

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Periodicals  
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.  
USPS 114-590

Volume 47 Number 6

July-August 2018

One Dollar

## GRADUATES CELEBRATE AND PREPARE FOR SCHOOL OFF-ISLAND

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Photo by LIFETOUGH

Members of the 2018 graduation class of Public School 175. Bottom row (l. to r.): graduates Mark Piri, Samantha Hernandez, Adriana Rexhaj, Neva Simon; Amy Lipson, principal; Kathleen Wiehler, asst. principal; graduates Johanna Doyle, Filomena Baker, Jaime Bernardo, Muhanad Algazaly. Second row: faculty Morgan Daley, Karen Heil; graduates Armani Stephens, Ava Barretto, Jackson Wepler, Kaden Roush, Travis Prohaska, Darius Bignall, Joseph Burton, Joseph Peloso, Jasria Perry, Adriana Testa, Daniel Vo; faculty Giuliana Adesso, Danielle Minor. Row three: Michael Gierum, Nicholas Labate, Jennifer Gjonaj, Benjamin Nicoletti, Emma Kushnirsky, Amari Jennings, Olivia Chadwick, Sazan Rexhepi, Skylar Powers, Vincent Ramos, Deni Gerdec. Top row: Christina Lachman, Jasmin Villar, Deirdre Kirwin, Hazir Novovic, Samantha Kucerak, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Angel Cotty, Devin Munafo, Kaia Alston, Kayla Fusco, Ryan Amos, Evelyn Quinones, Demitria Mantzaris, Amanda Accella.

As thousands of Island students have done for over 100 years, P.S. 175 eighth-grade students celebrated their graduation and prepared for high school off City Island. The ceremony took place on June 22, 2018, and students felt both excitement and a little trepidation about moving up to high school.

Their sentiments echoed the feelings of generations of St. Mary, Star of the Sea and P.S. 17/175 students. Although the issue has been raised almost every decade, City Island has no public or parochial high school, which forces Island students to pursue their secondary education elsewhere. "Going to high school off City Island was a little scary at first both in terms of meeting new kids and having to navigate off-Island transportation for the first time," Mark Nani, P.S. 175 Class of 2000 told *The Current*. "But in the end it was good thing for me and others to leave the Island comfort zone. I had a great experience at Mount Saint Michael Academy and I made lifelong friends from elsewhere in the Bronx."

At this year's graduation ceremony on June 22, principal Amy Lipson made the following presentations to the departing graduates:

The City Island School Principal's Award for Excellence went to Samantha Kucerak; the City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence was given to Jennifer Gjonaj; and the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was presented to Johanna Doyle. Skylar Powers was the recipient of the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizen-

ship and Community Involvement; the Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance was given to Kayla Fusco.

At the Awards Dinner on June 14, the following presentations were made: the NYS Senator Jeff Klein Civic Award for Student Leadership went to Jennifer Gjonaj; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Award for Academic Achievement was given to Adriana Rexhaj; the City Council Citation for Achievement was awarded to Filomena Baker and Samantha Kucerak; Kayla Fusco received the City Council Speakers Achievement Award for Academic Excellence.

The NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement was presented to Emma Kushnirsky and Christina Lachman; the City of New York Commission on Women's Issues Junior High Leadership Award went to Neva Simon; the NYC Public Advocate Award for Academic Achievement was given to Michael Gierum and Demi Mantzaris.

Johanna Doyle received both the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership and the Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current*; the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement went to Kaia Alston and Jennifer Gjonaj.

The Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort was presented to Skylar Powers; the Alice Persteins Award for Community Involvement went to Kayla Fusco; the P.S. 175 Young Scholar's Award for Fairness, Involvement, Concern for Others was given to Armani Stephens.

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## Lead at Rodman's Neck

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Island residents were surprised by a report that lead contamination in the air at Rodman's Neck would result in the temporary closing of the range, but unfortunately the noise level will not be affected by this finding. Although the NYC Department of Corrections (DOC) has not officially acknowledged it, the building they use at Rodman's Neck was reportedly closed in June because a high level of lead was found in instructors using the facility.

According to an article that appeared in the Daily News on June 21, "several buildings at the range also showed unsafe levels of lead in the air, according to several jail insiders" and that the tests that used to be conducted in the buildings every six months were stopped a few years ago.

The New York Police Department (NYPD), which has primary responsibility for the facility, told *The Current* that the ranges are not affected by this discovery and that this issue applies only to the DOC buildings.

Lead is regularly removed from the berms into which the officers fire their weapons, but lead in the air is not an issue except inside buildings, and the long-range project for the renovation of Rodman's Neck will include methods for better ventilation. In the meantime, the DOC is planning to do a complete abatement of the lead in their facility, which they will reopen in July.

### Lead at the Range: A History

In 1989, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) investigated Rodman's Neck and found elevated levels of lead in the soil at the ranges. A year later, representatives of the NYPD addressed the City Island Civic Association and promised to address complaints about excessive noise and lead contamination.

A lawsuit was filed in 1992 against the city of New York by the City Island-based group SoundWatch and the other by the New York Coastal Fishermen's Association. These suits were calling on the city to clean up the site under the Clean Water Act. The suit was settled in June 1994 when the DEP awarded a contract to Marcor for about \$10 million to clean the lead from the range berms into which the bullets are shot. The clean-up of about one million pounds of lead began in 1995 and was finally completed in 1996.

Lead clean-up continues today. Since 2006, NYC has had a contract with MT2 LLC, a leading firing range maintenance and lead reclamation company, to implement a program for lead management and maintenance at the firing range. Apparently, this contract does not include the testing of interior spaces for lead, however, and it is this issue that has affected the DOC buildings on the site.

It is assumed that the major renovation will be completed in 2018.  
Continued on page 2

## BRIEFLY...

**BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE** will take place on Tuesday, July 10, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Refreshments, including pizza, will be provided. Please come and give the gift of life.

### 9TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING LAWN PARTY

will be held at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club on Saturday, July 28, at 2 p.m. For more information, please check [Facebook.com/gilderscholarship](https://www.facebook.com/gilderscholarship) or e-mail [Jack.Jokinen@gmail.com](mailto:Jack.Jokinen@gmail.com). So far in 2018, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in the memory of Islander John Gilder, has awarded a scholarship at Fordham University and an annual scholarship to a student at Greenwich High School. The fund also sponsored a City Island Little League team for the seventh year and will be sponsoring the summer travel team. The price for admission will be \$60, which includes food, beer, wine, water, desserts and raffles from 2 to 6 p.m. In the past, sponsors have offered amazing prizes to raffle off, including gift certificates to their stores, gifts and gift baskets and cash prizes. We hope you will consider making a donation for this year's lawn party. If you have questions or would like to make a contribution, please reach out to Lauren Nye (646-530-2128, [lnye610@gmail.com](mailto:lnye610@gmail.com)).

**CITY ISLAND REUNION** will take place on June 30 and July 1, beginning at Hawkins Park on Saturday, June 30, at 1 p.m. with live music. The main reunion gathering will be at the Ambrosini Little League Field on Sunday, July 1, at 12 noon. There is no charge but a \$10 50/50 raffle will help pay for the costs of the event. For more information or to volunteer, call Bob Carmody at 718-885-0088.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2018. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 4 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from to May 17 to June 19, 2018.

