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The Island Current

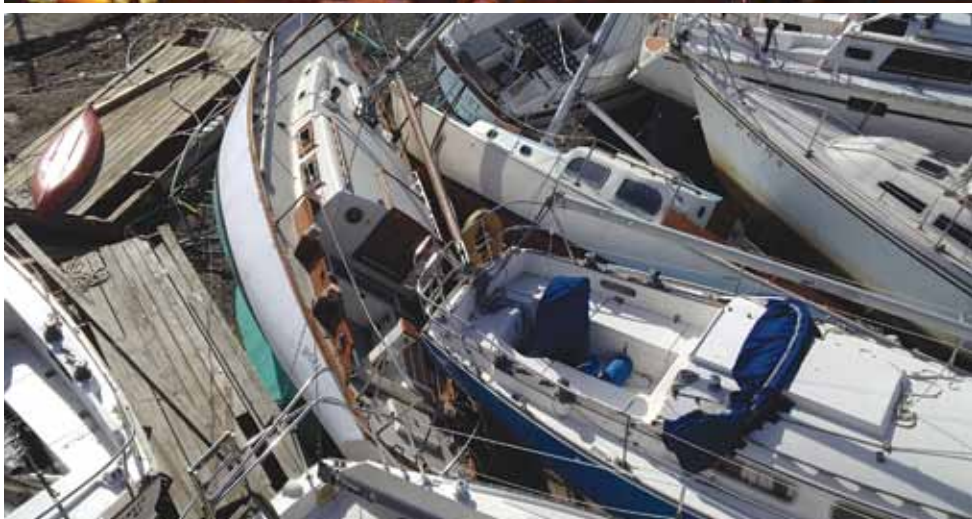
Published on City Island, New York

Volume 41 Number 10

December 2012

One Dollar

SANDY...MEET SANTA!



Photos by SARAH ANDERSON, RICK DEWITT, BARBARA DOLENSEK, ANN-MARIE GOONAN, MARK NANI and MIKE RAUH

City Island survived Hurricane Sandy, which roared into the northeast on Oct. 29, 2012, with wind gusts over 80 miles per hour (see story on page 3). Sandy's tidal surge of over eight feet caused much of the damage, flooding the parking lots of restaurants like Sea Shore (top photos) and yacht clubs like the Stuyvesant on Centre Street (bottom photos). The sustained winds knocked down familiar Island sights like the neon lobster above the Lobster House (second row of photos) and many trees causing power failures and fires like the one that destroyed Tony's Pier Restaurant on the end of City Island Avenue (third row photos). We made it to the morning after with a majestic rainbow over Orchard Beach signifying the end of Sandy. As always, City Islanders exhibited resilience and community spirit by helping neighbors pump water out of their basements, providing power and shelter to those who went as long as four days without it, and cleaning up in time to welcome in the holiday season with the tree lighting in Hawkins Park on Nov. 24 (middle photo) and the menorah lighting on Dec. 8. The staff of *The Island Current* wishes everyone a serene, safe and storm-free holiday.

BRIEFLY...

MIGNONE ASSISTED-LIVING PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING

will take place at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. The hearing is sponsored by the Housing and Zoning Committee of Community Board 10 and is open to the public. All who are concerned about the project and its impact on City Island are invited to attend and voice their concerns. Those who wish to speak will be asked to fill out speaker forms in advance, so come early to the meeting. The fund-raiser scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1, has been postponed and will take place after the New Year.

FREEDOM SHABBAT

at Temple Beth-El, 480 City Island Avenue, on Friday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. The entire community is invited to our shabbat with renowned guest artist singer/journey-teller Elizabeth Kent. Ms. Kent will share her interpretation of the life of biblical prophetess Miriam, sister of Moses, and Miriam's contributions to the freedom journey of the Israelite people. A member of Convent Avenue Baptist Church in Harlem, Ms. Kent has been journey-telling for more than 25 years, in prisons, schools, and houses of worship. Refreshments will follow.

EPIPHANY CONCERT AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

will be presented on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013, at 4 p.m. (snow date Jan. 13), featuring Sing We Enchanted, an a cappella vocal ensemble, now in its 18th season, that will perform "An Epiphany of Carols." Listeners will have the chance to enjoy a variety of old-time European carols, festive holiday ballads and contemporary Christmas arrangements—away from the usual hectic pace of the holiday season. A festive wine and cheese reception will be held following the concert. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Seating is limited, so order now. Tickets can be purchased by using Paypal through the Grace Church website (www.gracecityisland.org) or by check received no later than Dec. 29. Make payment to Grace Church and mail it to Epiphany Concert, c/o Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue, Bronx NY 10464. To make reservations, call Grace Church at 718-885-1080 and leave your name, phone number and ticket request, and someone will get back to you.

AUDITIONS FOR THE GLASS MENAGERIE

by Tennessee Williams will be held by the City Island Theater Group on Friday, Jan., 4, at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 2:30 p.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Production dates are the last weekend of February and the first weekend of March.

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THE ISLAND CURRENT
 P.O. Box 6
 City Island, N.Y. 10464

EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt.
 CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribaud, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2012. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, 2012.

10/27 – Detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating an assault on Tier Street at 5 p.m. A verbal argument between a perpetrator and a resident escalated to a physical attack.

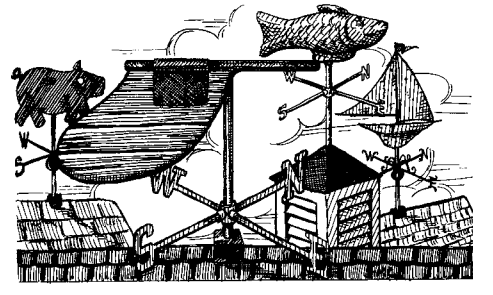
10/27 – An incident of criminal mischief occurred around 10 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The owner of a parked vehicle

returned to find the car's side view mirror broken and the mirror housing damaged.

11/1 – At 2:30 a.m. on Fordham Street, an unknown perpetrator entered a residence through the driveway gate and removed items without permission. The burglary is under investigation.

11/1 – On Bridge Street at 12 noon, items were removed from a marooned boat in an act of petit larceny.

11/16 – An Island male, 21, was arrested and charged with criminal possession of marijuana on Fordham Street at 9:15 p.m. Police stopped the vehicle driven by the defendant for a traffic infraction and found the marijuana in plain view.



Our hearts, our minds
 and
 Our doors
 are always open.

The People of Trinity United Methodist Church

Friday, November 30
 Christmas Fair ~ 2-8 p.m.
 Dinner served 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, December 1
 Christmas Fair ~ 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Luncheon served 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, December 2
 First Advent Sunday Special Holy Communion
 Worship Service ~ 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 9
 Parsonage Open House
 113 Bay Street ~ 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, December 16
 Children's Christmas Pageant ~ 10 a.m.

Monday, December 24
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10 p.m.

The congregation of the United Methodist Church deeply appreciates all donors and volunteers, especially chef Ann Cox and her usual volunteer crew members, who have served about 80 guests at the 16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 22, 2012 in the Trinity United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Congressman Joseph Crowley
 Paid for by Crowley for Congress

HURRICANE SANDY HITS CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT, MAURA MANDRANO, BARBARA DOLENSEK and FRED RAMFTL

Although many Islanders agreed that the storm surge could have been even worse, Hurricane Sandy left a trail of damage and problems that plagued City Island for weeks. The top photo shows the remains of the cottage on west Carroll Street that caught on fire during the hurricane. The dock at the City Island Yacht Club, which had just been rebuilt, was again severely damaged (top right photo). The lines to get gas at the Sunoco station snaked down City Island Avenue for almost a mile from Ditmars Street down to Schofield Street (lower left photo). Police from the 45th Precinct worked efficiently to keep the daily lines orderly and prevent traffic tie-ups on City Island Avenue. Other off-Islanders came to the rescue as well, including Councilman James Vacca and Congressman Joseph Crowley (top right photo), who surveyed the damage on Oct. 31, and Fordham University students who helped clean up the Sailmaker Marina (bottom right photo). Longtime clam diggers who remember the Hurricane of 1938 and the no-name storm of 1992 added Hurricane Sandy to their list of worst storms to hit our Island home.

Another "Storm of the Century"

News of impending "extreme weather" began reaching City Island nearly a week before the storm itself. This reporter learned of it from a friend who was in Germany on Tuesday, Oct. 23, reading "The Huffington Post" online, a full day before the New York newspapers caught wind of Hurricane Sandy and then it was only to report on damage in Jamaica.

Finally, by Oct. 25, meteorologists had begun speculating that a combination of factors could turn Sandy into a "perfect storm," because a storm coming from the west and a high-pressure area in the Atlantic could combine to force Sandy into making landfall anywhere between North Carolina and Massachusetts, producing record rainfall and storm surges.

Although many Island residents have developed a skeptical attitude about storm warnings as just so much hype, the damage wreaked last year by Hurricane Irene and by the "no name" storm on Sept. 18 have increased the credibility of the weather service. So when Mayor Bloomberg announced a mandatory evacuation of City Island and the Rockaways on Saturday, Oct. 27, for the second time in two years, many Islanders took him seriously and left.

This time the Mayor underscored the importance of the evacuation order by hav-

ing police officers go door to door on City Island and other low-lying parts of the city urging residents to leave. The police were not authorized to arrest anyone or force them to leave, and although they could have given summonses, they did not. However, they did make the point that it would become difficult, if not impossible, for first responders to rescue residents stranded by the storm. It wasn't until Sandy's arrival on the scene that Islanders realized that all of City Island, not just specific areas, had become designated after Hurricane Irene as Zone A, the most vulnerable to storm surge.

On Sunday evening, rumors began to fly that the bridge was going to be closed at 7 p.m., later adjusted to 9 p.m., presumably because of the high winds, although high winds have not caused problems on the bridge before now. It was closed during the 1992 nor'easter because of flooding, not because of winds, but the flooding this year did not start until Monday.

My friend in Germany was scheduled to return to New York on Sunday night, but her flight, along with everyone else's was canceled, and she couldn't return until later in the week. The editor of *The Island Current*, who was in Argentina, managed to get flights to Miami and then to Pittsburgh, driving through Pennsylvania and New Jersey late on Monday to arrive in New York



moments before the George Washington Bridge closed at 7 p.m. and just in time to get their generator out of the basement!

High tide at noon on Monday was predicted to be over 8 feet in normal conditions because of the full moon, and the high tide at a few minutes after midnight was to be about 7.5 feet. Although the storm surge during the day, while impressive, did not cause major damage, the evening proved to be far more serious, as the surge was predicted to reach 14 feet or more above low tide. Indeed, if the storm surge had not begun to subside at about 10 p.m. on Monday, a great deal more damage would have taken place on City Island. (The flooding that took place in lower Manhattan and on Long Island and the Jersey shore coincided exactly with their highest tide, causing severe flooding throughout the area.)

The predicted heavy rains did not materialize as advertised, but the wind certainly did, causing serious waves, first on the east side of the island with gusts up to 80 mph from the northeast, and from the southeast. It was this change of wind direction that may have affected the subsiding of the storm surge, but it also managed to cause serious surf on the west side of the island, taking out the City Island Yacht Club dock, rebuilt after Irene, and flooding the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, not only destroying its dock but also knocking many sailboats off their dry-dock cradles, causing serious damage. Many basements were filled with water, and Bridge Street and the north end of City Island Avenue were, as usual, so deep in water that travel by boat became the only practical mode of transportation. The most obvious victim of the wind in that neighborhood was the huge lobster sign on top of the Lobster House, now a thing of the past.

A resident of west Tier Street noted that the surge itself did not reach the level of the nor'easter in 1992, a storm that hit City Island with virtually no warning at all. But the winds this time produced more active surf and did more damage in many

areas, although nothing as bad as what took place on the Jersey shore, the Rockaways or Staten Island.

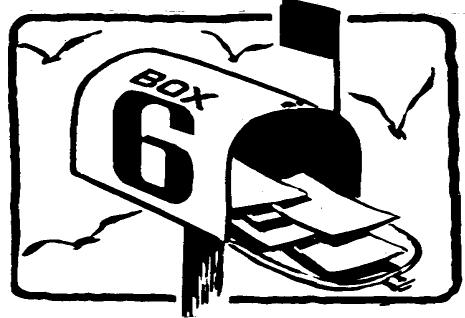
As usual, the wind also managed to topple a few large trees and knock down a number of utility wires. Many City Islanders lost power during the evening, but some areas never did; amazingly, the "weak loop" on west Tier and Bay Streets managed to stay strong, but many areas lost power, and on Tuesday morning at about 1:30 a.m. Cablevision went out for the whole island.

For many residents, cell phones were a saving grace, enabling them to stay in touch with each other and off-Islanders, to contact Con Edison and to access their e-mail. Island heating contractor Gary Cotnam ascribes the fact that Verizon Wireless remained viable relates to the installation of generators at the various cell tower sites on the Island. A few Islanders discovered that their old landline phones worked without electricity and managed to stay in touch without having to recharge anything electronic.

Power outages, however, were the least of the problems caused by fallen wires. Tony's Pier restaurant was completely destroyed by fire on Monday night, and a house on west Carroll Street was nearly gutted. Firefighters from the City Island firehouse, later joined by off-Island trucks, were quick to the scenes, although it was very difficult battling fire in such high winds. As a resident of east Horton Street told *The Current*, "If the wind had been coming from the southwest instead of the east, hundreds of houses would have burned. We could see that it was impossible to control the flames under such conditions, and cinders were blowing all over the place."

Like the firefighters, police officers from the 45th and other precincts were very attentive and quick to respond to calls for help. Patrol cars drove along the Avenue and down side streets regularly during

Continued on page 11



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.

