option, so a service charge is not deducted.

Jane Protzman

Garden Club of City Island

At the Garden Club meeting on Jan. 6, our committees began planning this year's events, which include beautification projects, seasonal selections for the planter boxes, the annual fundraising drive, field trips, presentations at the monthly meetings and special projects. The annual luncheon committee has chosen Thursday, May 14,

as the date for our spring luncheon, which is open to everyone and is in the process of finalizing the venue and cost details. Save the date!

The Garden Club was very pleased to receive the 2019 Catherine Scott Achievement Award from the City Island Chamber of Commerce, and several garden club members attended the lovely awards dinner. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce.

Our meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, will feature a presentation by Jessica Schuler on the subject "Gardening for Good." Jessica, who was with the New York Botanical Garden for many years, has just taken a position with the Westchester County Parks Department as Program Coordinator for Natural Resource Management and Lasdon Arboretum Supervisor. On Monday, March 2, Jennifer Bakshi, an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, will speak about "Unraveling the Mystery of Plant Names."

Garden Club meetings are held monthly, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee. You are welcome to join us.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Community Center can be rented for parties and events, like this Harry Potter-themed baby shower on Jan. 18, 2020.

What Makes My Child Tick?

By JOHN SCARDINA

I had dinner recently with a friend and we talked about how during Common Core testing in public schools, children often a) had more recess time outdoors and b) were allowed to chew gum during the testing. The reasoning here is clear: physical exercise, fresh air and an outlet for fidgeting (like chewing gum) enhance student performance during high-stakes testing. My response to this policy has always been: If it works for high stakes testing, why wouldn't it work all the time in the classroom? Why not use "best practices" every day?

The key here is self-regulation of the energy that is inside each of us and the way in which our sensory systems allow us to interact with our environment. In their important book "How Does Your Engine Run?" occupational therapists Mary Sue Williams and Sherry Shellenberger explore these issues and come up with good suggestions for parents and teachers in managing self-regulation.

Each of us already has a toolbox of self-regulating behaviors when we are supposed to be sitting still or being focused. I chew gum when I drive. Some adults twirl their hair, chew on plastic coffee stirrers, hum or talk to themselves, rock their leg, suck on an arm of their eyeglasses or doodle on a piece of paper. Children usually fidget at their desks, get up when they are supposed to stay seated, put things in their mouths, poke their neighbor, rock back and forth, make strange noises and call out. These actions are all similar in effect in that they allow us to live in our body at that moment, but some are more appropriate to the situation at hand than others.

Some children need oral stimulation, like gum or a chew toy. They can handle

some food textures, like crunchy or chewy, but not others. They can chew on clothes or a blanket to soothe themselves.

Some children need to be active, and they may need a "sensory break" from being still. Taking a note to the school office or doing some simple calisthenics in the middle of a homework session or a long class period can be quite helpful. (Research suggests that the average middle-school student can sit still and pay attention for no more than 11 minutes without needing some physical activity. Many middle-school teachers know this and vary their class activities accordingly.)

Some children have tactile needs. You may have to cut the labels out of their clothing and only buy certain kinds of clothes that don't cause pressure or restrictions. (My grandchild hated to wear a belt for a long time and wanted to wear only sweat-pants to school.)

Some children can listen to music when doing schoolwork. Others require complete silence and may need headphones to concentrate. Going to the mall or being in a crowd with a lot of noise can be quite difficult for some children.

As you can already tell, all of these issues occur for adults, too. As adults, we have learned to use "socially acceptable" ways of managing our energy and senses—something we call a "sensory diet." The task then becomes developing a sensory diet for our children.

Pay attention to the energy levels in your child throughout the day. Using the metaphor of "how does your engine run?" take note of when the engine is running too fast, too slow or just right. Try out activities with them that produce "just right" energy and see what happens.

We are all organisms that do our best to live in the world. Look up sensory integration if this intrigues you, and get a sense of how to better regulate your own energy, as well as that of your child. Pay attention to what already works for you, what already works for your child and what the "hotspots" are during the day. Learning about ourselves and our children will allow us to be pro-active and not just reactive in our lives.