5/21 – On City Island Avenue at 9 a.m., a dispute between neighbors resulted in harassment. An Island female told police that an Island male made a threatening remark to her, causing her to fear for her safety.

5/22 – A dispute between two male Islanders over a fence on the property escalated to harassment on Centre Street at 7:30 p.m. when one neighbor called another neighbor a crude name.

5/25 – A male Islander reported an incident of petit larceny on Bowne Street at 8:45 p.m. when he discovered that the license plate had been removed from his vehicle by unknown person(s).

5/25 – At 11 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female was attacked from behind and robbed of personal property.

5/26 – An off-Island male went fishing and returned at 9 a.m. to find the front passenger side of his vehicle damaged on City

### Island Avenue.

5/26 – An incident of criminal mischief occurred on Pilot Street about 11:40 p.m. An Island male told police that a moped was left in his parking space. When he asked that the vehicle be moved, there was a confrontation and another male Islander keyed the front bumper of the complainant's car.

5/29 – On City Island Avenue at 7:45 p.m., an Island female was approached by an unknown male who asked if she would buy him pizza. When she refused, he reportedly said, "You'll be sorry when I take your daughter," in an act of harassment.

6/6 – A male Islander reported an incident of grand larceny on Fordham Street at 1 a.m. He told police that an unknown person had unlocked his gate and removed a bicycle without permission.

6/10 – On Bowne Street at 10 p.m., the driver of vehicle left the scene of an accident after striking the rear passenger door of an off-Island female's vehicle.

6/11 – An Island female reported an incident of harassment on City Island Avenue at 7 a.m. The complainant found shards of glass thrown on her walkway by unknown person(s).

6/13 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island female, 30, and charged her with DWI at 2:44 a.m. The defendant was involved in a motor vehicle accident on City Island Avenue and was arrested at the scene following identification by a witness.

6/14 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 8:30 p.m., a male off-Island reported an assault after an argument escalated and the complainant was punched in the face causing lacerations.

6/18 – On City Island Avenue at 6 p.m., an off-Island female reported her wallet stolen by unknown person(s).

THE ISLAND CURRENT  
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City Island, N.Y. 10464



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DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni  
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Margaret Lenz  
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Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571  
Printed by Stellar Printing Inc., 3838 9th St., Long Island City, NY 11101  
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0760. Copyright 2018 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

## Rodman's Neck

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tion of Rodman's Neck that began its design stage in April will include ventilation of indoor facilities and ranges along with sound abatement. This project will take at least three years to complete, however, and the buildings will be renovated at the end of the project, not at the beginning.

## REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (September 2018) will be published and on newsstands at the end of August.

## Graduates

Continued from page 1

The AARP #318 School Service Award went to Neva Simon; the Christine Jorgensen Hansen Award for Community Service was given to Skylar Powers; the Alice Connolly Award for Service was presented to Kayla Fusco.

The Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award went to Filomena Baker; the District 11 ELA Superintendent Award was given to Johanna Doyle.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: English Language Arts, Joseph Peloso and Skylar Powers; Mathematics Award, Demi Mantzaris and Joseph Peloso; Regents math award, Christina Lachman; Superintendent math award, Michael Gierum; Regents math certificates, Kaia Alston, Olivia Chadwick, Johanna Doyle, Michael Gierum, Jennifer Gjonaj, Samantha Kucerak, Emma Kushnirsky, Christina Lachman, Sazan Rexhepi, Neva Simon, Daniel Vo. Science Award, Joseph Burton, Demi Mantzaris; Regents science award, Michael Gierum and Jennifer Gjonaj; Regents science certificates, Kaia Alston, Jaime Bernardo, Olivia Chadwick, Johanna Doyle, Michael Gierum, Jennifer Gjonaj, Samantha Kucerak, Emma Kush-

nirsky, Christina Lachman, Sazan Rexhepi, Neva Simon, Daniel Vo, Jackson Wepler; Social Studies Award: Angel Cotty and Neva Simon; Computers and Technology: Demi Mantzaris and Daniel Vo; Physical education: Jennifer Gjonaj and Aidan Hanley-Piri; Music Award: Jaime Bernardo and Christina Lachman; Vocal Music Award: Amanda Acocella, Johanna Doyle, Michael Gierum, Amari Jennings, Emma Kushnirsky, Erik Lopez, Demi Mantzaris, Jasria Perry, Mark Piri, Skylar Powers, Kaden Roush, Armani Stephens; Instrumental Music Award: Sazan Rexhepi; Musical Conducting Award: Neva Simon; Musical Technical Assistant: Jackson Wepler.

The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to Muhanad Algazaly, Kaia Alston, Filomena Baker, Johanna Doyle, Kayla Fusco, Jennifer Gjonaj, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Samantha Kucerak, Nicholas Labate, Joseph Peloso, Mark Piri, Skylar Powers, Travis Prohaska, Vincent Ramos, Adriana Rexhaj, Neva Simon, Armani Stephens, Jasmin Villar, Jackson Wepler.

The P.S. 175 Service/School Spirit Leaders were Luluwah Algazaly, Filomena Baker, Ava Barretto, Jaime Bernardo, Johanna Doyle, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Amari Jennings, Emma Kushnirsky, Christina Lachman, Devin Munafo, Benjamin Nicoletti, Kaden Roush, Armani Stephens, Adriana Testa.

Citizenship Awards were presented to Luluwah Algazaly, Deni Gerdeci, Hazir Novovic, Travis Prohaska.

Effort Awards were given to Ryan Amos, Darius Bignall, Joseph Burton, Samantha Hernandez, Amari Jennings, Jasria Perry, Mark Piri, Evelyn Quinones, Adriana Rexhaj, Armani Stephens. Improvement Awards went to Joseph Burton and Armani Stephens.

Students on the honor roll were: (Gold) Kaia Alston, Filomena Baker, Johanna Doyle, Michael Gierum, Jennifer Gjonaj, Samantha Kucerak, Emma Kushnirsky, Christina Lachman, Demi Mantzaris, Neva Simon; (Silver) Jaime Bernardo, Kayla Fusco, Samantha Hernandez, Joseph Peloso, Jackson Wepler.

Daniel Vo received an award for perfect attendance.

Congratulations to all the award winners and all the 2018 graduates!

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# NYC COMPTROLLER VISITS CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

**New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer (standing) visited City Island on June 5, 2018. He met with and answered questions from representatives of the community of City Island and the east Bronx.**

A lively roundtable with the New York City Comptroller, Scott M. Stringer, was held on June 5, 2018, at the Community Center on Fordham Street. More than 60 representatives from community groups in the Bronx attended, including 15 members of City Island organizations, and everyone had questions about critical issues facing residents and businesses.

Mr. Stringer was introduced by Councilman Mark Gjonaj, and they began by confirming that the Bronx has never received its fair share of the NYC budget. Mr. Stringer pledged to deliver more services to the Bronx and to follow up on the concerns raised by attendees.