Hail but not Farewell

Colleagues, Neighbors and Friends:

I wish to inform you that Friday, Nov. 9, will be my last day in the office of New York State Senator Jeff Klein. These last five years have been among the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. I can honestly say I'm a different person today than I was when I started, and I believe that's due in large part to my interactions with many of you. I am indebted to so many for their encouragement, collaboration, inspiration, wisdom and all-around good humor, usually shared with me at a tough moment.

While the decision to move on was difficult, I leave with many fond memories and a deep sense of gratitude to my senator, Jeff Klein. Five years ago, I was right out of college and had no experience in anything. Jeff took a big chance on hiring me to serve in this community, where I was born, raised and will continue to reside. He gave me this tremendous opportunity to grow professionally and also personally. Any of you who reside in our area know that the senator has set an impeccable standard as a public servant and is a statesman whose future is indeed very bright. My colleagues in his office, both past and present, have labored tirelessly to hold themselves to this standard each and every day.

As of Tuesday, Nov. 13, I will be taking new employment at the North Bronx Healthcare Network. I'll be sure to send out a similar (but much abbreviated!) e-mail with my new contact information and title there. I'm extremely excited for this new opportunity. In the meantime, feel free to reach me at doylejcl@gmail.com. I plan on staying involved in the community, so I hope to see many of you around the neighborhood!

If I can be of assistance to any of you, please reach out to me. Should you need anything at Senator Klein's office, please contact Dana Carotenuto at 718-822-2049 or at danacaro@gmail.com.

And thank you for everything.

John Doyle

City Island Nautical Museum

To the Editor:

Aside from a few shingles on the porch roof, the museum weathered Hurricane Sandy without much damage, and now that our heat has been restored, with many thanks to Gary Cottam, we are back to our normal hours, at least until the New Year, when we will close for a few weeks, reopening March 2.

Don't forget that our gift shop has

some wonderful goodies for Christmas, including the new blue shirts with the five America's Cup defenders and the beautiful marble coasters and magnets featuring the lighthouses at Execution Rock and Stepping Stone. Our regular hours are 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, but we will also open by special appointment; call 718-885-1616 or 718-885-0507.

We were delighted to learn of an incredibly generous gift in the memory of Josephine Rodstrom that will enable us to rebuild the front steps. Our campaign to raise matching funds will begin in the spring, but in the meantime, don't forget that donations to the City Island Historical Society are tax-deductible.

Barbara Dolensek

Bus Shelter at Pilot Street

To the Editor:

I would like to start this letter by saying that *The Current* is an enjoyable and informative source of information for City Islanders.

I have noticed that we have only two bus shelters on the Island at this time. I am sure that the location of the shelters was based on the volume of use at the stops (Fordham Street and Sammy's Fish Box). I would like to see a shelter installed at Pilot Street. The reason for this would be the stop's proximity to the Pilot Cove Manor for seniors, the Pickwick Apartments, and the Lido. It would be great to give the elderly a place to sit out of the rain, snow and sun. I am sending this to you in the hope that a mention of this in the paper might get the ball rolling.

Joe Zoo

Theater Group Gives Back

To the Editor:

There were many twists and turns before the City Island Theater Group got its production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" to opening night on Nov. 10. First there were the logistics of fitting a cast of 19 people with multiple costume changes on a small stage with several doors, a Christmas tree, a moving wheelchair, a biting penguin and a sarcophagus. The comings and goings of such a big cast is always a challenge, one that the group meets on a regular basis, but add Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter, no public transportation, a gas shortage, no power and no heat, and the challenge became seriously daunting.

As the CITG board of directors overcame one obstacle after another, it also became apparent that everyone was safe and spared the devastation that many others experienced. This prompted the group to decide to donate ticket sales from the performance with the highest attendance in order to help others suffering in this crisis.

As a result, CITG was proud to donate the sum of \$1,700 to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City for hurricane relief. In addition to being grateful for the "show must go on" attitude of the cast, the CITG board also extends its thanks to the audiences that made the effort entirely worthwhile.

**Mary McIntyre, Board Member
City Island Theater Group**

Grace Episcopal Church wishes you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season. May God grant you the comfort, joy, and peace of the season.

Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM

Friday, December 21st, 7:00 PM
Christmas Caroling

*Monday, December 24th, 7 PM
The Christ-Mass
Music begins at 6:30
*Baby-sitting available

Grace Episcopal Church - 116 City Island Avenue
718-885-1080 - The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia

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BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

By JANE LA SCALA

Yes, YOU! Part of the Solution (POTS) is a social service program located on Webster Avenue that provides food, clothing and remedial services to those less fortunate.

For 15 years, parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church have organized a menu to provide POTS with a hot meal once a month. This has grown into a community-wide undertaking. There is a designated dish, and volunteers are asked to prepare enough to feed 10 people.

If cooking is not your forte, basic staple items can be donated (coffee, sugar, juices, flour, cookies, cleaning products, diapers and formula with iron, to name a few).

Your donation should be delivered to St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard

between 4:30 and 5 p.m. on the designated Saturday each month. To be added to this list of monthly volunteers, please call Rosetta Woods at 718-885-0926. You can also check the community calendar in *The Island Current* for the menu and date for the upcoming month.

We are also organizing our 12th Gifting Program with POTS for the Christmas season. These donations help refurbish the POTS supply of underwear, sweats, socks, hats, gloves and scarves for men and women who come to POTS seeking assistance. These items should be new. Collection takes place in the lobby of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church from Dec. 1 through the 15th. For more information, please call Jane La Scala at 718-885-2137.

Thank you for caring and sharing.

Chamber of Commerce Honors Islanders

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Chamber of Commerce honored several members of the community at its awards dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012. Standing (l. to r.): Carmine de Donato, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Edwin Castro of Dragon's Path Academy, John Doyle, Nick Vrettos, Steven Haggerty, Dan Kaiser, Walter Henning, Joe McCool, Senator Jeffrey D. Klein, Christ Hall, Gerard "Skip" Giacco; seated: Paul Klein, Maria Swieciki, Alexandra Whitcombe, Maria Caruso. Missing: Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and firefighters John Neurether and Anthony Cuozzo.



Former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión (l.) added his voice to the mix with Skip Giacco and the Lickety Split Band.

The atmosphere was festive, the Split Rock clubhouse beautifully decorated and the company lively and enthusiastic at the 102nd annual awards dinner-dance sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012.

More than 180 people turned out to dine, dance and congratulate the honorees, and the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr., welcomed everyone to the occasion. He mentioned first those residents of the Bronx who had generously and willingly donated their time and goods to helping victims of Hurricane Sandy, and then he said he hoped he would never have to hear again about closures at the City Island firehouse.

Chamber president Gerard "Skip" Giacco introduced his right hand, vice president Paul Klein, owner of the Kaleidoscope Gallery, and president of Temple Beth-El, who has made a lifelong commitment to community service and was honored with the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award.

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto spoke admiringly of the contributions to the City Island community made by John Doyle, the youngest award recipient who was honored with a Community Service Award, and his former boss, State Senator Jeffrey Klein, whom he praised as a "model" for his work as both assemblyman and senator. Assemblyman Benedetto noted that Senator Klein,

Continued on page 18

Public Hearing on Mignone Project

The attorney for Dr. Domenico Mignone will be present at a public meeting of the Housing and Zoning Committee of Community Board 10 at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Members of the committee will ask the attorney questions relating to the assisted-living building proposed for City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. Dr. Mignone is seeking a variance from the Board of Standards and Appeals to build a residential structure in a zone classified as manufacturing. He is also appealing a Department of Buildings rule regarding the construction of parts of the building below grade in

a zone classified as AE.

Residents of City Island, many of whom are opposed to the construction of this four-story block-long structure, are invited to attend the meeting and will be allowed to speak once the committee has finished asking its questions.

The biggest question about the project posed by residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy is why anyone would want to put so many vulnerable seniors at risk by building a facility in an area that has been ordered by the Mayor's office to evacuate twice within the past 15 months.

The fund-raiser scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1, at Trinity United Methodist Church has been postponed until after the New Year. Those who have not yet contributed to the Civic Association's legal fund are invited to send a check, made out to SONE, to City Island Civic Association, P. O. 117, Bronx NY 10464.



The officers and members of
The American Legion, Post 156
salute all those serving in the military.

We have a special place in our hearts for the following City Islanders and their family members who are on active duty during the holidays:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| MARIO AYALA | LT. CHRISTOPHER MULLER |
| LTC. H. A. CLANCY | CHRISTOPHER NASH |
| LTC MICHAEL CLANCY | ROLANDO PINTO |
| PV2 JUSTIN CONAHAN | APRIL SALEM |
| LCDR EDMUND GANAL | PFC3 RACHEL SMITH |
| LT. ETHAN HEBEN | THOMAS SPENCER |
| FRANK HERNANDEZ | ROBERT J. SWIECIKI |
| LT. PAUL IT | PFC GAVIN TAYLOR |
| KEITH MANFREDONIA | SEAN TRIGLIA |
| CORY MAYER | DMITRI VYSTOROPSKY |

Thank you to all who supported the Servicemen's Fund and contributed to the aid of Hurricane Sandy.

If you would like to write to any of these active duty personnel, contact Commander Dave Carman, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464.

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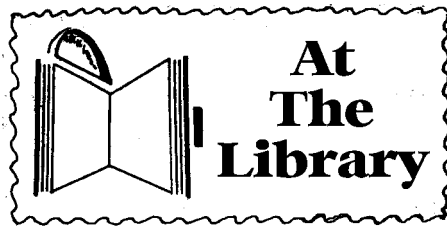
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

Throggs Neck native **Wally Santos** is proud to announce the opening of his third wholesale dry cleaning outlet, this one at 644 City Island Avenue, a much-needed discounted dry cleaning depot with organic and green dry cleaning at wholesale prices. He has teamed up with City Islander Nick Vrettos to offer same day or next day service; Islander Chris McGowan will man the booth for drop offs, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Free delivery to your home until 8 p.m. Most garments will be dry-cleaned for only \$3.75 each when prepaid. Watch for coupons in the mail.

Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue (718-885-1403), is calling artists to be part of the Holiday Show, which will run from Dec. 7 through Dec. 31, with an opening reception on Friday, Dec. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are an artist and would like to take part in this exhibition, call 718-885-1403. All work has to be ready to hang. There is a \$20 hanging fee for each piece and a 30 percent commission taken from the asking price.

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) celebrates the season with its holiday party on Sunday, Dec. 9, featuring a performance by singer-songwriter Theresa Sareo, the "sweetheart of Starving Artist." Also on tap is a Saturday Night Blues Party with Bennett Harris (Saturday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m.) and Japanese gypsy rock with Kagero (Saturday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m.). "Queen of rock" Nicola returns to Starving Artist for a CD release party for "Canyons and Cathedrals" on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. For

a complete December schedule, including details of New Year's Eve at Starving Artist with jazz man Lou Volpe, visit www.StarvingArtistOnline.com.



City Island Branch Library Events for December 2012

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

December Children's Programs

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

Children's Homework Lounge: Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Special events for children will be announced. Please check our fliers.

December Young Adult Programs

Card Game Training: Every Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

"Yu-Gi-Oh": Every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

Teen Homework Lounge: Every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

December Adult Programs

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

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

Introduction to Facebook: Find lost friends and make new ones. Call branch for which Friday this program will be

presented.

Adult Computer Lounge: Every Monday afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

Lectures: To be announced. Please check our fliers.

SPECIAL FILM: Batman, The Dark Knight Rises (2012) (165 minutes Rated PG-13 Warner Brothers), Saturday, Dec. 8, at 1 p.m. Please sign up for limited seating. Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy concludes with this Warner Brothers release that finds the Dark Knight pitted against Bane, an unstoppable foe possessed of tremendous physical and intellectual strength. Nearly a decade after taking the fall for Harvey Dent's death and disappearing into the darkness, a fugitive Batman (Christian Bale) watches from the shadows as the Dent Act keeps the streets of Gotham City free of crime. Meanwhile, an elusive cat burglar seizes the chance to strike, and a masked anarchist plots a devastating series of attacks designed to lure Bruce Wayne out of the shadows. Determined not to abandon the people who he once risked his life to protect, the Dark Knight emerges from his self-imposed exile ready to fight. But Bane (Tom Hardy) is ready, too, and once Batman is within his grasp, he will do everything in his power to break Gotham City's shadowy savior. Oscar-winner Michael Caine and Gary Oldman return in a sequel also starring Anne Hathaway, Marion Cotillard and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

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

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A Current Review

The Man Who Came to Dinner

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

"The Man Who Came to Dinner," produced by the City Island Theater Group in November 2012 was huge success, thanks to a great cast: (front row, l. to r.): Sarah Harrold, Lorain Porto, Sandra Prosnitz, Elizabeth Paldino, Margaret Cioffi, Nic Anthony Calabro; (back row): Connie Del Vecchio, David Lazaar, Jay Langkamp, Jonathon Langkamp, Thomas Losito, Carol Dooner, Danny Conover, Eric Dino, Frank Siciliano, Stanley Wexler, Eileen Fox, Leslie R. Blumgold, Andy Ravick. Missing: Denis Zepeda.

The City Island Theater Group reached back in theater history to select and mount a production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," in a run that closed with a Sunday matinee on Nov. 18. The show was interesting on a number of levels, not the least of which was as a sort of time capsule buried in 1939 and recovered by CITG. This classic comedy and its back story offer the audience a snapshot of a long vanished entertainment world.

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" debuted on Oct. 16, 1939, at the Music Box Theatre in New York City and was written by two titans of the era, George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Shortly thereafter, the show was produced in London, at the Savoy Theatre. The play was adapted to a 1942 feature film, directed by William Keighley and featuring Monty Woolley, Bette Davis, Ann Sheridan, Jimmy Durante, Billie Burke and Mary Wickes. The film premiered at the Capitol Theater in Paragould, Arkansas.