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Obituaries

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



Bruce Breiner

Bruce Breiner, a longtime City Island resident, passed away peacefully at the age of 79 on Nov. 16, 2019.

Bruce was born in Queens on March 31, 1940, and moved to City Island in 1978. He and his wife, Joan, raised five children at their home on Winter Street and made many friends here. He was an accomplished sailor and he could fix anything, according to his family, who recall his sense of humor and his zest for life.

After his retirement in 1982 as a captain in the New York City Department of Correction, he and his wife lived on their sailboat, *Rainbow*, and sailed the Caribbean for five years. After their sailing adventure, they built a successful business, sold it, and retired to Sarasota, FL, where Bruce continued to enjoy boating and traveling.

Bruce is survived by his wife; his five children, Debbie, Brad, Barry, David and Serina; 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and his sister, Barbara Ward.

Dorothy Bunyan

Dorothy (Buhl) Bunyan, 87, passed away on November 5, 2019 in her home on City Island.

Dorothy was born on September 9, 1932, and lived on City Island for most of her life. She was born to Veronica (Vera) Roche and Charles Buhl, and had three sisters, Veronica (Vera), Florence and Marian, all of whom predeceased her.

Dorothy attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea Grammar School on City Island, and Cathedral High School in Manhattan. She worked at Beth Abraham Nursing Home as an administrative assistant, and later became the Personnel Director at The House of the Holy Comforter Nursing Home in The Bronx. She was then recruited to serve as an assistant to the executive director of The Osborne Home in Rye, New York, where she also served as secretary on the Board of Directors.

After her retirement, she spent many happy years with her husband, John Bunyan, in Florida and then in Whiting, New Jersey, before returning to City Island to be near her family and friends.

Dorothy's husband John died in 2007. She leaves behind four children: Michael, John, Dorothy and Richard and in-laws Roseann, Linda, Peggy and Marie. She was blessed with 11 grandchildren: Jamie, Michael, Cara, Roseann, Johnny, Richard, Jack, Michael, Christopher, Matthew and Andrew. In addition, she lived to see eight great-grandchildren: John, Andreia, Christina, Gerard, Nicholas, Everly, Josephine, and Charlize.

Dorothy is also survived by her niece Judy (Wright) Rauh and her husband Michael, niece Barbara Howard, her nephew John Wright and his wife Linda, as

well as many other loved ones and friends.

Donations can be made to her favorite charity, Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787-2976.



From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Important Tax Changes for Individuals, Part I

Every year, it's a sure bet that there will be changes to current tax law, and this year is no different. From standard deductions to health savings accounts and tax rate schedules, here's a checklist of tax changes to help you plan the year ahead.

In 2020, a number of tax provisions are being affected by inflation adjustments, including Health Savings Accounts, retirement contribution limits and the foreign earned income exclusion. The tax rate structure, which ranges from 10 to 37 percent, remains similar to 2019 but the tax-bracket thresholds increase for each filing status. Standard deductions also rise, and personal exemptions have been eliminated through tax year 2025.

Standard Deduction: In 2020, the standard deduction increases to \$12,400 for individuals (up from \$12,200 in 2019) and to \$24,800 for married couples (up from \$24,400 in 2019).

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT): In 2020, AMT exemption amounts increase to \$72,900 for individuals (up from \$71,700 in 2019) and \$113,400 for married couples filing jointly (up from \$111,700 in 2019). Also, the phaseout threshold increases to \$518,400 (\$1,036,800 for married filing jointly). Both the exemption and threshold amounts are indexed annually for inflation.

"Kiddie Tax": For taxable years beginning in 2020, the amount that can be used to reduce the net unearned income reported on the child's return that is subject to the "kiddie tax," is \$1,100. The same \$1,100 amount is used to determine whether a parent may elect to include a child's gross income in the parent's gross income and to calculate the "kiddie tax." For example, one of the requirements for the parental election is that a child's gross income for 2020 must be more than \$1,100 but less than \$11,000.