Paul Klein of the Chamber of Commerce asked the first question related to City Island as well as other sections of the Bronx along Eastchester Bay. He told Mr. Stringer about the 25 years of frustration with NYPD promises to soundproof the firing range at Rodman's Neck. "We have

been told for years that there was money in the budget allocated for this project, but it never happens," Mr. Klein explained.

Mr. Stringer said he was aware of the repeated complaints about the noise emanating from the range and agreed it had gone on too long. "I know this affects City Island, Country Club and other residential neighborhoods, and it's time to track down the money," he vowed. "I will meet with Senator Jeff Klein and follow up on this problem." (Subsequent information provided to *The Current* from the comptroller's office confirmed that the \$274.6 million allocated to the Rodman's Neck firing range renovation was still in the city's budget, and the NYPD confirmed that sound abatement was a significant part of the project.)

Although the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) recently announced that the first step in the sound abatement process had been taken with the selection of the design firm Smith-Miller &

Hawkinson (see June issue of *The Current*), the timing for this process has not yet been announced. Residents are concerned that this will once again lead to nowhere.

Mr. Stringer was then asked about what the city is doing to address the many empty storefronts and abandoned businesses on City Island and elsewhere in the city. "I am surprised to learn that this is a problem on City Island, a tourist destination, that even you have many empty storefronts. This is a huge issue in Manhattan, especially the upper West side, but also elsewhere in the Bronx."

He explained that New York City does not have a good policy to help small businesses stay open. "In decades past, if a small business failed, there was always another one ready to take the space. Retail businesses are now suffering from the 'Amazon effect' (i.e., online shopping) and high rents throughout the city. Retail has to change, but the city needs to help find a solution."

He said this is a priority because "streets cannot go dark. People out on the streets visiting restaurants and other retail businesses are what make New York City alive. City officials need to meet with local community boards to come up with a comprehensive plan."

P.S. 175 principal, Amy Lipson, asked about the way school custodial services are contracted, citing long delays for repairs and purchases. Mr. Stringer shared her frustration, saying that school custodial issues have been around for 40 years. He announced that his office has added the Department of Education to the Comptroller's Watch List. This list targets city agencies and departments for "procurement reform" related to the way contracts are awarded.

Jimmy Lynch of the City Island Yacht Club asked about tax reform to aid waterfront clubs and businesses. He told the comptroller that not-for-profit clubs like the

yacht clubs on City Island are being taxed at an unfair rate and that this has already caused one (the Stuyvesant Yacht Club) to close. Mr. Stringer said this would be part of the serious review of property tax system in New York City, and he commended the mayor and the City Council for taking on this challenge.

Among the off-Island attendees who raised questions, a number began by thanking Mr. Stringer for saving their city pensions and stabilizing retiree benefits. Several concerns were raised about conditions and emergency room waiting times at nearby Einstein Hospital and Medical Center. An attendee from Edgewater Park claimed that ambulances could not locate specific streets in that neighborhood using the city's current system and that this has caused near-fatal delays in more than one instance. Mr. Stringer promised to contact the Department of Health and Hospitals regarding these important health-related issues.

Of course, traffic and parking issues were raised. Mr. Stringer admitted that his office does not have a lot to say about how the NYPD allocates manpower, including traffic agents. But he did pledge to be part of a "forward thinking parking and transportation plan" that deals with the thousands of additional ride-sharing vehicles that now add to New York City's traffic and parking woes. He has also been working with MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota on the emergency repair plan for the subway signal system to reduce delays and prevent line shutdowns in the future.

The *Current* will follow up on these issues with the comptroller's office during the coming months. Others who have issues to bring to the attention of the comptroller can visit or write to Scott Stringer at One Centre Street, New York, NY 10007 or call 212- 669-3916. You can also email his office at [action@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:action@comptroller.nyc.gov) or visit their website <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/>.

## FORMER ISLANDER FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Island residents were relieved to learn that former Islander Frankie Beqiraj, 28, was found guilty on June 11, 2018, of conspiracy to distribute heroin resulting in the death of Robert Vivolo of City Island and also of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, oxycodone and alprazolam. A unanimous jury convicted him after a five-day trial before United States District Judge Richard M. Berman. He had been arrested at his home at 30 Pilot Street on May 1, 2017, and was indicted on June 1, 2017.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman announced: "As proven at trial, Frankie Beqiraj peddled poison to the community of City Island and its vicinity, causing one of his many victims to die from a tragic overdose. The verdict should send a message to those who flood our community's streets with lethal drugs. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to prosecute and convict criminals seeking to profit from the current public health crisis afflicting our city."

According to court documents and the evidence at trial, from at least July 2016 through January 2017, Frankie Beqiraj was the principal drug supplier on City Island, employing workers who were addicts of heroin that he supplied. They delivered narcotics to his customers using prepaid phones he gave them and paid their salaries in money and heroin. One of his workers was Island resident Fabrice Diaz, who supplied the heroin to Mr. Vivolo on Oct. 21, 2016, that resulted in his death.

In the original indictment issued by the acting United States Attorney in May 2017, Mr. Beqiraj was also charged in connection with the overdose death of Leonides Madrid of New Rochelle on Jan. 8, 2017, but that was not part of the trial that resulted in Mr. Beqiraj's conviction in June 2018.

Mr. Beqiraj faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum term of 20 years in prison. The maximum potential sentence is prescribed by Congress but any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by Judge Richard Berman on

Sept. 27.

Geoffrey S. Berman praised the outstanding work of the New York City Police Department's Bronx Narcotics Heroin Overdose Team, the New Rochelle Police Department and the Special Agents of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Frankie Beqiraj has a long history of criminal activity on City Island and elsewhere. He was arrested twice for disorderly conduct in 2008 and again in April of 2009 in Throggs Neck, and he served several days in jail for the latter offense. He was then arrested twice within a month in May 2009, once for assault and then for assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, trespassing, possession of a weapon and selling marijuana, according to the Bronx Times. He was convicted in 2010 of second- and third-degree attempted robbery and served time at the Willard Drug Treatment Campus in Seneca County.

His worker, Fabrice Diaz, 24, was arrested on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, and charged with selling heroin to Vivolo. He had been arrested a month earlier in New Rochelle for possession of heroin. However, the U.S. Attorney's office was unable to provide *The Current* with an update on Mr. Diaz's status. Islanders who know Mr. Diaz believe that he pleaded guilty and gave evidence incriminating Mr. Beqiraj, but it is not known if he is awaiting trial in prison or, as some suspect, has left the country in fear for his life.

Bill Stanton, president of the City Island Civic Association, told *The Current*: "While every drug dealer is a blight to any community in which they ply their trade, Beqiraj was particularly heinous because he was so effective in addicting many of our youths on City Island. If not for the courage of one parent so tragically affected, Frankie could still be selling pain, addiction and death. Our community should be proud that its residents, elected officials and law enforcement are in sync with our determination to fight all drug dealers on City Island. It's a battle worth fighting."