In 1949 the stage play came to radio, when it was produced for "The Hotpoint Holiday Hour." The production starred Charles Boyer, Jack Benny, Gene Kelly, Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Rosalind Russell. Subsequently, on March 27, 1950, the show was presented on the Lux Radio Theater starring Clifton Webb (as Sheridan Whiteside) and Lucille Ball (as Maggie Cutler).

A Hallmark Hall of Fame version of the show was produced for television by NBC on Nov. 29, 1972, with Orson Welles as Whiteside. Welles's costars were Lee Remick, Joan Collins, Don Knotts and Marty Feldman (as Banjo). A 1980 revival ran for 85 performances at the Circle in the Square Theatre. The 1980 cast included Ellis Rabb, Roderick Cook, Leonard Frey, Carrie Nye and Jamey Sheridan. Drama Desk Award nominations went to Cook for Outstand-

ing Featured Actor in a Play and Nye for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play.

The show was revived again, in 2000, by the Roundabout Theatre Company and once more ran for 85 performances. The cast included Nathan Lane as Sheridan Whiteside, Jean Smart, Harriet Sansom Harris and Lewis J. Stadlen. Nathan Lane later said, "There's a danger in playing Whiteside. In the [1942] movie, Monty Woolley's portrayal at times came across as mean for mean's sake."

Regarding that back story, Kaufman and Hart were said to have written "The Man Who Came to Dinner" about Alexander Woollcott, on whom they based their lead character, Sheridan Whiteside. In 1939 Woollcott was famous as a theater critic and as star of the radio show "The Town Crier." He and Kaufman and Hart were all friends, but that did not stop him from once showing up at Hart's Bucks County estate and taking over the house and terrorizing the staff. On his way out, Woollcott wrote in Hart's guest book, "This is to certify that I had one of the most unpleasant times I ever spent." As Kaufman and Hart were laughing about it, Hart supposedly remarked that he was lucky Woollcott had not broken his leg and become stuck there. Kaufman looked at Hart and the idea for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" was born.

Woollcott himself later played the part of Whiteside in a West Coast version of the play and was even joined on stage by Harpo Marx in the role of Banjo, which he had himself inspired. (There is a dialogue reference in the show to Harpo's brothers Groucho and Chico: when Whiteside talks to Banjo on the phone, he asks "How are Wackko and Sloppo?") The role of Beverly Carlton was based on Noël Coward, and the role of Lorraine Sheldon was modeled after Gertrude Lawrence.

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" is set in the 1930s, in the small town of Mesa-

lia, Ohio, in the weeks before Christmas. Sheridan Whiteside, a well-known radio personality touring the nation accompanied by his secretary, Maggie, has been invited to dine at the home of Ernest W. Stanley and his family. However, Whiteside slips on a patch of ice outside the front door and injures his hip. Whiteside is confined there while he recuperates from his injuries and proceeds to take control of the house by terrorizing the Stanley family; Dr. Bradley, the attending physician; Miss Preen, his nurse; and anyone else who appears to question his control of the home. As the show goes on, Whiteside seems to mellow slightly, as he tries to disengage Maggie from a romance he finds inconvenient and plots to help the Stanley children find personal fulfillment.

The role of Whiteside is the linchpin of the show, and Stanley Wexler played it to perfection, as he alternately scolded, praised, belittled, threatened and tongue-lashed his fellow performers. Crucially, he avoided crossing the line into pure

meanness that Nathan Lane feared. The primary targets of his abuse, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Eric Dino and Carol Dooner), each played their characters exactly—Eric as a controlling personality pushed out of control and Carol struggling mightily to maintain calm and poise in impossible situations.

A large piece of the show's plot line is Maggie's (Elizabeth Paldino) romance with Bert Jefferson (Nic Anthony Calabro), a local journalist. Throughout the show Elizabeth coolly portrayed the mix of cynicism and tenderness called for by her role. Nic, meanwhile, was ever the brash newspaperman, seemingly ripped from "The Front Page." Whiteside attempts to derail their romance by introducing a rival in the person of Lorraine Sheldon (Margaret Cioffi), an actress desperately seeking a profitable relationship with an English lord; she enters the show via a call to the liner *Normandie* and exits in an Egyptian sarcophagus. In between she falls for the fake British

Continued on page 19

A Current Review

"The Smallest Grand Opera in the World" by Anthony (Tony) Amato

By JANE PROTZMAN

At the age of 90, Tony Amato wrote and published his story of the joy and challenges of presenting opera in New York City, which he had done for over 60 years. His memoir, "The Smallest Grand Opera in the World," written with the aid of Rochelle Mancini, an editor and former principal singer with the company, describes how Tony and his wife, Sally, longtime residents of City Island, with a mostly volunteer staff and dedicated singers and musicians, became a popular downtown cultural institution while maintaining their home on City Island.

Tony's story began with his early years in a very musical family who lived in a small seaside town on the Amalfi coast. He came to America at the age of 7, and after one and a half years in high school in New Haven, Connecticut, he went to work in his father's butcher shop. But he had higher goals in mind, and when the shop closed in 1942 he was free to pursue his love, a classical vocal career. After many years of regional singing jobs around the country, he met the other love of his life, Sally Bell. They married in 1944 and began their amazing partnership, which resulted in the creation of the non-profit Amato Opera company in 1953.

Tony and Sally discovered City Island while cruising on their 30-foot motorboat, *The High C*. They fell under the island's spell because it reminded Tony of Minori, his birthplace, with "its boatyards and limited traffic." They bought a house at 606 King Avenue along with two mothers-in-law and another couple, and Tony lived there until he passed away in December 2011.

Two Islanders mentioned in the book are Lois Dunton, formerly a neighbor on King Avenue and mezzo soprano with the company, and Frank Szymanski, who had been recommended by Lois to do gardening work at the Amatos' home. Frank became Tony's lifelong friend as a fellow opera lover.

After mounting productions in various venues around the city, in 1963 the Amatos bought a building on the Bowery in Manhattan, where their productions achieved great acclaim. It was a four-story building measuring 25 by 125 feet, and they converted it into a 107-seat theater complete with a stage, a true orchestra pit for eight or nine musicians, an office and a costume department.

Just as the chandeliers at the famed Metropolitan Opera House are raised to the ceiling before a performance ("the lights go up as they go down," we always said), the Amato Opera house had two tiny chandeliers that were manually raised to the ceiling by Sally at 7:30 p.m. sharp for each performance. The small stage was a challenge but it contributed to the charm of each performance. The singers were young and often had other careers, but they joined the company to gain musical training from Tony or because they loved opera and wanted to be part of it, either as singers or as participants in other aspects of the productions. Some of them went on to fame and careers at the Metropolitan Opera and elsewhere, as "graduates" of Tony and Sally's extended family.

I remember going to many performances at the Bowery Theater. Once we went to see our friend Lois Dunton perform as Carmen. Our primary contact with her had been at our boatyard, where she always wore her oldest work clothes. It took us a full act to recognize her on stage as Carmen!

Opera goers arriving at the theater were greeted by Mrs. Amato, who when she was not taking tickets, making costumes, running the lights or selling coffee and cookies at intermission, sang many of the company's leading roles under her given name, Serafina Bellantone. Not only did Amato present the famous opera "workhorses" by Verdi, Puccini and Mozart, but he also explored and presented lesser-known composers such as Gomes, Boito and Giordano.

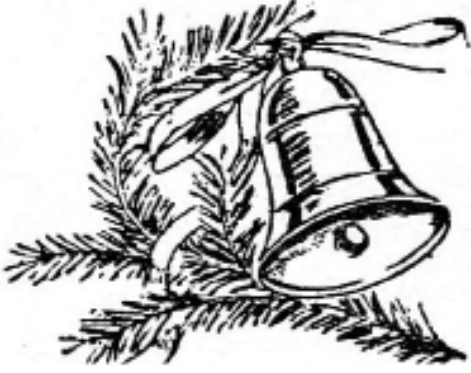
In 2001 a documentary by Stephen Ives, "Amato: A Love Affair with Opera" was shown on PBS. The DVD of the documentary is available at the PBS online store.

Tony's beloved Sally died in 2000, and the Amato Opera on The Bowery closed its doors in 2009. However, their genius is continuing in the Sally and Anthony Amato Program as a Legacy Endowment at the Manhattan School of Music see <http://www.msmnyc.edu>.

This delightful book is a testament to the Amatos' dedication and their efforts to provide high-quality opera to audiences at reasonable cost, and a tribute to the inspiration and opportunities they provided to many singers and musicians. As Sally and Tony like to say, their opera was "Small but Oh So Grand."

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A Season of H-O-P-E and J-O-Y on City Island

By MONICA GLICK

As City Island continues on the road back after Hurricane Sandy, there is no better time for some “hope” and “joy” than the holiday season! And the Island’s shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and business are ready to make that happen!

“H” is for “history.” There is our Island’s own history to wander through at the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.; don’t overlook their gift shop full of City Island-based goodies. **Trader John** (239 City Island Avenue) also has options; you never know what you’ll find there.



Early Ruth Antiques

Treasures from times past may be found at **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue), where Ruth herself or artist Anoosh Donahue can guide you through the myriad offerings on weekends or any other day, by appointment. Don’t forget to check out the life-size fairy, surrounded by guards holding torches! And be sure to visit the Island legend Smitty at **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue) during the holidays or any time.

Modern-day treasures await you in the creations at **Calico Juno Designs** (310 City Island Avenue)—handmade jewelry, scarves and much more. And there are more gift ideas to be found across the street at **Corona’s Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue).

Baubles and bangles in abundance are on display at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), where Susan Lamantia will make sure you find something for every person on your gift list. Her husband, owner Ron Turner, can offer you a memory for the season and beyond: a family portrait to treasure through time. And while you’re there,



Focal Point Gallery

check out the art and photography on exhibit!

“O” is for “on the go.” Start your holiday shopping day with breakfast at **Mi Café** (205 City Island Avenue) and greet the new owners! If you’re on the run, then perhaps a quick “to go” order from **Papa John’s Deli** (325 City Island Avenue), the **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) or **Dunkin’ Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) would be the choice.

After the day is finished and you are ready to start wrapping, get something “to go” from Chef Rafael’s **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue). Chef Rafael Ortega serves up award-winning chowder, plus Mexican specialties, wraps, sandwiches, salads and a good, old-fashioned burger with lots of toppings. Other possibilities are pizza from **Filomena’s Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue), or egg drop soup and some chicken lo mein from the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84–86 City Island Avenue).

Or press “stop” on your “on the go” trek and sit down for some old-fashioned home-style cooking at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue); the turkey dinner with all the trimmings is just



Kaleidoscope

like your mother used to make! Another way to settle down after shopping is to enjoy a holiday hot toddy next door at **The Snug**.

“P” is for “playtime.” Walk into **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue) and you will feel like you’re in the annex of Santa’s workshop! Toys, toys and more toys await you, not to mention ornaments

and gift items. Owner Paul Klein is sure to have some specials this season.

And where to get the perfect tree under which you may place all those toys and gifts? Right across the street, where Louise and Skip Giacco offer a first-class selection of trees and wreaths at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue). (Sorry, but you’ll have to wait until spring for the ice cream!) Decorations, wrapping and gift ideas are also found in that part of our neighborhood at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue), where the lovely Olivia Perillo is there to help. And Karl Hoedl says there will be lights plus batteries for your camera to capture the holiday action this season at his place, **Buddy’s Hardware** (260 City Island Avenue). Karl is also a great fixer, from bicycles to boat motors.

Maybe your playtime is all about a playing field. Then **The Club House** (274 City Island Avenue) is the stop to make. Robert Carmody and daughter Kelly invite you to join in and to have a listen as well to some live music on certain nights. Check in to find out more and learn about membership!

“E” is for “entertaining.” If it’s a home holiday celebration you are hankering after, then order a platter from Scavello Catering at the **IGA Supermarket** (385 City Island Avenue) or pick up some fare at the **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) or Con-

lery (276 City Island Avenue); past picks have been pottery from Toby Liederman, paintings by Tim Moses, photos by Marc Hohenstein and a glimpse into the world of the City Island Theater Group.

Home and boat can get ready for guests with help from **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) or **Remy’s** (272 City Island Avenue).

And Tommy Houlihan is always ready with art for the body at his **City Island Tattoos** (314 City Island Avenue).

“J” is for “jazz.” That’s the focus of the New Year’s Eve celebration at **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) featuring jazz legend Lou Volpe. And don’t forget that on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday you can hear the best of live music at this City Island venue. Owner and music-artist Elliott Glick also offers guitar lessons on the premises. Gift certificates are available for the café and those lessons! “Hitting the right note” all the time for those on your gift list: **Chase** (207 City Island Avenue) gift cards.

A sound choice for any Sunday is brunch at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue). In fact, this spot gives you a place to chill from Sunday brunch to Saturday evening dinner, with plenty to offer in the appetizer and dessert areas as well.

Perhaps your choice for the season—and the New Year—is to jump into an exercise routine. City Island has two spots for you to check out: **Krunch Time Fitness** (538 City Island Avenue), and the new mid-Island **Club Fit** (440 City Island Avenue). There’s also Master Edwin Castro’s **Dragon’s Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue), with classes for fitness and its by-products: self-esteem, focus and discipline.

“O” is for “onward.” That’s the sentiment behind the sign outside **Tony’s Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue), devastated by fire during Hurricane Sandy: “Tony’s will be back in the summer of 2013—‘Bigger and Better!’” And all of us here on City Island are waiting to celebrate that day!

As you move on down toward midtown, check out the speedy seafood stop waiting for Tony’s to rejoin the ranks: **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), where the games are as plentiful as the clam strips!

Speaking of the sea, there’s all you need to go far from shore at **Jack’s Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). Or dive into the holidays with **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue).