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): Contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) are used to pay current or future medical expenses of the account owner, his or her spouse and any qualified dependent. Medical expenses must not be reimbursable by insurance or other sources and do not qualify for the medical expense deduction on a federal income tax return.

A qualified individual must be covered by a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and not be covered by other health insurance, with the exception of insurance for accidents, disability, dental care, vision care or long-term care. For calendar year 2020, a qualifying HDHP must have a deductible of at least \$1,400 for self-only coverage or \$2,800 for family coverage and must limit annual out-of-pocket expenses of the beneficiary to \$6,900 for self-only coverage and \$13,800 for family coverage.

Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs): There are two types of Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs): the Archer MSA created to help self-employed individuals and employees of certain small employers, and the Medicare Advantage MSA, which is also an Archer MSA and is designated by Medicare to be used solely to pay the qualified medical expenses of the account holder. To be eligible for a Medicare Advantage MSA, you must be enrolled in Medicare. Both MSAs require that you are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan (HDHP).

Self-only coverage: For taxable years beginning in 2020, the term "high deductible health plan" means, for self-only coverage, a health plan that has an annual deductible that is not less than \$2,350 (same as 2019) and not more than \$3,550 (up \$50 from 2019), and under which the annual out-of-pocket expenses required to be paid (other than for premiums) for covered benefits do not exceed \$4,750 (up \$100 from 2019).

Family coverage: For taxable years beginning in 2020, the term "high deductible health plan" means, for family coverage, a health plan that has an annual deductible that is not less than \$4,750 and not more than \$7,100, and under which the annual out-of-pocket expenses required to be paid (other than for premiums) for covered benefits do not exceed \$8,650.

AGI Limit for Deductible Medical Expenses: In 2020, the deduction threshold for deductible medical expenses is 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income (AGI).

Eligible Long-Term Care Premiums: Premiums for long-term care are treated the same as health care premiums and are deductible on your taxes subject to certain limitations. For individuals age 40

or younger at the end of 2020, the limitation is \$430. Persons more than 40 but not more than 50 can deduct \$810. Those more than 50 but not more than 60 can deduct \$1,630 while individuals more than 60 but not more than 70 can deduct \$4,350. The maximum deduction is \$5,430 and applies to anyone more than 70 years of age.

Medicare Taxes: The additional 0.9 percent Medicare tax on wages above \$200,000 for individuals (\$250,000 married filing jointly) remains in effect for 2020, as does the Medicare tax of 3.8 percent on investment (unearned) income for single taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income (AGI) more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 joint filers). Investment income includes dividends, interest, rents, royalties, gains from the disposition of property, and certain passive activity income. Estates, trusts, and self-employed individuals are all liable for the tax.

Foreign Earned-Income Exclusion: For 2020, the foreign earned income exclusion amount is \$107,600, up from \$105,900 in 2019.

Long-Term Capital Gains and Dividends: In 2020 tax rates on capital gains and dividends remain the same as 2019 rates (0%, 15%, and a top rate of 20%); however threshold amounts have increased: the maximum zero percent rate amounts are \$40,000 for individuals and \$80,000 for married filing jointly. For an individual taxpayer whose income is at or above \$441,450 (\$496,600 married filing jointly), the rate for both capital gains and dividends is capped at 20 percent. All other taxpayers fall into the 15 percent rate amount (i.e., above \$40,000 and below \$441,450 for single filers).

Estate and Gift Taxes: For an estate of any decedent during calendar year 2020, the basic exclusion amount is \$11.58 million, indexed for inflation (up from \$11.4 million in 2019). The maximum tax rate remains at 40 percent. The annual exclusion for gifts remains at \$15,000.

Next month, we will focus on tax credits. Stay tuned!

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

PAINTING LESSONS with Mary Colby, two Saturdays a month, 5-hour classes, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$175. Call to enroll for Feb. 8 and 22 or March 14 and 28. Call 917-804-4509 for more information.

COMPUTER REPAIRS, UPGRADE, TROUBLESHOOTING, VIRUS, DATA RECOVERY, cracked screen, power jack, cassette music transferred to CD's. Call James 646-281-4475, 718-324-4332.