The City Island Poem

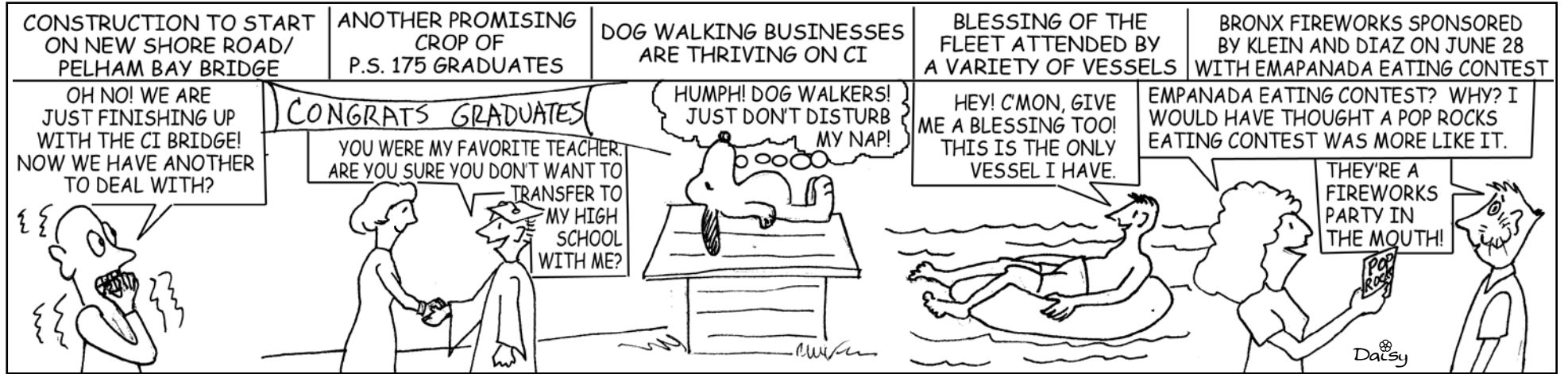
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**Fed Up**

To the Editor:

Last weekend, someone stole several lawn ornaments and a flower from our front yard on City Island. This morning, someone stole two more plants. The sad thing is that we have an idea of who might have done it.

Our home is up for sale, and I'm glad this has happened, because my wife and I are tired of the traffic, tired of motorists cutting us off at the circle and tired of the crowds that come here when the weather is nice. We tolerate the residents here, and we are disgusted with the way New York City and its leaders are heading.

We say thank you to our friends; it's been a good 18 years, but these recent events ruin it for us.

**Anthony L. Roccamo**

**Tribute to John Barron**

To the Editor:

Last January, my great old friend and shipmate John Barron died (see March 2018 issue of *The Current*). Even now, six months later, I can hardly fathom what it will mean to me to go on without him. Over 20 years ago, he sold me my first boat, *Light Air*, a 24-foot C&C sloop, and I rented a mooring at his marina, which I have gradually come to regard as the most beautiful spot on the planet. He took me over the horizon for the first time in my life on his rugged 52-foot Erwin ketch, *Andante*, and changed my life forever.

We sailed from City Island to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, a two-week passage out of sight of land, and I was hooked. I made several voyages with him and the rest of the crew between New York and the Caribbean over the next few years. When he started keeping her in Trinidad for the off-seasons, it became an annual ritual for me to join the boat there every January for the five-day passage north to Tortola, and sometimes again later in the year to bring her back south. John and his longtime partner, Lynn Sinclair, spent a few months every year on the boat, island hopping up and down the West Indies, living the dream. Whenever I was aboard *Andante*, it was as if I had never left; she became like a second home to me.

John was the kind of captain I always aspired to be. His confidence and good cheer were infectious; if he was aboard, morale was high. He took great pleasure in sailing and never seemed to be making any great effort, even under the most trying circumstances. He was incredibly competent, always equal to every challenge, and he never flinched if things got dangerous. He was a leader, without knowing it himself, all substance, no flash.

In the early spring, it was my proud honor and sad duty to be among the crew

bringing *Andante* north in March from Trinidad to a marina in Fort Pierce, FL, to be sold. John's son, Jason, organized the trip and recruited the crew, including Bobby Waltz and Ben Zucker, also longtime Barron's Marine customers and friends of the Barrons. The captain was an uncle of Bobby's from Florida, "Uncle Pete," the only one of us who never knew John; turned out to be a very calm, steady, cheerful anchor for the crew and was very familiar with the waters between Florida and the Bahamas. Bobby and Ben are both crew on Jason's sloop *Bimini Cricket*, which has made quite a name for herself in the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association's summer regattas on Long Island Sound in recent years.

We departed Chaguaramas in Trinidad early on March 21 and reached San Juan on March 24, covering almost 600 nautical miles in about three and a half days. Bobby, Ben and Jason all had commitments back in New York that precluded them from carrying on for the second leg. Jason had to get back to managing Barron's Boatyard, where he had taken over more of the operations in the past several years to leave John more time to do as he pleased. Jason has been doing a great job running a complicated business, making his father proud.

With new crew members, Dimitrij Kusnirsky and Hans Ivar, we completed the second leg of the voyage and reached Fort Pierce on April 3. We felt that we had done well by *Andante* and that we had honored John Barron's memory.

Hopefully, some bona fide old salty dog will buy *Andante* and have a lovely time sailing her around the Bahamas. John's loss will certainly not stop me from traveling to the Caribbean every chance I get. One thing's for certain: I will never go south of the Tropic of Cancer without John Barron's memory close to my heart.

**Jeffrey Taylor**

**Don't Tread on Us**

To the Editor:

I feel that the letter to the editor in the June issue of *The Current* mischaracterized the presentation on cyber bullying given by City Island Civic Association president Bill Stanton at the April meeting. That presentation did, in fact, revolve around issues pertinent to City Island and was welcomed and appreciated by those who have been targets of bullying in our community, both through social media and the large number of harassing complaints that have been phoned in to the Department of Buildings (DOB).

Those engaging in cyber bullying and those engaging in DOB bullying are believed to be part of the same group, but without documentation as to who is calling DOB, the focus was on exposing the cyber bullying, for which there is much evidence, some of it presented at the meeting. Those who attend our meetings every month, as well as those engaged in social media groups pertaining to City Island and Bronx Community Board 10, have long been aware of the bullying behavior that has been harmful to our community. The most recent instance of bullying, calling DOB on the Black Whale sign that has been a fixture of City Island life for more than a half a century, was the last straw for many, who called on the Civic Association to do something.

Some of the bullying was directed at our new City Councilmember who was defamed with accusations of harboring

drug dealers on his property, as well as toward our police officers, who were victims of spurious charges of drinking on the job. That's why our Councilmember, the 45th Precinct captain and the NYPD deputy chief attended our meeting. They were there to show support for our campaign against bullying.

To answer the letter writer's comment as to imagining what the police guests thought, I can attest that the sentiment that they expressed, along with our councilman, was "Bravo!" In fact, the Councilmember approached the Civic board's table after the meeting and praised the president for a job well done.