Get ready to make your moves by getting those clothes clean with Susie and Mariana at **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue). Move on down to **Sugar and Spice** (536 City Island Avenue) between the washing and the drying. The sweet and tangy granola and the cupcakes there are tasty treats!

As you make your way down, visit **Don Amadiz** (470 City Island Avenue) for a cigar of your liking, but remember to return later that evening for a game of pool at **Fella’s** (522 City Island Avenue), also on the way. Or maybe something on the large screen at the **City Island Ale House** (288 City Island Avenue) is what you’re looking for, while you try something from the adventurous hot dog selections and wash it down with one of the abundant ale choices.

“Y” is for “yummy.” That’s what you’ll find at all City Island’s fine eateries, to be sure. If you have a hankering for seafood, the choices abound. There’s the fun fireplace at the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), where you can feast on any of a number of appetizers, like the Tiki Platter with coconut

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Perhaps it’s your home that needs some beautifying. Seek out Mary Colby at her shop, **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), and talk “creation.” See also what art you’ll find at **Cheryl Brinker’s Studio / Gal-**



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The remains of the City Island Yacht Club's dock post Sandy.



Hurricane Sandy

Continued from page 3

the entire storm and during the aftermath directed traffic at the gas station to control the long lines.

The water remained higher than normal for many hours after the storm subsided, but the winds eventually quit, and slowly but surely people started coming out of their houses to look around at the damage and to start picking up the pieces. Cancellations were the order of the day—not only airline flights and the October Civic meeting but also, sadly, the Halloween parade and the much-anticipated Haunted House at the Community Center. But no one here had died or suffered serious injury, and many felt that City Island had dodged a pretty big bullet. Nevertheless, “Frankenstorm,” as the media were calling it, had left its mark in more ways than one.

The Aftermath

Almost as soon as the wind died down, elected officials and representatives of the offices of the Mayor and the Governor arrived on City Island to survey the damage caused by the hurricane. Councilmember James Vacca had been on City Island before the storm making sure that Pilot Cove Manor had a working generator and checking in with the fire house. He then visited on Tuesday and returned on Wednesday, Oct. 31, with Representative Joseph Crowley to take a close look at what remained of Tony's Pier and to view the damage at the Sailmaker Marina on east Schofield Street and at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club on Centre. State officials Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto were also quick to visit the Island and note areas that needed attention. By the end of the week, representatives of FEMA were much in evidence, distributing information and helping residents and businesses with applications for grants and loans.

Residents, meanwhile, were busy evaluating the damage to their property, pumping out their basements, trying to get Con Edison's attention and clearing debris from their yards. Many resolved to get generators for the next storm and to take evacuation orders more seriously. Others took a closer look at their insurance policies and tried to figure out whether they were covered for damage caused by wind, flooding or electrical surges.

Residents were told that heavily populated areas, such as downtown Manhattan, would have to get immediate attention, and Con Ed would not promise that the power would be restored before a week or more had elapsed. However, many Islanders were restored by Thursday, when Cablevision went back on line, thanks to a fleet of electrical workers who came in from out of state to help out and because City Island's wiring is aboveground and thus easier to repair. Residents have longed yearned for underground wires, but Hurricane Sandy may have made the case for keeping our wires above ground.

Some residents suffered long outages,

specifically Pilot Cove Manor, whose residents had to wait 10 days or more for full power. Another “perfect storm” occurred on Pilot Street, where a private house suffered first with a power surge caused by a downed transformer and then days later with a fire caused by a second surge when the power was turned back on. The Fire Department responded quickly and put the fire out, but damage to appliances and sections of the house was serious and the residents had no power or heat for nine more days.

Gardens, sea walls, basements, hot water heaters and boilers were affected at most residences close to the water on both sides of the Island. The Morris Yacht & Beach Club lost the planking that once led to its Tiki Bar, and the boat slips at both the Boatyard Condominiums and the Sailmaker Marina were destroyed, but the saddest victims of all were the boats, whether they were on their moorings or in dry dock. Indeed, the front page of the *New York Times* on the day after the storm had three photographs, one of them showing a sailboat up on the rocks on the east side.

The saddest sight of all was the yard at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, whose members had struggled mightily in days before the storm to get all of their boats off their moorings and onto what they thought would be dry land. But Sandy's storm surge and powerful waves and wind threw the dock out of place, flooded the entire yard and into the clubhouse, tossing many boats off their cradles and onto each other. Several boats that had been dry-docked closest to the water were propelled out into Eastchester Bay and lost.

A member of the Stuyvesant, Mike Rauh (whose 35th running of the New York Marathon didn't take place because the event was canceled), told *The Current* that 28 boats were seriously damaged and 8 totaled, including one of his. A barge and crane from City Island's Tow Boat US managed to remove boats from the south end of the yard, placing them back into the water to determine if they could float, removing them by barge if they could not and putting them back on their cradles if they could. This enabled the club to fill the yard with a truckload of gravel, which was packed down and leveled. Members are still hard at work raking, removing debris and cleaning up. The dock, of course, is another story and will have to be taken apart and put back together as soon as permits are obtained.

Several boats on the east side of the Island were also lost, one of them appropriately named *Hurricane*, and the ferry dock on Fordham Street was damaged. Happily, volunteers from the sailing teams at Fordham and Columbia Universities, whose boats are kept on City Island, came forward to remove debris and help clean up at the Sailmaker Marina and City Island Yacht Club, respectively.

An unforeseen crisis that hit both New York and New Jersey was a gas shortage, because fuel could not be unloaded from ships in New York Harbor and many gas

stations did not have electric power to run their pumps. Within a few days after the storm, long lines began to form at the Sunoco station at Ditmars Street, and because some folks became impatient and feisty, the 45th precinct sent officers to direct traffic and keep conflicts to a minimum, eventually splitting up the lines to accommodate cars at one set of pumps and people with portable containers at another.

Over at Orchard Beach, gas trucks were stationed temporarily to provide gas to first responders—fire fighters and police officers—who would otherwise have had to wait in line with everyone else. The parking lot was also used as the dumping place for debris from other parts of the park, and by press time more than 225 large containers had been filled with parts of trees. For these reasons, the entrance to the beach was closed to the public and remained so even as the December issue of *The Current* went to press.

In addition to firefighters and police officers, the Sanitation Department did yeoman service and worked around the clock moving and collecting debris, which included everything from huge branches to wet drywall, broken fences and ruined appliances. The Sanitation guys started working before the storm was over, and they were still at it as *The Current* went to press.

At the City Island Nautical Museum on Sunday, Nov. 18, Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, gave a standing-room only talk on the park and explained that there were more than 60 trees downed at Orchard Beach alone, with 10 to 15 trees on roadways and 20 to 25 trees on pathways throughout the park. Shore Road was closed to traffic for days because of downed power lines caused by fallen trees and branches. For this reason, the park was closed to visitors for several days, as was the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road, which went without power for at least two weeks following the storm.

The Friends of Pelham Bay Park and many other volunteers, however, pitched in on several occasions to help clear debris from the park and from areas around the museum, but many more clean-ups will be necessary before the park will begin to look like itself again.

Although the area was greeted with a second storm, a short-lived nor'easter, the week after Hurricane Sandy, no serious damage was reported and the inch or two of wet snow served to cover up debris and dead grass for a day or so. And the snow also served to remind Islanders of the upcoming holiday season and to get out their decorations and begin to celebrate a New Year free of hurricanes.

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Thurs., Nov. 29, **Public Hearing of Community Board's Housing and Zoning Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Fri., Nov. 30 and Sat., Dec. 1, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1, to Sat., Dec. 15, **POTS Christmas Giving Program**, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church lobby in the gift box by the tree. Donate new articles of clothing, including sweatshirts, underwear, gloves, hats, scarves, or socks. Call 718-885-2137 for information.

Sun., Dec. 2, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

Sat., Dec. 8, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 5 p.m., sponsored by Temple Beth-El and the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Dec. 15, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: pasta with meatballs or meat sauce.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: tuna noodle casserole.

Tues., Jan. 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island Ave., Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Our worship schedule is as follows: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m.; Lambs Babysitting available first Sundays—Dec. 2, 2012, and Jan. 6, 2013 at 9:50 a.m. in Grace Church Hall; Evening Prayer, Mondays at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 9, Bishop's Visitation, Grace Church 150th Anniversary and New Ministry Celebration Service.

On Monday, Dec. 24, we will have a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.; music begins at 6:30 and babysitting is available in Grace Church Hall at 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day service at 10 a.m.

December and January Events

Hearts and Hands: Monday, Dec. 10 and Jan. 14, 7:15 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. This knitting group provides caps, shawls and lap robes for Calvary Hospital patients. All are welcome!

Friday Night Fellowship: Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Grace Church Hall. A local CPA will give us year-end tax tips to work your finances to your best advantage before the year is over!

Friday Night Fellowship: Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Grace Church Hall. We hope you are hungry on Jan. 11! We will be making Super Bowl recipes, the best from Grace parishioners. Learn how to make Bruce's almost-world-famous chili, Brenda's hot wings, Joanne's asparagus roll-ups, a spinach dip and a delicious dessert. Come hungry and ready to help with the prep.

The Grace Church Concert Series presents Sing We Enchanted on Sunday, Jan.

6, at 4 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 6, 2013 (snow date Jan. 13), in Grace Church. Tickets are \$25 in advance / \$30 at the door. Seating is limited. (Tickets may be purchased by using Paypal through the Grace Church website, www.gracecityisland.org, or by check no later than Dec. 29. Make payment to Grace Church Epiphany Concert, c/o Grace Church 116 City Island Ave, Bronx NY 10464.

Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia

Holiday Services

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Saturday, Dec. 8: Chanukah Menorah Lighting 5:30 p.m. in Hawkins Park.

Friday, Dec. 14: Chanukah Shabbat 7:30 p.m. with Reb David and Reb Eva at Helen and Bob Lerner will sponsor the Oneg.

Friday, Jan. 4: New Year Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 p.m. with Reb David and Reb Eva. Elaine Belasco will provide the Oneg.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1: Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Dec. 2, First Advent Sunday Special Holy Communion Worship Service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 9: Parsonage Open House, 1 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, Dec. 9: Bishop's Visitation, Grace Church (Building) 150th Anniversary and New Ministry Celebration Service, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 21: Christmas Caroling, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Ave. near the Bridge

Sunday, Dec. 23: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Carols at 7:15 p.m. and Mass at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Monday, Dec. 31: Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God, 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., 5:15 p.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Sunday, Dec. 2, marked the beginning of the holy season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior at Christmas. We wish everyone a happy, peaceful season!

Our annual Thrift Shop Christmas Sale is on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym and in the Thrift Shop. I am sure many bargains are waiting to be discovered!

Our monthly holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. We will have an anticipated Mass on Friday, Dec.



Photo by BOB BERENT

Temple Beth-El of City Island played host for the third time this year to the Bardekova Ensemble, a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring free and/or moderately priced concerts to all ages and economic levels in the Bronx. On Sunday, Nov. 18, the group delighted City Islanders and friends with works by Vivaldi, Kramer/Krommer, Schubert and Mozart. Previous concerts at the temple included works by Duke Ellington and Scott Joplin. Pictured above (l. to r.) are Richard Paratley (flute), Yasmine Tetenbaum (viola), Darla Coolman (bass) and Ellen Bardekoff (oboe). Their concerts were made possible with funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts, several New York funds, private donations and, of course, "Your Shul by the Sea."

7, at 7:30 p.m. and our regular 8 a.m. Mass on Saturday morning. It is under this title that we honor Mary as the patroness of the United States.

All are welcome to join us in the rectory for our monthly Coffee Hour after the ten o'clock Mass on Sunday, Dec. 9. On that same day, our St. Mary's choir will bring their joyful voices for an evening of caroling at Pilot Cove at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has been declared the patroness of all the Americas. We will have a special Mass that evening in English and Spanish at 7:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the school gym.

Our annual Ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come join us for a joyous, prayerful evening in preparation for Christmas.

The joyful celebration of the birth of Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, preceded by the singing of Christmas carols at 7:30 p.m. Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very Happy Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. We will follow our Sunday Mass schedule: anticipated Mass on Monday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. and Masses on Jan. 1 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very happy and peaceful New Year to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx continues to respond to the needs of Hurricane Sandy victims with donations of clothing, food and hands-on service. We have five sister clubs on Staten Island that represent some of the hardest hit areas. As of this writing, Rotarians have donated so much that the warehouses allocated by Rotary for these materials are packed to the rafters and monetary donations are preferred.

The Club gave 10 turkeys with all the trimmings for a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner to 10 families in need in the Bronx, one of those to a City Island victim of Sandy.

On Tues., Dec. 11, the Club will be hosting its wildly popular Holiday Celebration at Sammy's Shrimp Box at 64 City Island Ave. All are welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon with arias sung by our friends from the Bronx Opera Company. It is a heartwarming way to kick off the holiday season. The lun-

cheon tickets are \$45. Please RSVP to Mary Springman at 718-617-1600 by Dec. 7.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx will be partnering with the Sons of Italy Uguaglianza Lodge #83 to bring some holiday cheer to the children of Public School 811 in the Bronx. Public School 811 has 615 students that are multi-handicapped: autistic, legally blind, hearing impaired, and mentally challenged. Should you wish to donate we are requesting the following items: hats, gloves, scarves, coloring books, large crayons, soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, baseball caps, sports tee-shirts, toiletries, puzzles, any learning games, and/or any monetary gifts.

A group of Rotarians will be joining SOI members on the morning of Dec. 18 at the school to help distribute the gifts and photograph the kids with Santa. It is a large undertaking and all volunteers are welcomed. The school is located at 1434 Longfellow Ave. in the Bronx. Please contact Lilyanna Pekic at 718-655-5000 if you would like to help. Donations can be dropped off anytime up to Dec. 18 to Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, 33 Earley Street, City Island, NY.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx meets every Tues. at 12:15 p.m. at Sammy's Shrimp Box. Visitors are always welcome.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

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.