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COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE by owner. 104 Hawkins Street. Call 914-760-1106.

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

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TOO BUSY? NO TIME TO CLEAN? Call Margaret for all your cleaning needs. City Island references available. Call 917-287-1132.

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CHRISTIAN, THE CITY ISLAND HANDYMAN IS BACK... Reliable, professional, and affordable home repairs. Serving the City Island community for over 15 years. Free estimates cheerfully given. Friendly and honest, low rates. Carpentry, painting, power washing, sheetrock, doors and windows, kitchen and bathroom light fixtures, fences, faucets, holiday decorations. Call Christian at 718-679-2396.

RETIREEE LOOKING FOR WORK - Former Office Manager/Admin Assistant looking for part time work one to two days per week or half days. Skills include word processing, data entry, filing. Can help with non-strenuous household projects such as decluttering or organizing. Islander with Island references. Melanie - 646-573-9826, Melanie400@gmail.com.

CITY ISLAND NOTARY PUBLIC: Certified in New York State. By appointment only, including weekends. Call Johanna at 914-299-1414.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO COOK DINNER? Job Description: Plan menu, shop, cook healthy dinner Monday-Thursday on City Island. Clean up. Salary \$20 per hour. If interested, please e-mail : LookingForCook2525@aol.com.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: Van Nest. Legal 2-family home for sale. Asking \$649k. Please contact exclusive listing agent, Maria Swieciki @ Today Realty, Corp. 718-885-0017 for an appointment.

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CITY ISLAND HOUSE FOR SALE: Great 3 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bathroom house, close to school. Upgraded kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors, new windows, 5 year old architectural roof and new storm doors. New salt water pool and large deck. Call 917-885-2568

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CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

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PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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AVON REPRESENTATIVE: Avon is not just cosmetics. Jewelry, clothes, vitamins, videos, complete line of children's gifts, toys and more. Ask for catalogue. Call Emily 718-885-2430.



Photo by JOHN DOYLE

In response to the deadly opioid epidemic, City Island Rising, in partnership with the New York City Fire Department and Department of Health, hosted a CPR/Narcan training free of charge for Island residents in December. Sixteen City Island and Bronx residents participated in this training, and Rising is planning to sponsor another training in late spring. Those interested in participating should e-mail CityIslandRising@gmail.com for additional details.



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Huguenot Yacht Club



**Full day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. sailing & racing instruction
for kids & teens 8-16 years old. Lunch & pool time included.**

July 6 - July 24: Session I
July 27 - Aug. 14: Session II
(Choose one or both 3-week sessions)

Week of June 30th:
Intro to Sailing Class or Racing Clinic
(A great chance to try out the Program!)

Open Houses & Registration
Sunday, January 26th, 1 - 4 p.m. & Sunday, March 1st, 1 - 4 p.m.

Super Early Bird: Save \$315 on both sessions or \$180 on a single session when you register at Open House or online by January 27th.

Early Bird: Save \$210 on both sessions or \$120 on a single session when you register at Open House or online by March 2nd.

Siblings: Save \$120 on each additional child's tuition. This discount cannot be combined with any other discount.

Full Program Details, Prices & Photos:
www.juniorsailingclubhouse.com

Huguenot Yacht Club is located @ Harbor Lane West, New Rochelle (914) 636-6300 (near Glen Island Park)
jrsailing@huguenotyc.com


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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.



Patrice Delaney and Mitchell Talavera were married on Jan. 3, 2020, in Santa Barbara, CA.

With their families in attendance, clamdigger Patrice Delaney and mussel sucker Mitchell Talavera were married in beautiful Santa Barbara, CA, on Jan. 3, 2020. The happy couple are off to Abu Dhabi for the next few years, but they look forward to visiting their beloved Delaney family and favorite City Island haunts during much-anticipated vacations.

Happy first birthday to our very special Valentine, Wyatt Pollack, on Feb. 14. We love you to the moon and back! Hugs and kisses from Grammy, Grandpa, Aunt Jill, Aunt Bri and, of course, Stella.