**Tom Smith, Treasurer  
City Island Civic Association**

**Gilder Memorial Scholarship**

To the Editor:

This past year, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Trust (JGMST) invested in the communities that John Gilder once loved. Our mission remains to have the name of a dearly missed son, brother, grandson, nephew and friend live on in a positive manner, while giving back to a community that meant so much to him. We are reaching out to Islanders now, seeking your support for our ninth annual Gilder Lawn Party with a charitable raffle donation of your choice.

Our Work in 2017: Fundraising efforts from last year helped sustain the JGMST's sponsorship of a City Island Little League team, the Gilder Scholarships. This is now our eighth year sponsoring the team, and they continue to thrive. The Gilder Scholarships maintained the best record among the City Island teams with 11 wins, 5 losses and 1 tie in the regular season. They also went on to win the City Island championship!

We continued supporting two students at John's alma maters as well. This year's John Gilder Scholarship Awards went to Bria Dixon from Greenwich High School and Alessandra Colasacco, who is studying at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business. Bria Dixon will be attending the New School, with an intended major in screenwriting and cinematography. Alessandra is completing her senior year, majoring in applied accounting and finance. We are thrilled to be supporting both students, who represent John's interests and help to keep his legacy alive.

Lastly, the JGMST took on a new initiative in response to the number of young adults suffering from the challenges of drug addiction in the community. We used funding to host a special NARCAN training at the community center and to refurbish the recreational areas at Jacobi Medical Center's outpatient drug rehabilitation program. In this way, we hope to intervene in and support overdose prevention efforts, as well as make treatment options more easily accessible and comfortable. The Jacobi Medical Center Auxiliary enhanced this gift with a matching donation.

The Year Ahead: The work the JGMST is committed and able to achieve continues to strengthen each year because of the funds we are able to bring in through our various fundraising efforts. The 2018 Gilder Scholarships team just started its season, and the coach says there is a good chance they will finish strong again, both in season and in any post season tournaments we sponsor. We will follow Bria Dixon and Alessandra

Colasacco's studies and look for new scholarship recipients to support students who represent John's interests. Lastly, we will continue to work with the community surrounding efforts on addressing an issue we have seen impact too many of our City Island community members: drug addiction.

The JGMST's annual summer lawn party is the largest of our fundraising events, bringing together 100+ family members, friends and supporters to celebrate John's life and to raise funds to sustain the important work we do throughout the year memorializing him. Last year, with help from sponsors like you, we were able to raise \$6,000, and the overwhelming majority of funds came through raffle ticket sales. In the past, sponsors have offered amazing prizes to raffle off, including gift certificates to their stores, gifts and gift baskets and cash prizes. We hope you will consider making a donation for this year's lawn party.

Regardless of your capacity to make a donation, we extend an invitation for you to attend the lawn party on Saturday, July 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. If you have any questions or would like to make a contribution, please reach out to Lauren Nye (646-530-2128, [lnye610@gmail.com](mailto:lnye610@gmail.com)) or Mallory Byrnes (914-819-7561, [bmallorybyrnes@gmail.com](mailto:bmallorybyrnes@gmail.com)). We hope you will consider connecting with us! You can also visit our Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/gilderscholarship>.

**Lauren Nye and Mallory Byrnes**

**Addressing Bridge Concerns**

*A copy of the following letter was sent to The Current:*

Commissioner Nivardo Lopez  
Department of Transportation  
New York, NY

Dear Commissioner Lopez,

The City Island Civic Association is concerned about a number of recent traffic patterns on City Island. We believe that some incremental changes can be made to protect both pedestrians and motorists entering and exiting the community. As our new bridge has only recently opened, this will be first summer season with this new construction and traffic pattern in place, and we would like to bring the following requests to your attention:

Because the bridge is constructed as an arch, oncoming traffic (particularly in the fire lane) is not visible to motorists in both directions. We ask that your agency examine adding signage to the bridge alerting motorists to slow down and warning that not all oncoming traffic may be visible.

On Feb. 17, 2018, shortly after 10 p.m., a motor vehicle crossed the sidewalk at 634 City Island Avenue while driving too fast and trying to turn left onto the northern part of City Island Avenue, and it was prevented from crashing into the storefront window because of the construction barriers temporarily installed along the sidewalk. For a car coming over the bridge at an accelerated speed, the left turn is difficult to make, but it is even more difficult thanks to the curb extension on the sidewalk. As you know, at the March 20 meeting of the City Island Bridge Working Group, we asked that you consider installing bollards along the sidewalk to protect pedestrians at this location.

*Continued on page 5*

# Shore Road Bridge to be Replaced

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND ROWING

The 1908 bridge between City Island and Pelham Bay will be replaced.

Representatives of the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) addressed the Municipal Services Committee of Community Board 10 on Wednesday, June 13, about their plans to replace the Shore Road Bridge, better known to City Islanders as the Pelham Bridge, the one that spans the Hutchinson River, also called Eastchester Creek, in Pelham Bay Park.

The present bridge was constructed in 1908, replacing the first bridge that was built in the 1870s, but it has clearly outlived its usefulness. Its pedestrian sidewalk is unprotected and too narrow; bicyclists are not supposed to use it but there is little alternative. The bridge is opened to barges, tugboats and other water traffic at least 730 times a year, making it one of the busiest movable bridges in the city.

DOT has engaged the engineering firm Hardesty & Hanover (H&H), which specializes in movable bridges, to study the use, placement and inadequacies of the existing bridge and to propose a viable alternative. William Nyman, senior project manager at H&H, addressed the committee and described their findings and proposals for a new bridge. No designs have been proposed as yet, although certain alternative ideas have been evaluated.

Because a replacement bridge on the same alignment as the current bridge would be a nightmare for traffic on Shore Road, it has been proposed that the new bridge be built south of the old one (coincidentally like the 1870s bridge) but close to it. It has also been proposed that the new bridge be a double-leaf bascule with a mid-level profile rather than a low profile like the current bridge or a high profile, which would be aesthetically less pleasing and would create a relatively steep slope on each side. Mr. Nyman assured

the committee that the new bridge would be both functional and attractive, and noted that the double bascule would allow one to be closed for repair without interrupting traffic on Shore Road.

The new bridge would also have a passageway twice as wide as that of the current bridge, which is often struck by vessels, and its height would decrease the number of openings from 730 to less than 400. Open railings would give a better view of the water, and the passageway for pedestrians and bicyclists would be wider and designed for shared use. Another consideration is that the construction of the new bridge involve minimal environmental impact.

The schedule for the bridge project, which is now budgeted at \$250 million, calls for a draft design to be completed later this year, and once it is approved, the long process of obtaining permits will begin. Permits must be obtained from New York City (DOT, Parks, City Planning, Public Design Commission); New York State (Departments of Environmental Conservation, State, Historic Preservation, and NYSDOT) and the Federal Agencies (the Army Corps, National Marine Fisheries, the Coast Guard, etc.). Construction could then begin in the summer of 2022 and is estimated to take three years.