The Sunday school will present the annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16, during the regular service. Plan to attend and let the children's special message fill you with holiday spirit.

The Trinity Christmas Fair is Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1. Please plan to attend for dinner Friday evening or lunch on Saturday, and pick up some sweet and savory treats at the same time.

The Budget Corner is open and full of freshly donated, gently used items. The fall schedule is: Dec. 4, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 18. It will then close for the Christmas holiday season. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt



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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown has brought traditional and contemporary folk music to the Bronx for 26 years. As we enter our second season on City Island, we present live performances from some of the very finest artists in the folk genre. We host a show on either the first or second Saturday of each month. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 unless otherwise noted. We are a 501(c)3 organization run entirely by volunteers. Please visit www.uptowncoffeehouse.org or call 718-885-2955 for our latest schedule and details.

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

City Island Parenting Group: An ongoing topic-oriented discussion group for parents with John Scardina. All are welcome; come once or every month. We try to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month in the dance studio at 7 p.m.

Holiday Party: The Annual Holiday Party is Dec. 7 at the Community Center.

NEW CLASSES

The Community Center is interested in hosting a Weight Watchers meeting, but in order to have a meeting we need to meet the minimum attendance. If interested in being part of the group, please call the community center at 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

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

Art and Craft Classes: Pre-school class and a kindergarten through third-grade class designed to improve cognitive skills and confidence. Fun-for-everyone classes will ignite the imagination, featuring painting, collage, paper sculpting, printmaking and many other projects. Pre-school, 2 to 3 p.m.; K-third grade, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Six classes for \$125. For registration and more information, call Eileen Stodut at 914-633-1695.

Introducing Fashion Designing: Fashion design classes will include the creation of a fashion journal, including a brief introduction to the history of fashion. There will be an introduction to textile designing, including tie dyeing and texture creations that will be applied to the final fashion show. Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30. Six classes for \$125. For registration and more information, call Eileen Stodut at

914-633-1695.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Started Monday, Sept. 24. Taught by Geri Smith, former LaGuardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. \$90 for five-week session; \$25.00 material fee (after the session ends, students may bring materials home). For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

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

Zumba Gold: A fun filled dance and exercise session with a salsa beat, geared for age 50 and up. Classes are \$3 each. Meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Sarah Persteins

PSS Healthy Seniors

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. We hope more people will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Sarah: Monday at 10:30 at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Arthritis Exercise with Patty: Tuesday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall.

Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday; we leave Pilot St. at 9:30 (must have three walkers).

Yoga Stretch with Michael: Thursday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall.

Fit for Life with Sarah: Friday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall.

Note: To make ends meet a little better, all classes will be \$3, except Arthritis Exercise, which will continue to be free.

Senior Writing Group

What is your favorite family story—the one that makes everyone smile? Come turn those memories into wonderful stories. Every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Volunteering

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

Telephone Reassurance

If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Caregiver Support

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

Transportation Services

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

Program Services

Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, including group theater discounts to shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Westchester Dinner Theater on Nov. 8 (\$53). Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Debbie Erosa

Temple Beth-El

For 78 years Temple Beth-El of City Island has provided an exciting place for Jews and spiritual seekers of all ages who come from many different communities and cultures. Your Shul by the Sea, as the Temple is fondly called, is an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue. We are a spirited congregation that gathers together under the leadership of the stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Reb David Evan Markus, our associate spiritual leader. Located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, we conduct Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all, and we follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and Hebrew also written out phonetically.

Our special events and services this month are as follows:

Friday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Shohama and Reb David. Ethan Wolf will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah and his family will sponsor the Oneg.

Saturday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m.: Community Menorah Lighting at Hawkins Park. Paul Klein will provide cider and cookies afterward at his Kaleidoscope Gallery across the street from Hawkins Park.

Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.: Chanukah Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva. Helen and Bob Lerner will sponsor the Oneg.

Sunday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m.: Chant Circle with Reb Eva, followed by a brown-

bag dairy lunch and meeting of the Chessed Committee. (The committee seeks new members to help with prayer, phone calls to the ill, and visits to people who are homebound.)

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2 to 4 p.m.: Healing Workshop with Steve Gottlieb, based on the Emotional Freedom Technique. A small suggested donation (\$5) to the temple is requested.

Friday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m.: New Year Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva. Elaine Belasco will provide the Oneg.

Friday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m.: Freedom Shabbat led by Rabbi Shohama and Reb David, plus special guest Elizabeth Kent, who is a singer/journey-teller. The Oneg is sponsored by Karen and Marty Davidowitz.

Sunday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m.: Tu B'Shevat Seder/Brunch led by Reb David and Reb Eva.

All other Friday night services will be community led, usually with Bob Berent and his accordion. Please come celebrate the Sabbath with us!

The monthly class called "Spirit and Song: The Liturgy and Spirituality of Welcoming Shabbat," led by Reb David, will be held on Thursdays, Dec. 13 and Jan. 3, at 7:30 p.m. To register or ask questions, please e-mail Reb David at davidevanmarkus@gmail.com.

Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Republicans

We will be starting up our eighth year on City Island later next year. Our next meeting will be in March or April. Stay tuned for details.

Unfortunately City Island Election Day tallies, along with results from other Bronx districts, were not available as this issue went to press. Look for the final counts in an upcoming issue of *The Current*.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

American Legion Post #156

We would like to remind everyone about our weekend specials during football season.

The Servicemen's Dinner once again received positive reviews. Everyone enjoyed both the pork and the chicken. We would like to thank Costco for donating the chickens.

On Saturday, Dec. 8, at noon is the annual Pearl Harbor ceremony held at the triangle next to the bridge. All are welcome to attend.

The children's Christmas party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. DJ Ray will entertain the young ones.

The adult Christmas party will be held on Monday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. Pepe will provide the entertainment.

The New Year's Eve party will be a pot-luck dinner and a champagne toast at midnight.

The annual calendar sale has begun. They are \$20 each and proceeds go toward maintaining the building. Anyone who wants a particular number should speak to Joe Goonan.

All old flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole. They will be retired with dignity. Just a reminder! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. We are here for all of your party needs. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m.

The Post would like to thank the City Island community for its generosity during this past year. We could not survive without your support. We would also like to thank everyone who donated items for the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Happy Holidays and a joyful New Year!

Robert Mennona

Continued on page 20



Now and Then

I have always been fascinated by films that take place in two different eras in time, either through flashbacks or through the telling of parallel stories. The interweaving of the “now and then” stories make for fascinating viewing.

The French Lieutenant's Woman (1981) stars Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons in dual roles first as actors Anna and Mike having an extramarital affair in the 20th century. Their story is juxtaposed with that of Charles, a 19th-century biologist who is engaged to Ernestina (Lynsey Baxter). Charles becomes smitten with the disgraced Anna, who has had a scandalous affair with a mysterious French lieutenant. The stories move back and forth, with Anna and Mike seeming to play in real life the roles of Anna and Charles in the film they are making.

In Back to the Future (1985) the best friend of high-schooler Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) is the eccentric scientist Doc (Christopher Lloyd), who is working on a time machine. Marty's parents, Lorraine (Lea Thompson) and George (Crispin Glover), are at the mercy of George's supervisor, the bullying middle-aged Biff (Thomas F. Wilson). When Marty and Doc are accidentally zapped back into the 1950s, Marty inadvertently interferes with the budding romance of his then teenaged parents, so he must find a way to reunite them, lest he cease to exist in the 1980s.

Cinema Paradiso (1990) is the story of Salvatore (Jacque Perrin), a prominent

film director, who is saddened to hear of the passing of Alfredo (Philippe Noiret), the projectionist in the movie theater in the small Italian town where he grew up. Alfredo had befriended Salvatore when he was a little boy, and Salvatore spent most of his childhood (Salvatore Cascio) and teen years (Marco Leonardi) in the projection room of the theater. In this film, he journeys back to his home town for the first time since he left it as a teenager; and through flashbacks we see the unfolding of this beautiful friendship.

The Joy Luck Club (1993), which has an extraordinary ensemble cast, tells the harrowing stories of four older Chinese women (Kieu Chinh, Tsai Chin, France Nuyen and Lisa Lu) in their native country via flashback, and parallels them with the American childhoods of their daughters. These stories are all told from the present day when the daughters (Ming-Na Wen, Tamlyn Tomita, Lauren Tom and Rosalind Chao) are all grown. It is a fascinating journey into a remarkable culture, whose mother-daughter conflicts will be nevertheless familiar to all viewers.

An American scholar, Roland Michell (Aaron Eckhart), makes a discovery that leads him to meet with British professor Maud Bailey (Gwyneth Paltrow) in **Possession** (2002). Roland has discovered a letter from a Victorian poet laureate, Randolph Henry Ash (Jeremy Northam), that was written to someone other than his wife. Roland believes it was addressed to Maud's primary area of expertise, 19th-century feminist writer Christobel LaMotte (Jennifer Ehle). While Roland and Maud play 20th-century detectives, the audience is treated to an alternate universe in which Randolph and Christobel live their lives.

Set in World War II, **The Reader** (2008) stars Kate Winslet as Hanna Schmitz, a woman in her mid-30s who forms a romantic, sexual attachment to a 15-year-old boy, Michael (David Kross). Eight years later, after she has disappeared from his life, Michael is in law school. He has been selected by his professor to be among a

chosen few to attend a real-life trial of Nazi prison guards. He encounters Hanna in the courtroom, an experience that changes both his life and hers. Much of the film is told as flashbacks experienced by the adult Michael (Ralph Fiennes), who ultimately performs an unexpected act of supreme kindness for Hanna.

The Secret in their Eyes (2009) is set in 1999 Argentina, where a retired federal agent, Benjamin Esposito (Richardo Darin), is writing a novel. He uses material from an unsolved case that has haunted him for 25 years, the brutal rape and murder of Liliana Coloto (Carla Quevedo). The film is told with intermittent flashbacks to 1974, when Esposito and his partner, Pablo Sandoval (Guillermo Francella), were conducting the investigation, spurred on by the grief-stricken husband (Pablo Rago). Esposito is also haunted by unrequited love for his 1974 department chief, Irene Menendez-Hastings (Soledad Villamil), with whom he shares a draft of his current manuscript.

Sarah's Key (2010) is the story of journalist Julia Jarmond (Kristin Scott Thomas), who in 2009 is assigned to write a story about the darkest period in French history. In 1942 French officials rounded up and more than 10,000 Jews in the “vel' d'hiv” stadium, where those who survived were eventually sent to German concentration camps. At that time, as 10-year old Sarah (Mélusine Mayance) and her family are being arrested, she hides her younger brother in a closet. After realizing she will not be allowed to go home, Sarah does whatever she can to get back to her brother. When present-day Julia moves into her father-in-law's childhood apartment, she realizes that it once belonged to the Strazynski family and their daughter, Sarah.

Incendies (2010) recounts the story of Jeanne and Simon Marwan (Mélicha Désormeaux-Poulin and Maxim Gaudette), twins who have grown up in Canada. When their mother, Nawal (Lubna Azabal), dies, her last will and testament requires them to journey to the Middle East to seek a brother they never knew they had. The twins are

assisted by Jean Lebel (Rémy Girard), a notary who had been their mother's employer for many years. Their travels in a country that resembles Lebanon are interwoven with episodes from their mother's life during that nation's long and gruesome civil war.

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

Midnight in Paris (2011) is one of Woody Allen's best films. The story centers on Gil (Owen Wilson), a Hollywood screenwriter and his fiancée, Inez (Rachel McAdams), who are on vacation in Paris along with her disapproving parents (Mimi Kennedy and Kurt Fuller). Inez wants to spend time with her pseudo-intellectual friend Paul (Michael Sheen), whom Gil detests. So Gil takes midnight strolls alone and is picked up by a classic car that takes him back in time to the 1920s. There he meets Cole Porter (Yves Heck), Josephine Baker (Sonia Rolland), Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald (Alison Pill and Tom Hiddleston), Ernest Hemingway (Corey Stoll) and Gertrude Stein (Kathy Bates) and becomes infatuated with Ariana, the mistress (Marion Cotillard) of Pablo Picasso (Marcial Di Fonzo Bo). Gil and Ariana subsequently travel in time back to the 1890s, where they encounter artists Toulouse-Lautrec (Vincent Menjou Cortes), Paul Gauguin (Olivier Rabourdin) and Edgar Degas (François Rostain). This is a delightful film, in which Owen Wilson does a credible job of playing a character Woody Allen once would have played himself.

Be warm and safe, and until next time, happy viewing. . . .



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Talking With Children about Natural Disasters

By JOHN SCARDINA

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and in light of the increasing likelihood that extreme weather events will be a part of our lives from now on, we parents need to maintain open and loving conversations with our children. Although there is no wrong way to be open and loving, here are some suggestions that might help:

Remain available to talk about what is happening. Accept all questions, even if they are repeated over (and over!) again.

Be honest. Give facts at an appropriate level for your child's developmental level. Be willing to say "I don't know" if that is the case.

Acknowledge feelings—your own and your child's. Natural events bring up lots of emotions for us, including fear, anger, worry, despair, hope, and that is how it should be. It helps everyone to talk about feelings.

Let your child know there are people who can help. Become people who can help. Find ways to help those in more need than you. Helping others creates hope for all.

Limit television viewing: vivid images can be quite disturbing and can cause long-lasting discomfort.

Use drawing as a way to get disturbing

images out of your child's mind: have the child draw the image and then rip up the picture. This works especially well with nightmares.

Recognize that headaches, stomachaches and sleep disturbances all accompany anxiety and uncertainty. Let your child know that these are natural reactions to stress and will pass soon.