Birthday wishes on Feb. 1 to our very special Bay Street neighbor Virginia DiGregorio, with love from the Swieciki family.

Happy birthday to Hawkins Street's Reid Travers, who will celebrate his big day on Feb. 20. Enjoy! With love from Lori and friends.

A warm welcome to Tier Street's newest resident, Seth Wagner, who comes to us from Virginia.

Feb. 26 birthday greetings across the miles are being sent to former Bay Street resident Lucy Zec. We miss you!

Belated birthday greetings to Pilot



Olga Lopez celebrated her 95th birthday on Nov. 12.

Street's Olga Lopez, who turned 95 years young on Nov. 12.

Congratulations to our own Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who was recently honored to have three of her paintings accepted in a recent community art mural project in Pamlico County, North Carolina. Walmart called on local artists, students and organizations to submit artwork to be reproduced as large in-store murals in order to stimulate civic pride and to promote local education and the arts. Marguerite's paintings will be reproduced and mounted in four different Walmart stores.

Wishing everyone a very happy Valentine's Day!

Maria Swieciki

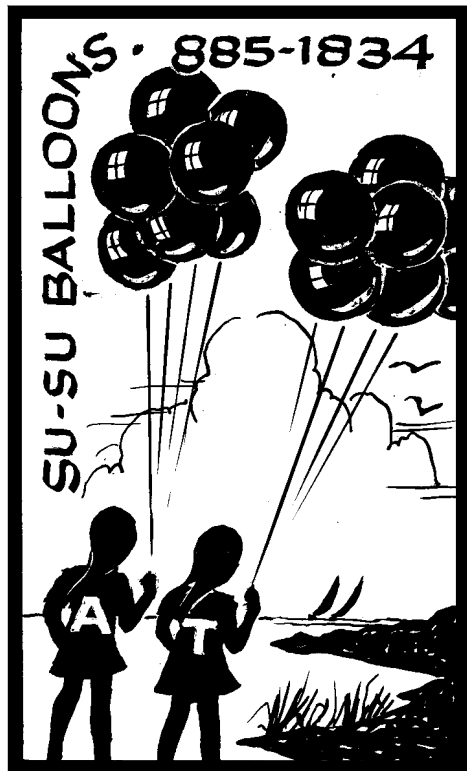


Photo by PAUL NANI

The Island Current's 49th year of publication was kicked off at editorial board member Barbara Dolensek's house on Jan. 12, 2020. Shown are the dedicated staff members, many of whom have worked for over 25 years to publish City Island's only newspaper (seated, l. to r.): Mary Colby, Karen Nani, Sandy Dunn, Melanie Benvenue, Rose Kolb and Margaret Lenz. Back row: Lucille Rivin, Bruce Weis, Betty Heben, Tom Smith, Ed Heben, Ginger Dannegger, John Sheridan, Maria Sutherland, Judy Rauh, John Scardina, Mike Rauh, Emily Leni and Barbara Dolensek.



Clam digger, former Islander and Current art director, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, was recently honored to have three of her paintings selected for a recent community art mural project in Pamlico County, North Carolina. One of them, "Fishing Line," is shown above.



Photo by SUSAN RAUH

Mike and Judy Rauh (left and right) were happy to meet another City Islander, Lisa Osborn, on Jan. 6, 2020, in New Orleans. They met up at the Fourth Annual King's Day King Cake Kick-off at the Bywater Bakery, owned by Lisa's brother Alton Osborn. Food, music, dancing, and best of all—King Cake!

MOVING? PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO: ISLAND CURRENT, P.O. BOX 6, CITY ISLAND, NY 10464. Includes fields for OLD and NEW address, city, state, zip, and apt. #.

Subscriptions form for The Island Current. Includes fields for name, address, phone, and rate information. Rate: \$12 per year. Gift Card to Read. Enclose check or M.O.—Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

Grace Episcopal Church advertisement. Features a photo of the church and text: ~ Inclusive ~ Friendly All are Welcome! The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10 AM. Church School meets the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 AM. The Rev. John E. Covington, Pastor. 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. 718-885-1080 ~ www.gracecityisland.net