The DOT representatives were asked about the Hutchinson River Parkway bridge, which has been suffering from numerous electrical issues and has caused serious traffic stoppage on the parkway in recent months. DOT is hard at work solving the electrical problems and the bridge should be back to normal soon. It was noted, however, that this bridge, which used to open far less frequently, is now nearly as busy as the Shore Road Bridge, largely because many of the tugboats that are used to propel the barges carry antennas that are much taller than they once were.

When H&H has come up with a proposed design for the new Shore Road Bridge, they will bring it back to the Community Board for review, probably in the late fall this year.

## Box 6

Continued from page 4

We appreciate that there have been some protective measures added to the bike lane on the bridge itself. As you are likely aware, there have been accidents both on and near the bridge in the past. The old bridge had a protective barrier for pedestrians and cyclists that, unfortunately, was not replicated on the new bridge. We believe that fully protected lanes would provide security for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We would like to thank you personally for your past efforts to listen to our requests, and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts to have the fence along the roadway near the bridge repainted in green. We hope we can work together on these requests to make the entryway to our island pleasant and safe for all.

The City Island Civic Association



Photo by SAMANTHA HALPERN

Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, hosted a gathering at the City Island Nautical Museum on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, to celebrate the opening of an exhibition of photographs of Orchard Beach. The photographs below were the winners and runners-up in a contest the Friends of Pelham Bay Park held earlier in the year on Facebook and will be on view through the summer, along with the museum's show "City Island Avenue: Then and Now."



"Eagle in the Snowstorm" (top, the grand prize winner) by Robert Knapp, "Love and Prosperity" by Jeanne Yan (middle, a winner in the Scenic Vistas category) and "Kids Can Fly!" by Beth Alice.

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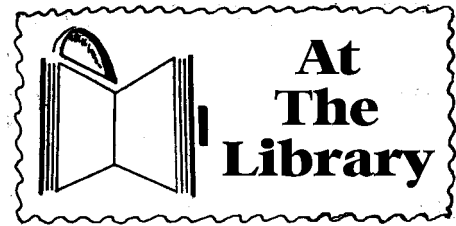
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The next exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) will be "Artists' Choice." All artists are invited to be in the exhibition; the last day to drop off work is July 3, and all work has to be ready for hanging. There is a \$20 hanging fee per picture, and a 30% charge if the artwork is sold. The exhibition will run from July 6 through July 29, with an opening reception on Friday, July 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. For further information, call 718-885-1403.

**Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc.** at 300 City Island Avenue welcomes City Island residents and new sales associates Debra Dowling, Francine Browning and Sue Kawczynski to the staff, which also includes longtime sales associate Candy Mancuso. Stop by to welcome them anytime; the door is always open.

**Eden Beauty Bar & Spa** at 310 City Island Avenue is happy to announce its grand opening July 6-8. Come and enjoy complementary refreshments, free hair and spa consultations, \$25 blowouts, giveaways and much more.



**PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**  
718-885-1703

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

**JULY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**The Rock Show** (A Summer Reading Program) Our shows incorporate sing-a-longs, movement, imagination and dramatic play. The children will grow like trees, sing like birds and dance like robots. Filled with non-stop action and hip-shaking music, the children and families will be thrilled! Best for ages 0-8 years old with parent/caregiver. Wednesday, July 18, at 11 a.m.

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

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

**Play-Doh Time:** Have fun exploring sensory dough, as well as making your own creations with Playdough by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Every Wednesday morning at 11 a.m.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, July 20, at 11:30 a.m.

**JULY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Unwind, Water Bottle Bonanza:** It's hot out, and you need to stay hydrated! Make a customizable water bottle to keep yourself cool all summer long! Limit of 12; first come, first served! Thursday, July 12, at 3 p.m.

**Teen Unwind, Time To Tie-Dye:** Summer is the perfect time to get outside and do some tie-dyeing! Come by to get colorful! Ten t-shirts of various sizes will be provided, as well as bandanas, but

please, if you have something of your own that you want to tie-dye, please bring it in! Thursday, July 26, at 3 p.m.

**Magical Mandalas:** Students will use collage to create mandalas as well as mixed media / colored pencil, marker and watercolor to create contour drawings for portraiture, self-portraiture and landscapes. Each original project will draw from participants' own lived experiences. Visualization will be used to create worlds and characters through memory and active story telling. Presented by Worlds of Art. Wednesday, July 25, at 3 p.m.

**JULY ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Coloring and Relaxation:** Couldn't we all use a little relaxation from time to time? Here at the City Island Library, you can sit peacefully and unlock your inner artist, even if you never knew you had one! Coloring pages and all of the necessary tools will be readily available during this time slot. Take a break from errands and express yourself through this scientifically proven stress reliever. No registration required. Adults only. Wednesdays at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 16 participants, registration required. Thursday, July 12, and 26 at 1 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, July 2 and 23, at 5 p.m.

**The Island Writers:** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** Feature movie titles, varying in length. Films start at 1 p.m. July 7: "Thank You For Your Service"; July 14: "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle"; July 21: "Hostiles"; July 28: "Everything's Under Control" (documentary).

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

All our weekly events will continue through the month of August. For any and all new special programs, please check our website at nypl.org, pick up a flier here at the branch, check out store postings, or call 718-885-1703. Thank you and have a great summer!



**Congratulations to the four City Islanders who had their stories published in the 2018 edition of "Bronx Memoir Project, Volume 2." Made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, this collection of 51 stories features four unique memoirs written by Island residents Jennie Salgado, Toby Z. Liederman, PK Robbins Walzer and Lynn Pollard Boyle shown above at the City Island Library, which hosted the group on June 19, 2018. The book was published in May 2018 and is now available on Amazon.com.**



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below, supplied by Janie Blanks, represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
<b>One-Family Houses</b>		
46 Earley Street	\$200,000	1/11/18
63 Bay Street	\$592,500	1/26/18
451 Minneford Ave.	\$372,500	2/1/18
4 Carroll Street	\$440,000	2/14/18
427 King Avenue	\$535,000	2/15/18
78 Winters Street	\$530,000	2/15/18
150 Marine Street	\$520,000	2/16/18
70 Tier Street	\$232,500	2/19/18
155 Reville Street	\$384,306	3/7/18
102 Hawkins Street	\$449,000	3/29/18
59 Earley Street	\$560,000	4/23/18
110 Ditmars Street	\$390,000	5/2/18
250 William Avenue	\$600,000	5/21/18
<b>Two-Family Houses</b>		
101 Hawkins Street	\$350,000	4/13/18
101R Hawkins Street	\$650,000	4/13/18
396 King Avenue	\$615,000	5/4/18
<b>Condominiums</b>		
47 Island Point	\$798,000	1/9/18
152 Tier Street 204A	\$308,333	2/1/18

152 Tier Street 210C	\$415,000	2/1/18
66 Island Point	\$705,000	4/13/18
59 Island Point	\$778,000	5/1/18
152 Tier St 201A	\$311,147	5/29/18
152 Tier St 209C	\$311,147	5/29/18
<b>Cooperatives</b>		
33 Tier Street, A1	\$385,000	5/2/18
33 Tier Street, B2	\$392,500	1/24/18
<b>Commercial</b>		
295 City Island Avenue	\$625,000	1/24/18
219 Fordham Street	\$525,000	2/26/18
247 City Island Avenue	\$415,000	3/6/18
<b>Land</b>		
77 Ditmars Street	\$220,000	5/15/18

Disclaimer: The above sales include foreclosures and family transfers, which do not reflect real market or assessed value in those cases.