Let your children be kids: when they are ready to just go out and play with their friends, let them do so. Help them—and yourselves—come to terms with this "new normal" in our world.

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to put in a good word about an organization I work with: the Quaker Bolivia Link (www.qbl.org), which provides fresh water, nutrition and education for impoverished people in the altiplano region of South America. You can give holiday gifts in honor of family members through this website: <https://www.alternativegifts.org/projects/project15/>.

Blessings to all.

City Island resident John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Visit his website www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.



St. Mary, Star of the Sea School

Turkey Bingo was a great success and a lot of fun; thanks to all who attended.

Our younger students will be doing some holiday arts and crafts with our neighbors at Pilot Cove. We are grateful to Mrs. Deborah Erosa Badillo for organizing this collaboration.

The St. Mary Thrift Shop will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 in the school gymnasium.

Grades 3 and 4 are looking forward to their trip to the Hall of Science on Dec. 6; the trip was originally planned for November but rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy. The school will be closed on Dec. 7 for Archdiocesan Data Day Conference. Dec. 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of our Country, and a holy day of obligation. The Home School Association will sponsor a Holiday Boutique from Dec. 10 through Dec. 14. Faculty will attend Common Core Curriculum Professional Development Day on Dec. 12. Grades K and 1 will attend the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center on Dec. 13.

The Christmas Assembly will take place on Dec. 18 at 12:45 in the school gymnasium; each grade will perform as well as the band, Early Childhood Strings Program and the choir. Christmas Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 21, during which the eighth-grade ring ceremony will take place, as well as the Student of the Month ceremony. Christmas recess begins at 3 p.m. on Dec. 21, and school resumes on Jan. 2.

Congratulations to our October and November Students of the Month, who exemplify leadership, excellent academics and Christian awareness: Katelyn Hernandez and Brian Hickey (pre-kindergarten); Alyssa Comacho-Polidura and Yanelis Santiago (kindergarten); Jayla Harrison, Kenneth Nelson, Peter Hickey and Ciara Medina (first grade); Sarah Badillo, Emily Badillo, Bruno Sambolin and Hazel Montalvo (second grade); Star Moroch and Analis Alarcon (third grade); Mesiah Jean and Devin Cruz (fourth grade); Elijah Francis and Jahray Frances (fifth grade); Michael Bannister, Jacob Ocasio and Camille Smith (sixth grade); Tassia Turner and Destinee White-Foster (seventh grade); Keith Jones III and Alicia Jones (eighth grade).

A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Public School 175

We want to extend our thoughts and good wishes to any family that has been

impacted by the storm. Although City Island seems so much more fortunate than many of the other island communities in New York City, the hardships those affected families are experiencing is just as real. The school community is planning a fund-raising drive for the month of December in which all students and staff members will participate by working on different activities to help raise relief funds. We are hoping to be able to make a substantial contribution to those in need!

Before the storm struck, students participated in many exciting activities. The kindergarten has been taking walking trips to the City Island Library, and the second grade visited the Morris Yacht Club (fortunately right before the storm) to see how City Island fits in with the greater New York City community. Students identified the boroughs they could see as well as bridges, waterways and landmarks. Seventh- and eighth-grade students had their first reward trip to the Bronx Zoo.

Our Halloween festivities were postponed, but when children returned to school from their week off, we had a morning of fun activities for kindergarten through third-grade students, and the fourth- and fifth-graders watched a movie. The seventh- and eighth-graders had their dance on Nov. 15.

This year's Penny Harvest program has begun. Mr. Scopp, our student government leader, is organizing the collection of pennies (nickels, dimes, quarters and bills too!) through the beginning of December. Proceeds from the Harvest will be donated to an organization that is working on hurricane relief. We are hoping that we will exceed what we donated last year.

The Lincoln Center Institute is once again working with our students and teachers in kindergarten through third grade. The first work of art they are studying this year is "Tu Maraca," which will culminate in a live musical performance at the school. In the spring, teachers and students will be doing a puppetry unit of study.

We are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide students with instruction in theatrical and musical arts. Fifth-graders have begun to practice for their spring performance of "A Year with Frog and Toad." Third- and fourth-graders are participating in an after-school program that will culminate in a musical revue.

Upcoming events include the Hollywood Game Show and our annual Holiday Sing.

A special thank-you to our wonderful City Island community for all the support they showed at the PTA's Election Day sale, which was a huge success. We are most grateful to our PTA for all their hard work, which enhances the education we are able to provide for our students.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Monday, Dec. 24, through Tuesday, Jan. 1, school closed; classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 2.

October and November Citizens-of-the-Month are Isaiah Elsayad, Gabriella Gierum, Mikayla Murphy and Marshall Persteins (kindergarten); Isabella Reyes-Famous and Alfred Marini (first grade); Patrick Livingston, Gwen Boyle, Ryan Whelan and Jake Zavel (second grade); Aiden Hanley-Piri, Demitria Mantzaris, Julian McElroy and Amanda Acocella (third grade); Isabel Whelan, Mia Villafana, Aiden Sanchez and John Bernardo (fourth grade); Jade Villafana and Jonathan Mazzella (fifth grade); Joshua Santiago, Lyla MacDonald, James McGaughan and Claudia Kimmel (sixth grade); Lydia McElroy, John Tomsen, Michael Mancuso and Michael Bauso (seventh grade); Mario Castillo, Esther Kramer, Jonieri Cruz and Samantha Germosen (eighth grade).

We wish the entire City Island community a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season!

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REALTY BITES

By JOAN L. CUMMINGS

Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." This is still good advice 50 years later, but in the realm of real estate, a little detachment is needed in today's unstable, volatile market. Let's face it, one can get very emotional buying your first home or selling the one you lived in for 30 years. In today's market, a little prudent detachment from the expectation of what buying or selling reaps can be a healthy thing.

As first-time home buyers, couples typically envision what they want in their new home. Some dream traditionally of the white picket fence with a big backyard, others a two-car garage with a tool shop for those weekend projects, and still others imagine a large kitchen and fireplace to share special moments with family and friends.

The criterion for mortgage qualification these days can throw some cold water on those dreams and expectations especially when it comes to where you want to live. Even with family support, the 20 percent down for a \$400,000 house can be frustratingly out of reach, and you may have to look outside your desired area to get the items on your wish list.

The alternative to a traditional bank mortgage can be SONYMA, tailored for first time homebuyers at a more realistic 3 percent down. Guideline information, including homes for sale, can be found on the New York State Homes and Community Renewal website at www.nyshcr.org. Another alternative is the Fannie Mae Home Path Program, www.homepath.com a government-backed agency, which features foreclosed properties in New York, and throughout the United States, with a minimum of 3 percent down.

For sellers, the amount of capital gains

from a home sale will dictate the quality of life now and in retirement, so getting the best market price for your home is important. Like it or not, today's buyer wants up-to-date and move-in ready—especially kitchens and baths. Sellers who have been in their home for a number of years tend to believe their taste in décor is a buyers' taste as well. Not so, Walt! And while you're expounding the wisdom of putting faux brick on a load-bearing kitchen wall and how the pink butterfly bath tile matches your towels, the prospective buyer is mentally calculating the replacement cost, along with the price of the home. Modernizing without customizing kitchens and baths can make the difference between selling your home and having it stay on the market.

An initial first step is clearing away clutter, including excess furniture and personal family memorabilia so the buyer can envision himself in the space. Having neutral colors on the walls keeps the focus on the space. In other words, depersonalize your home. Fixing leaky faucets, cracked window panes and broken door handles and sweeping the curb reflect home pride. If these details are not corrected, a buyer will notice, and it can quash any chance of a sale.

So though attaining the American dream may take a lot more than a Pinocchio-like version of wishing upon a star, it is definitely worth the pursuit with planning and practicality. And that, I think you would agree, is no lie.

Joan Lake Cummings has been a licensed NYS broker and property manager for over 10 years. She is a former journalist and editor for a Texas weekly newspaper. She and her family moved in 1972 to City Island, where she still retains her family's home.



St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

Christmas Schedule 2012

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
Sunday, December 23
7:30 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**
Carols: 7:30 p.m.
Mass: 8:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**
Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
and 12: Noon

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**
Mass: 5:15 p.m.
(Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary,
Mother of God)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon

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

DECEMBER 2012									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0032	7.02	0617	0.73	1219	7.61	1852	0.23	Sat 01
02 Sun	0054	7.09	0653	0.73	1254	7.60	1924	0.25	Sun 02
03 Mon	0128	7.18	0735	0.74	1335	7.54	2003	0.28	Mon 03
04 Tue	0208	7.28	0821	0.75	1421	7.42	2047	0.32	Tue 04
05 Wed	0254	7.36	0912	0.75	1511	7.25	2135	0.36	Wed 05
06 Thu	0345	7.45	1006	0.71	1606	7.06	2228	0.38	Thu 06
07 Fri	0439	7.55	1107	0.60	1705	6.92	2324	0.35	Fri 07
08 Sat	0537	7.71	1214	0.38	1809	6.87			Sat 08
09 Sun	0024	0.25	0638	7.92	1331	0.04	1916	6.93	Sun 09
10 Mon	0128	0.08	0740	8.17	1447	-0.41	2023	7.10	Mon 10
11 Tue	0235	-0.14	0840	8.42	1551	-0.85	2127	7.32	Tue 11
12 Wed	0341	-0.38	0939	8.60	1648	-1.19	2227	7.53	Wed 12
13 Thu	0444	-0.56	1036	8.68	1743	-1.39	2324	7.68	Thu 13
14 Fri	0543	-0.65	1133	8.61	1836	-1.40			Fri 14
15 Sat	0020	7.74	0642	-0.63	1230	8.39	1930	-1.25	Sat 15
16 Sun	0117	7.71	0742	-0.49	1329	8.05	2023	-0.96	Sun 16
17 Mon	0217	7.61	0843	-0.27	1434	7.63	2119	-0.59	Mon 17
18 Tue	0319	7.47	0947	-0.04	1543	7.23	2217	-0.20	Tue 18
19 Wed	0422	7.35	1051	0.15	1651	6.91	2316	0.13	Wed 19
20 Thu	0524	7.29	1153	0.26	1754	6.70			Thu 20
21 Fri	0014	0.39	0623	7.30	1253	0.27	1854	6.62	Fri 21
22 Sat	0110	0.54	0719	7.36	1349	0.20	1949	6.64	Sat 22
23 Sun	0203	0.61	0811	7.45	1442	0.09	2041	6.72	Sun 23
24 Mon	0252	0.62	0900	7.54	1530	-0.01	2129	6.83	Mon 24
25 Tue	0337	0.62	0944	7.60	1614	-0.08	2213	6.93	Tue 25
26 Wed	0418	0.61	1025	7.62	1654	-0.12	2254	6.99	Wed 26
27 Thu	0453	0.61	1101	7.59	1729	-0.10	2331	7.02	Thu 27
28 Fri	0520	0.59	1125	7.55	1758	-0.07	2358	7.03	Fri 28
29 Sat	0535	0.52	1134	7.55	1814	-0.07			Sat 29
30 Sun	0008	7.10	0600	0.40	1158	7.61	1830	-0.13	Sun 30
31 Mon	0028	7.25	0634	0.27	1232	7.65	1858	-0.20	Mon 31
JANUARY 2013									
01 Tue	0058	7.42	0712	0.18	1310	7.65	1936	-0.21	Tue 01
02 Wed	0139	7.55	0757	0.16	1355	7.52	2018	-0.17	Wed 02
03 Thu	0223	7.63	0845	0.19	1444	7.30	2105	-0.07	Thu 03
04 Fri	0313	7.64	0938	0.26	1537	7.02	2156	0.07	Fri 04
05 Sat	0407	7.61	1038	0.32	1637	6.75	2253	0.22	Sat 05
06 Sun	0506	7.59	1148	0.31	1743	6.57	2356	0.30	Sun 06
07 Mon	0612	7.62	1326	0.10	1857	6.56			Mon 07
08 Tue	0111	0.25	0722	7.75	1447	-0.34	2020	6.77	Tue 08
09 Wed	0240	0.02	0836	7.96	1549	-0.82	2132	7.11	Wed 09
10 Thu	0352	-0.35	0944	8.20	1644	-1.23	2231	7.46	Thu 10
11 Fri	0453	-0.69	1044	8.36	1736	-1.49	2325	7.73	Fri 11
12 Sat	0547	-0.92	1138	8.39	1826	-1.56			Sat 12
13 Sun	0016	7.89	0640	-1.00	1231	8.26	1914	-1.44	Sun 13
14 Mon	0107	7.91	0732	-0.91	1323	7.99	2002	-1.16	Mon 14
15 Tue	0157	7.82	0825	-0.68	1416	7.62	2050	-0.76	Tue 15
16 Wed	0250	7.63	0919	-0.36	1513	7.20	2140	-0.30	Wed 16
17 Thu	0345	7.41	1016	0.00	1613	6.81	2233	0.16	Thu 17
18 Fri	0443	7.20	1115	0.30	1714	6.52	2329	0.55	Fri 18
19 Sat	0543	7.07	1215	0.51	1815	6.36			Sat 19
20 Sun	0026	0.82	0642	7.03	1313	0.58	1913	6.35	Sun 20
21 Mon	0123	0.95	0737	7.08	1407	0.55	2007	6.45	Mon 21
22 Tue	0215	0.97	0828	7.19	1457	0.43	2057	6.62	Tue 22
23 Wed	0303	0.89	0915	7.31	1542	0.29	2143	6.79	Wed 23
24 Thu	0345	0.77	0957	7.41	1622	0.15	2225	6.94	Thu 24
25 Fri	0422	0.62	1033	7.47	1657	0.03	2259	7.06	Fri 25
26 Sat	0451	0.44	1056	7.51	1725	-0.07	2322	7.16	Sat 26
27 Sun	0512	0.24	1107	7.60	1743	-0.20	2332	7.34	Sun 27
28 Mon	0539	0.01	1133	7.71	1803	-0.35	2358	7.57	Mon 28
29 Tue	0614	-0.18	1209	7.78	1835	-0.47			Tue 29
30 Wed	0033	7.78	0653	-0.30	1250	7.75	1912	-0.50	Wed 30
31 Thu	0113	7.92	0737	-0.31	1334	7.60	1954	-0.43	Thu 31
FEBRUARY 2013									



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, spoke to a crowd of over 100 people about the park and Orchard Beach at the City Island Nautical Museum on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.



A BRIEF BUT EARLY HISTORY OF PELHAM BAY PARK

The overwhelming response to Administrator Marianne Anderson's presentation at the Nautical Museum a couple of Sundays ago had us thinking more about the history of Pelham Bay Park.

The story begins in 1881 with the creation of the New York Park Association. John Mullaly, the so-called Father of the Bronx Park System and the Association's secretary, led the legislative battle for the creation of more parks. It was his great concern that New York City, then comprising only the island of Manhattan and newly acquired land from Westchester County, was rapidly becoming a crowded, tenement-strewn metropolis. The new parks would serve the city's denizens as Central Park was already serving them, as a kind of oasis, an escape from the helter-skelter of urban living.

Others did not see it that way. Many in the New York State legislature, with a sharp eye, no doubt, on the breathtakingly high price tag for Central Park, expressed concerns about the cost of purchasing and then maintaining so many new parks, Pelham Bay Park being only one of a system of nine. Included among the opposition, ironically, was that great outdoorsman and future President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt.

Ultimately, Mullaly and the Association prevailed, in part because of their argument that, with the price of real estate set to skyrocket, they would be saving money by

buying land sooner rather than later. In 1884 the New Parks Act was passed, and in 1888 a commission purchased nearly 24 percent of the land that would become the Bronx and set it aside for parks and parkways. Remember, the Bronx did not officially come into existence until 1898; the commission had purchased 24 percent of the 23rd and 24th Wards of New York City (still only Manhattan and annexed lands that had once belonged to lower Westchester).

Pelham Bay Park takes its name from the bay that was filled in the 1930s with the creation of Orchard Beach, especially its parking lot. The lagoon where crew teams hone their skills is all that remains of what was once the body of water known as Pelham Bay. There is a song about this subject that is near and dear to our hearts. The lyric begins:

A bay is a body of water surrounded
By land on sides one, two and three
Its waters flow in from then out to the ocean
Unless your bay happens to be . . .
Underneath Pelham Bay parking lot,
long forgot, I kid you not
There was a bay but now a parking lot
Today there's cars where once sandbars
by sailors were known.

There's more, but you will have to stop by The Starving Artist one of these last Fridays of the month to hear it.

As always we invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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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.



Violet Ellis

Violet Marlene Ellis

Violet Ellis, 65, a resident of City Island since 2002, passed away on Sept. 16, 2012, after a long series of illnesses. Her husband, Mort, and her dearest friend, Bill Rainford, were at her side.

Violet Marlene was born in Manhattan to Mary and Morris Papier. She attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Queens College, where she earned both BA and MS degrees. She was then accepted into the Manhattan School of Music's doctoral program.

For 20 years, Violet was a dedicated elementary school teacher for the New York Board of Education. She first taught in Long Island City and then on the Lower East Side. She was also a tireless volunteer with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), serving on its Jewish Heritage, Irish Heritage, Italian American Studies, Political Action and Social and Recreational Committees. She was also involved with the Jewish Labor Committee.

Violet was a board member of the Jewish Teachers Association and was instrumental in planning its annual luncheons. She also served on the board of the Long Island Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and introduced its methods to the UFT's NYC Music Teachers Association with which she was also

involved. Violet later served on the board of both Temple Beth-El of City Island and the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

She loved to play the piano and the recorder and to dance and sing, all of which she performed with style and beauty. Her favorite breed of dog was the beagle, and she owned three of them.

After their marriage in 1969, Violet and Mort Ellis lived in Flushing, Queens, and later moved to Woodmere, Long Island. They finally settled on City Island in 2002.

Violet is survived by her husband, a brother, an uncle, a nephew and niece and several cousins. She had a great presence on City Island and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Donations in her memory would be greatly appreciated and can be made to the Rogosin Institute, which is involved in research and treatment programs for both diabetes and kidney disease. Write to the Development Office HT230, Rogosin Institute, 505 East 70th Street, New York NY 10021 or donate online at www.rogosi.org/donate.

Bryce Kirk

Bryce Kirk, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away suddenly in a nursing home near Nyack, New York, on Nov. 2, 2012, at the age of 91. The son of the late William A Kirk, a marine insurance broker, and the late Elizabeth Gload Kirk, Bryce was born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, where he attended Port Washington High school and later Cornell University.

Known to friends as Captain Bryce Kirk (of the tugboat *Shirley S.*), Bryce once denied ever having life goals, saying simply that he enjoyed doing certain types of work. After leaving Cornell, Bryce worked on barges in the Brooklyn shipyards before earning his CAA licenses at Roosevelt Field when he was working with American Export Airlines. During World War II, Bryce served in the United States Navy as a flight engineer.

Following the war, Bryce came to City

Island with Rodstrom Shipyards (a precursor to Consolidated Yachts). After working with a marine contractor for a period of time, Bryce and a fellow worker, Robert White, established their own marine contracting company, Kirk and White, and built docks in the New York area and along the Hudson River for many years. Bryce sometimes joked that Kirk and White was designated a hobby, as he never made any money at it.

For many years, at tables in the now vanished Ship's Galley restaurant or Spouter's Inn, or the more contemporary Black Whale or Tree House, Bryce was available to all comers for nightly dinner discussions. Topics were unlimited: politics, sociology,

machinery, history, philosophy, literature, ships, aviation, weather, even food. Articulate, with a remarkable memory, a dry sense of humor and a good grasp of anything nautical or mechanical, and much that wasn't, Bryce was happy to provide insight and opinion on nearly any topic. City Island's gradual shift to a more residential tenor, however, had influenced Bryce to move his contracting operations to Nyack.

Bryce Kirk chose the nursing home where he lived because it was close enough to the Hudson River that he could walk to it.

A celebration of Bryce Kirk's life will be held on Dec. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Revelers partied into the night under the tent at Split Rock.

Chamber Dinner

Continued from page 5

who received the Chamber's Special Certificate of Appreciation, represents a very large district and won his recent election unopposed, an indication of his quality as a legislator.

John Doyle, who was until recently Senator Klein's director of community affairs, is now an assistant public relations director at the North Central Healthcare Hospital Network in the Bronx.

The Tom Cerreta Community Service Award was presented to Maria Swieciki, the "Talebearer" columnist for *The Island Current* and an active volunteer on City Island, who expressed particular thanks to her family, noting that it is impossible to be effective in a community without the support of one's family at home.

The awarding of the Catherine Scott Achievement Award to the firefighters of

Ladder Company 70 and Engine Company 53 on City Island was greeted with a standing ovation from a community grateful for their year-round dedication and effectiveness in keeping City Island safe.

Maria Caruso, whose husband, Stefane Kane, proprietor of Bistro SK, won a New Business Award in 2011, introduced three new recipients of the award, Alexandra Whitcombe of Fine Florals (who had created wonderful centerpieces for the tables), Edwin Castro of Dragon's Path Academy, and Nick Vrettos of the Firehouse Corner Deli. All three spoke of the pleasures as well as the challenges involved in opening up a new business in a welcoming community like City Island.

The music provided by the Lickety Split Band provided a lively spirit to the evening as guests mingled and danced between courses before heading off into the pleasant November evening.

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Play Review

Continued from page 7

accent of actor Beverley (hilariously acted by Leslie Blumgold) and the fake praise of Banjo (another over-the-top performance by Frank Siciliano).

The Stanley children, played with charm by Danny Conover as budding photographer Richard and Sarah Harrold as June, madly in love with Sandy (Denis Zepeda), are encouraged by Whiteside to follow their dreams, much to the horror of their father, who finally obtains a court order to evict Whiteside within 15 minutes.

There were, in this large cast, a whole array of wonderful subsidiary roles: Whiteside's doctor (David Lazar), his nurse (Sandy Prosnitz), Professor Merz (Andrew Ravick), Mrs. McCutcheon (Eileen Fox), Sarah (Connie Del Vecchio) and the odd sister, Harriet (Lorain Porto), plus a bevy of penguins, prisoners (Jonathon Langkamp and Thomas Losito), deliverymen (Jay Langkamp and Thomas Losito, who also played a couple of police officers).

Somehow the small stage managed to accommodate all of the wonderful actors and the sarcophagus, plus a Christmas tree surrounded by presents, a lot of lovely furniture, and a freewheeling wheelchair used by Whiteside. The handsome set itself was designed and decorated by the immensely talented Joe Burck and built by CITG veteran Keith Rodriguez, and

the costumes (which involved as many as four changes for most of the actors) were brilliantly orchestrated by Carol McCabe, with the assistance of Cheryl Brinker and Celeste Ploumis. Gathering props for CITG plays is Barbara Dolensek's avocation, but this particular project took her to places she never thought she would have to go (with a sarcophagus in the car, no less). Lighting design by Joe Burck and sound design by Denis Zepeda were flawless, as usual, and the stage managing was efficiently carried out by Fiorella de Lima and her assistant, Hannah Glick. Publicity was beautifully managed by Mary McIntyre and the program (now illustrated with actor photos by Rick DeWitt) was produced in record time by Susan Rauh.

John Coppola took on the truly monumental task of directing this complex, fast-moving and demanding production, and Nick Sala and Carol McCabe, as usual, served as production managers to make it all happen in spite of Hurricane Sandy, a no-name nor'easter and other unforeseen obstacles. Nevertheless, the play was enthusiastically received by overflowing crowds, and the CITG board voted to send the proceeds from the performance with the highest attendance to the Mayor's Fund to help hurricane victims.

A fitting finale to a terrific year for the City Island Theater Group, which mounted four successful productions in 2012. We can hardly wait to see what the New Year has in store!

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

Winter Gardens: Extending the Gardening Year

Winter is on its way and many gardeners are relieved to get a break from pruning, digging and transplanting. Service to our garden is on hold. We dream of new combinations of plants, color schemes and designs, but if we had created a winter garden, no matter how small, we would witness its loveliness with no labor through the darkening and all but the snowiest of days.

Even the smallest gardens can be enhanced by one evergreen to catch the light and pillow the snow. Most evergreens grow huge, some to 100 feet or more, so do your research. Don't trust the labels and look up the eventual height. *Picea abies* 'Wills Zwerg' (Will's Dwarf Spruce) can top out at 16 to 26 feet, but mine, in its 10th year, does not exceed 5 feet, so it is slow growing. *Abies koreana* 'Silberlocke' (Silver Curls) is silvery blue, and the undersides are white as if dusted with snow, a brilliant selection, and the cones are purplish brown, standing up at attention. I have mine with gray plants and small grasses to enhance the winter scene.

Dark green yew, box and holly are lovely against the red twig *Cornus* shrubs. Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis mollis* or *Jelena*) will reward you in February with ribbons of sweetly scented flowers. A small clump of *Hellebore Niger* beneath will unfold their pristine white goblets with golden antlers, forming a tiny landscape with no regard for the weather. You'll run out in the plunging temperature to check their progress, for every stage of their blossoming is gorgeous, especially when it's snowing.

The elegant sprays of winter jasmine, *Jasminum nudifolium*, with their smiling yellow flowers, will cheer you on your return home. Snowdrops (*Galanthophiles*), unite! People are truly mad for them. They even have parties in England where the club members bring their plants, along with clods of earth, to ogle at tea time. Underplant the snowdrops with the short black grass *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' or *Ajuga*



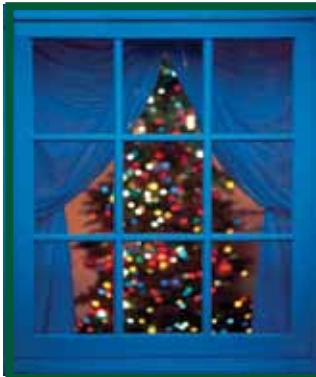
Snowdrops

reptans. Hellebores, the varieties foetidus or orientalis, will tolerate deep shade, which makes them all the more valuable, but take caution as they are very poisonous. They seed around like cress, so you may bulk up your patch by transplanting the seedlings. Cut away the foliage if it is tattered, so the flowers will emerge without a blemish.

Birch, Crape Myrtle, *Stewartia* and *Acer Griseum* are all great small trees for patterned, colorful or peeling bark. Professional landscape services will advise to clean up all the leaves but leave them around your shrubs; they make lovely new soil and protect the plants in winter. It is also a great time to feed your garden with manure, since feeding the roots is key for robust and healthy plants.

Catalogues from Greer Gardens, Fair-weather Gardens and White Flower Farm will take their place by your armchair this year, but next year will be the beginning of a winter wonderland.

Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.



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Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season from the City Island Theater Group! Thank you so much for your support throughout the year. We are looking forward to our new season of shows. See you at the theater! www.cityislandtheatergroup.com

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Organization News

Continued from page 13

Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed into the SAL Box.

The annual Pearl Harbor ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, at noon.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m.

New members are always welcome. If you are male descendant, step-descendant or adopted by a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We have eight new members since July 1.

Now that the weather has finally cooled down, things at the Post are heating up. Since football season is here, stop by the Post to cheer on your favorite teams. We also have food and weekend drink specials.