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<i>A City Island Girl...</i>	Call or Email for a FREE Consultation 914-771-5500 info@DrG-MD.com	<i>...only 20 minutes away!</i>



On May 31, 2018, police from the 45th Precinct cleaned graffiti on City Island as part of their ongoing commitment to removal of these eyesores throughout the precinct. Officers Frank Malafronte and Jose Delacruz cleaned graffiti from 30 locations, including buildings, walls, light poles and mailboxes. The Civic Association expressed appreciation to the officers on behalf of grateful City Island residents.

## Bronx Equestrian Center Summer Events

Island horse lovers will be happy to learn that trail riding is back at the Equestrian Center on Shore Road, along with pony rides, riding lessons and the special needs horseback riding program.

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Special this summer is the Children's Riding Program, which offers weekly sessions from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from July 2 through Aug. 24. The program is designed to suit the abilities of children between the ages of 6 and 17. The weekly rate is \$495 or \$100 per day.

Program activities include daily horseback riding lessons, trail riding and mounted games, a weekly horse show and ribbons for all riders, horse-drawn carriage rides, a petting zoo, arts and crafts and fun themed events, such as medieval times, Wild West, pirates, a Hawaiian luau, a carnival day and more. The Children's Riding Program is directed by Victoria Fullerton, a certified therapeutic riding instructor.

Riding lessons are available daily; an hour lesson is \$65 and half an hour is \$40. Discount packages are available. Pony rides are available every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For further information and registration, call Marcy Brennan at the Bronx Equestrian Center, at 718-885-0551 or e-mail [bxstable@aol.com](mailto:bxstable@aol.com) or call Victoria at 914-943-8429.

## Pelham Picture House Events

By MARSHA TREIBER



Photo by LEN ELMER

Actor-director Rob Reiner (center) stands with Laura deBuys, Pelham Picture House president and executive director, and Clayton Bushong, director of programming, marketing and theater operations, in front of the theater on the occasion of a special screening of his film "Shock and Awe" on June 8, 2018.

On Friday, June 8, the Pelham Picture House presented a special screening of Rob Reiner's new film, "Shock and Awe." Viewers at this sold-out event were treated to a Q&A with Rob Reiner himself and film critic Marshall Fine. The film is set in 2003 as the Bush administration prepares to invade Iraq, and skeptical journalists question the administration's claim that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. Reiner has a supporting role in the film as Knight Ridder bureau chief John Walcott. The film stars Woody Harrelson and James Marsden as Woodward- and Bernstein-type reporters.

This summer, the Picture House is again presenting summer camps for children of all ages:

High School Intensive: Documentary Filmmaking for Rising Sophomores through Seniors: Aug. 13-17, 1 to 4 p.m.

STEAM into Green Screen: Aug. 20-24, 9 a.m. to 12 noon for grades 3 through 5 and 1 to 4 p.m. for grades 6 through 8.

Page to Screen for grades K through 2 and 3 through 5; Aug. 27-31, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information, check the website [www.thepicturehouse.org](http://www.thepicturehouse.org) for summer camp, additional special events and films in both the Main Hall and the Screening Room. And remember that if you become a member of this not-for-profit organization, you get free member popcorn (among other benefits).



## Bartow-Pell Events

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, at 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, is open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens are in full bloom and the mansion itself offers guided tours of the Greek Revival interior. Cost: \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors and students; free for children under 6. For more information, visit the website, [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org), or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

First Friday, July 6, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Julia Blenzig and her trio are at Bartow-Pell for First Friday in July! Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Cost BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

BPMM Adventures Camp, July 16 through July 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children ages 6 through 12 are invited to spend a week at Bartow-Pell having fun and learning about gardening, sustainability and local history. This unique program mixes core activities in the organic children's garden with exploration of the 19th-century mansion, the Northeast Woodlands wigwam and family life in both. Kids will also enjoy engaging crafts, wildlife investigations, creative cooking, nature hikes and more. Space is limited to 18 children per session. Cost \$375 / BPMM Members \$350.

First Friday, Aug. 3, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Nina Gordon Party is at Bartow-Pell for August's First Friday! Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Cost BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

"The Women of the Ramapough-Lenape," an exhibition by Lisa Levart (as part of the Beyond the Oak Tree Treaty Series), Aug. 3 through Aug. 12. Lisa Levart has been creating alternative photographic portraits of women embodying poetic myths for well over a decade. This exhibition is a creative collaboration between the artist and women from the Ramapough-Lenape Nation who uncovered long forgotten Lenape myths. Using these re-remembered sacred stories as a foundation, artist Lisa Levart uses a technique of collaging image layers—metal, wood, water and concrete—into the images and then individually hand painting them with an encaustic medium of beeswax and Damar resin. The applied wax alters the final images, blending contemporary and ancient portraiture across the expanse of time.

Bartow-Pell Discovery Camp, Aug. 20 through Aug. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Calling all young historians for a week of hands-on history at Bartow-Pell! Elementary school-aged kids will have an opportunity to step back in time through this immersive program filled with indoor and outdoor activities and crafts. Junior archaeologists will unearth our rich past by examining the lives of the Lenape people and the Bartow family. Campers will discover a life without technology, and experience games, music, dance and education from the 19th century. Bartow-Pell is the place where history meets adventure. An afternoon snack will be provided, but please bring a bag lunch from home. Cost \$500 / BPMM Members \$450.

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# CITY ISLAND'S DOG WALKERS ARE CLEANING UP

By BILL STUTTIG



**Angela Ferrara**

The following interview is part of a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support The Island Current by placing ads over the past few years.

There are a lot of dogs on City Island, and if you don't believe it, just ask the three City Island women who each make a good living walking, training and caring for them when their owners are away or at work.

Elizabeth Peters runs a dog walking, training and pet care and sitting business called O'Piddle D'Poo; Angela Ferrara runs Petey's Dog Service, named after Petey from "The Little Rascals"; and Jennifer Hernandez runs Island Dog Walkers.

Each of the separate animal care specialists claim extensive experience in caring for pet animals, particularly dogs, and more importantly, each shows a discernable love and affinity for animals.

Although they do technically compete for the same clients, most of them working dog or cat owners of City Island, each expresses a genuine healthy respect for the others and a general consensus that there are more than enough pets on the Island to keep all three businesses thriving.

Ms. Ferrara, who left the world of corporate accounting to devote her professional efforts to caring for dogs and other pets, told *The Current*: "We are each unique. No one is better than the next, because we clearly share a common ground loving these furry little creatures." She has run Petey's Dog Service since 2012, when "I left the corporate world because I wanted to like what I do. This is not stressful . . . totally the opposite."

Ms. Ferrara hires young trained dog



**Jennifer Hernandez**

walkers to help her with the task of walking the wide variety of dogs who have a home in City Island, while she concentrates on the other half of her business, boarding animals for either short or extended stays.