Don't forget the Post Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 17, at noon.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

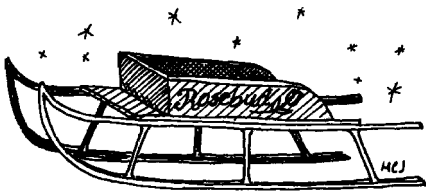
On Saturday, Dec. 1, we will meet at the Legion Post at 9:30 a.m. to make a holiday visit to the Veterans Hospital.

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, we will meet for tree decorating at 7:30 p.m.

The children's Christmas party will take place on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m., and the Legion Post Christmas party will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Maryann Occhicone



AARP Chapter 318

The chapter meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. This month, our Dec. 5 meeting will be a special pizza/bingo afternoon, beginning at 12:30. Pizza, coffee, cake and bingo games will be the order of the day. On Dec. 19, our Christmas party will take place at the Lobster House Restaurant on Bridge Street at 12 noon. Meetings in January will be on the 2nd and 16th. No meetings in February. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year to all!

Rosetta Wood

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will hold its Christmas Fair on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in two locations. The thrift shop location will feature our gently used items. Across Minneford Avenue at St. Mary's school gym, we will have new items on display. This is a wonderful opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. After the fair, the thrift shop will remain a "Christmas Shop" on Thursdays and Saturdays, up to and including Dec. 22. In January we will return to our regular routine. Merry Christmas to all!

Arlene Byrne

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is pleased to announce its first production of the 2013 season, Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie." Written in the early 1940s, this drama was described by the playwright as a "memory play," one that begins with a memory, usually described in a monologue by one of the main characters. It was first written as a screenplay for MGM based on one of his own short stories. It was his first successful play, after which he went on to become one of America's most highly regarded playwrights. In 1987 Paul Newman directed the second film adaptation, which starred Joanne Woodward and John Malkovich. Auditions for "The Glass Menagerie" will be held Friday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 5, at 2:30 p.m. at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Feb. 22, 23, 24 and 28 and March 1 and 2.

Mary McIntyre

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

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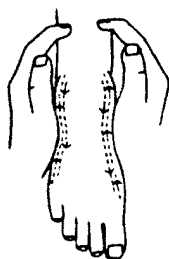
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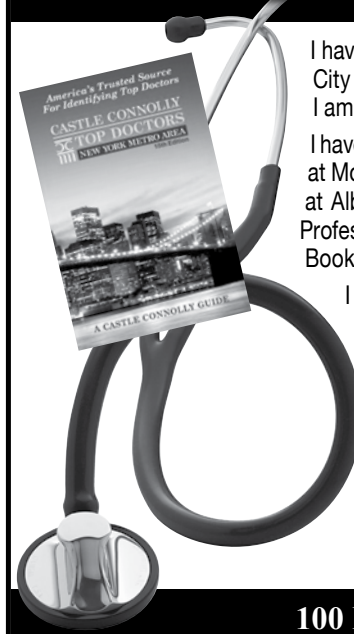
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SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY

Hurricane Sandy blew ashore last month, damaging all of the yacht clubs to varying degrees and leaving many sailboats toppled from the tide and wind. When I ventured out the morning after, City Island Avenue seemed unscathed, save for downed branches and random power outages. However, when I went to the perimeter of the island, particularly on the west side, I saw Sandy's wake of woe.

Boats I knew from racing were piled in heaps while others had snapped off moorings; yacht club docks were reduced to planks and splinters, and there was water damage in three of the four yacht clubs.

Cleanup and rebuilding continues at all four yacht clubs: Stuyvesant, Harlem, City Island and Morris Yacht and Beach Club. For further information on how you can help, contact me at cityislandsailing.com.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The tiki bar at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club is now an island after Sandy stripped the planks and railings off the access dock.

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MR. AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRAINING

By BUTCH NIEVES

Fatigue-Fighting Foods

Have trouble getting started in the morning? Feel sluggish in the afternoon? Ready to crash come evening? You're not alone.

Many people, especially women, are constantly suffering from a lack of energy. Fatigue can be caused by a number of different factors, but for many people, poor nutrition is to blame. Since food is the body's fuel, how well you are able to perform during the day may be directly related to what foods you fill up with during meal and snack time.

When it comes to energy levels, foods and drinks that play the biggest role are carbohydrates, protein, water and caffeine. Here's how to include them in your diet.

Carbs for Energy

Your body needs some carbohydrates. Yes, you heard it right. Carbs! To get maximum benefit, you should aim for a combination of complex and simple carbs. Complex carbs are slower to burn and include such foods as whole grains and starchy vegetables (squash, potatoes, carrots and pumpkin). Whole grains that are high in fiber are what you need for sustained, long-lasting energy. Look for bread that contains two to three grams of fiber per slice. For a healthy dose of simple carbs, stick with fresh, whole fruits.

Protein for Stamina

Carbs supply energy, but protein is responsible for releasing the energy. Protein is also essential for cell growth, the transport of nutrients and hormones through the body, healthy muscles and a properly working immune system. Be sure to eat a source of protein at each meal, whether lean meat, fish, poultry, beans, eggs, soy, nuts or low-fat dairy.

Water for Refreshment

Essential to survival, water is also essential for energy. When you consider that two-thirds of your body is made of water, you're reminded how important water is to good health. Water helps control your temperature, helps you digest food, lubricates your organs and plays a major role in creating energy molecules.

If you're depleted of water, you probably feel depleted of energy. If you're dehydrated, you will feel completely dragged out. Without enough water, your body will work overtime to rehydrate itself instead of producing energy.

Caffeine for Stimulation

Caffeine is a stimulant that works by exaggerating the effects of your natural hormones, causing your heart to beat faster and your breathing to increase, making you feel more alert. Perhaps you're one of the millions of people who drink one or more cups of coffee in the morning. If so, you know the powerful effect caffeine has to jumpstart your energy level.

Besides coffee, caffeine is also found in tea, sodas, herbs and chocolate. Be aware that too much caffeine can make you feel jittery, interfere with your sleep and cause dehydration.

Additional Tips

Keep in mind that overeating, no matter what food, may cause sluggishness. Instead of three large meals, try eating several small meals (don't forget breakfast!) throughout the day to give you constant bursts of energy. Too much alcohol or a vitamin deficiency is often to blame for low energy levels. For women, a dragged-out feeling could be caused by anemia (low iron) caused by monthly menstruation.

If you still feel fatigued and lethargic

after eating a well-balanced diet, contact a food professional or your physician. Stress, medications, diseases, sleep problems or lack of exercise may be to blame, and getting these under control will get your energy level back where it belongs. One of the most proven ways to increase your energy levels is to participate in a consistent, challenging exercise program.

My passion is to help people, just like you, improve their energy levels and their overall quality of life.

The Unhealthy Side of Fruit

You know that healthy weight loss comes as a result of regular exercise and a diet filled with plenty of fruits and vegetables. But is anything with the word "fruit" or that contains one fruit or another a valid way to meet your fruit quota? No. Here's proof.

Proof One: Fruity, Sweet Cereals

By now, eating bowl after bowl of fruity cereals that leave your milk pink and orange may only be a problem for your kids. But if you're still addicted to the cereals that claim to have some semblance of fruit but are filled with added sugars and calories, it's time for a change. Sure, they may taste good, but sugar-laden breakfast cereals are ruining your fitness results—even if they supposedly have real fruit flavors. Wean yourself from the fruity cereals by chopping some real fruit into a bowl of healthy, sugar-free cereal.

Proof Two: Fruity Desserts

Your stomach may think strawberry ice cream, raspberry cheesecake, and cherry pie are desserts from healthy heaven, but your mind knows otherwise. Though many desserts that lean on fruit for flavor are unhealthy, there are also many healthy fruit-based desserts to enjoy. Fruit parfait and fruit sorbet are good alternatives. And if you just have to have your cake and eat it with berries too, a light angel food will do just fine. Just make sure the slice of cake is thin.

Proof Three: Fruit Smoothies

Now, now. Don't get all up in arms. All fruit smoothies are not unhealthy. In fact, some of them are quite healthy, giving you a big boost of vitamins and minerals that help you feel energetic and ready to face the day. However, if you dabble too far beyond the healthy fruit smoothie, you can add more sugar than is found in many desserts. To keep your smoothie nice and healthy, don't add soft-serve ice cream or frozen yogurt, candy, or other items that are obviously high in sugar and unnecessary calories. Rather, keep your smoothie nothing but fruit, ice, juice, yogurt, and a nice scoop of protein powder to ensure it is high on the health chart.

Proof Four: (Un)Fruit Juice

Juice can be wonderful. It has great flavor, great color, and great amounts of important vitamins and minerals. At least it does when it is fruit juice. Unfortunately, many drinks claim to be fruit juice, while only containing a very low amount of fruit juice. For these low-fruit fruit juices, sugar and water make up the bulk of the contents, robbing you of the important benefits of all-natural fruit juice. Keep fruit juice indulgences to a minimum, as even the fruit-only kind is loaded with simple sugars.

Go Natural

To clearly sidestep unhealthy fruit options, go for raw, whole fruits and avoid packaged fruit in any shape or form. These will keep you on track with your fitness and weight loss goal.

Don't forget that true fitness success comes from a combination of a consistent, challenging exercise routine coupled with clean eating.



Lobster Box

Holiday Island

Continued from page 9

shrimp, baby back ribs and more. There is also sensational seafood to be had at **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the Original **Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), the **Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue) and the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue). (Check out the festive decorations at the Shanty while you're there!) And the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue) may have lost Lefty the Lobster during Hurricane Sandy, but guests are still greeted by great food and solid service. Joining the seafood servers this December will be **The Light House** (565 City Island

Avenue); stop in and learn more!

If it's a taste of France you crave, then Stephane Kane and his wife, Maria, want to welcome you to **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue). The couple promises feasts this holiday season, including oysters, lobsters and foie gras.

If Italy is more to your liking, then it's **Lido Restaurant** (101 City Island Avenue) or **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue). And there is always "dinner and a show" at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue), a great gift to yourself for the holidays and any time.

And after this hope-filled and joyous holiday season passes, know that City Island's shops are busy about making the days of your New Year each the best ever!



If we don't hang together, we will hang separately
— Ben Franklin

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WWW.BURCKINC.com



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Now in its 19th year, the Thanksgiving Dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church was held on Nov. 22, 2012. A whopping 119 meals were served. Shown are the dedicated volunteers (l. to r.) Richard Cox, Lucia Yew, Jerry Bailey, Anne Cox, Susan Strazzera, Adji Henderson, Arlene Byrne, Jim Cox and Reverend Yew. Not pictured, but helping set up, prep, serve and clean-up: Carmen Melicharek, Francisco Cashillo, Isabel Serrano, Maria Delgado, Tiana and Tiffany Somerville of the True Aces Bike Club, as well as Kathy Lewis, Julian Cruz, Nancy Scanello, and Kathy Knapp.

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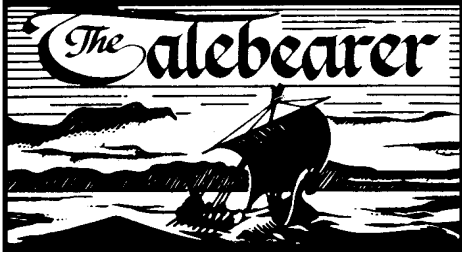
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Horton Street resident Lyla MacDonald served as acolyte at Grace Episcopal Church for the first time on Nov. 4, 2012, with Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia.

Happy birthday to our little grandson, Jake Penny, who will be celebrating his third birthday on Dec. 26. Lots of hugs and kisses from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Belated 85th birthday wishes on Nov. 23 to the Boatyard's Ethel "Mama" Lott. We love you LOTS and LOTS - from all your Lotts!

Birthday greetings on Dec. 22 across the miles in Rochester to former Caroll Street resident Anjulee Sebastian with love from your City Island family and friends.

Happy 51st anniversary wishes for continued happiness to Bowne Street's Linda and Jerry McCue.

Welcome to the altar! Lyla Lorraine MacDonald served her first Sunday as acolyte at Grace Episcopal Church on Nov. 4, All Saints' Sunday. Her grandmother Lorraine Rauhauser would have been very proud.



Ms. Maria Murray and Mr. Paul Oddo, Executive Vice-President at Lifespire.

Happy birthday to Alaura on Dec. 29. We love you! Mom, Dad, Joey and Michael.

Birthday greetings to Michael, who turns 12 on Dec. 7. With love from Mom, Dad, Alaura and Joey.

Keep up the good work, Emily Sexton of Fordham Street. Emily observed the second anniversary of her horrific Nov. 13 accident by donating blood for the first time. She was very excited about finally being able to donate and wants everyone to remember that this season of holidays is also a big reason for giving blood.

Congratulations to Maria Murray, who was honored recently by Lifespire, Inc., for her 25 years of service to adults and children with developmental disabilities. Maria is currently the Director of the After-School Respite Program throughout the tri-state area.

Belated happy birthday wishes to Mommy and Daddy—Adam and Kelly (Kuch) Silver—with love from Izabella and Elon.

Happy belated birthday to Grandpa Ron Kuch from Izzy and Elon and also to Kathy (Slocum) and Ken and Theresa.

December birthday greetings to Pam Kuch with love from your grandchildren, Izabella and Elon Silver.

Go Warriors! Congrats to all the City Islanders who participated in Warriors Football this season, including Joseph Goo-nan and Sebastian Rodriguez. Sebastian's mom, Cristina was there at every game to cheer him on.

And a very happy, healthy and safe holi-day to all.

Maria Swieciki



Islander Sebastian Rodriguez (#33 in the first row, on the left) was one of several City Islanders who participated in the 2012 Warriors Football season.



Photo by HARLAN SEXTON

Emily Sexton observed the second anniversary of her accident in 2010 by donating blood for the first time.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL FROM Lina Petite. Illustration of three children holding signs.

HOME INSPECTION SERVICES 885-1068. Robert J. Leavy Engineer NYS Licensed. Illustration of a house.

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