Each of the professional dog walkers and trainers admits that the job has various challenges, everything from aggressive dogs to owners who fail to listen to proper care and training techniques that make their animals happy and adjusted. But in almost all but a few cases they each report that all challenges are overcome successfully.

Elizabeth Peters said she fell in love with City Island and moved here permanently after living here temporarily to care for a loved one in 1991. She has been caring for the pets of City Islanders for more than two decades after leaving a career in the dental industry. She specializes in dog walks and dog sitting, with a special emphasis on training the mind of the dog along with the command skills of the owner. "I don't subscribe to just one method but a number of theories and methods, because each dog is different and each situation calls for different strategies," she says.

Although O'Piddle D'Poo charges for walks and dog sitting, Ms. Peters does not charge for training techniques. "Sometimes the difference between a dog going back to the shelter or worse and the dog overcoming its issues and becoming a member of the family can be applying the right techniques to correct a behavior. I do not want money to be the reason why a dog does not receive the training it needs to stay and be part of a

home."

Instead, she said, her reward is cards and letters from the dog owners who she has helped become "better puppy parents." Ms. Peters also says that she has never given up on a dog no matter how difficult or aggressive, although she has given up on people who do not want to listen and work to apply the techniques that will help the dog.

All three of the Island's walkers and trainers say the challenges of the job include preparing and dressing for the weather no matter what the season and what the conditions are on any given day. Also, they say, you have to be on the lookout for other dogs that are not as well controlled as they should be by other dog owners and walkers. "You have to watch out and be aware of your surroundings," Ms. Hernandez of Island Dog Walkers explained to *The Current*. She adds: "The worst part of the job is when a dog passes away. It is devastating. It tears your heart apart."

Ms. Ferrara and Ms. Peters left other careers to pursue the labor of their love, but Ms. Hernandez says that caring for animals has been her natural career pursuit since adolescence. "Ever since I was young I had a natural affinity for animals," she said. When she was 17, she began working as a technician for a veterinarian and caring for animals in shelters. She started the dog walking business six years ago at the suggestion of a friend, and though she struggled financially at first, business began accelerating around 2014, and it has been good ever since.

Virtually all of her business is on City Island, although she has had clients in Throggs Neck. "I keep the price fair so peo-



**Elizabeth Peters**

ple can afford it," she explains. Her work day can be anywhere from 8 to 12 hours long and include between 10 and 15 miles of walking. "I love it," she says. "City Island is a great place to walk dogs." Her services also include leash training, as well as dog and cat sitting. Besides dogs and cats, her clients also include owners of more exotic animals, including a macaw, snakes and a variety of other small furry creatures.

All three dog walking businesses say they market largely through word of mouth, but each has advertised in *The Current* as well.



Photo by RICKEY COLLADO

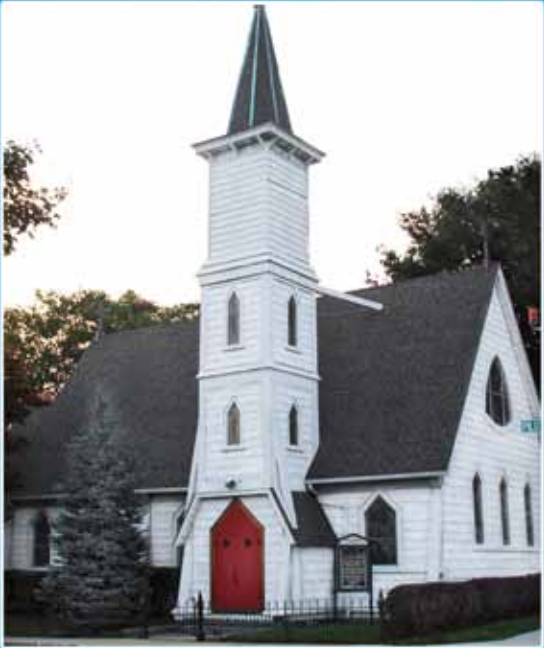
The City Island Library opened its recently renovated garden space with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, June 22, 2018. Library staff members were joined by the owners of the library building who donated funds toward the renovation (l. to r.): Christopher Ruiz (Library Information Assistant), Theresa Panza (Children's Librarian), Atticus Sutcliffe (Library Information Assistant), Susan Klevansky, Laureine Greenbaum and Karen Kameron (owners), and Tiffany McCrae (City Island Library Manager).



Photos by MATT PANZA

A City Island nautical tradition, the annual Blessing of the Fleet, took place on Sunday, June 24, off Fenton's Dock sponsored by the City Island Power Squadron. A total of 55 motorboats, sailboats, rowboats, and jet skis from all over Long Island Sound received individual blessings from Deacon William Mueller of Saint Mary Star of the Sea, Rabbi David Markus of Temple Beth El, Rev. David Jolly of Trinity Methodist Church, and Fr. John Covington of Grace Episcopal. Color guard from the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post was also on hand to salute the many vessels and wish them smooth sailing in 2018.

## Grace Episcopal Church




~ Inclusive  
~ Friendly  
All  
are  
Welcome!

The Holy Eucharist  
is celebrated every  
Sunday at 10 AM

Church School  
meets the 1st & 3rd  
Sunday of the  
month at 10 AM

The Rev. John E. Covington, Pastor

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street  
718-885-1080 ~ [www.gracecityisland.net](http://www.gracecityisland.net)



## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### JULY

Tues., July 10, **Bronx Masons Blood Drive**, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Sat., July 28, **Gilder Scholarship Fundraising Lawn Party**, Morris Yacht & Beach Club, 2 p.m. Contact Jack Jokinen at [jack.jokinen@gmail.com](mailto:jack.jokinen@gmail.com).

Sat., July 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: ziti or rotini with meatballs or meat sauce.

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

#### AUGUST

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

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

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 8 and 9, **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

### City Island Republicans

Petitions are still being circulated. Please sign if someone comes around, since that helps to get the ticket on the ballot, therefore giving the voters a second choice in November.

Marcus Molinaro is the official candidate for governor. He is campaigning hard around the state and hopefully will be in the Bronx very soon.

We will be having a meeting in September. Have a great summer.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

### Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, takes place every Sunday after service during coffee hour.

Sunday School will resume in September. The school meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12, and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. The older students will begin preparing for the sacrament of confirmation when the bishop visits Grace Church in December.

The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is into its third year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nurs-

ing homes and rehabilitation centers. This summer we are working on new songs for the fall and winter seasons. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

**Sandy Dunn**

### Garden Club of City Island

Thanks to the donations to our Beautification Fund from Island businesses and residents, the Garden Club will be able to complete refurbishing the Post Office garden area. Thanks to a generous grant from former Councilmember James Vacca, the Garden Club was able to install tree guards along City Island Avenue between Fordham and Hawkins Streets. The Beautification Committee will also be planting a new summer selection in the planter boxes when the heat becomes too much for the spring pansies.

At our June meeting, the Garden Club enjoyed a presentation by landscape designer Richard Rosiello about his work on the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, once a lot with an abandoned gas station and now a lovely park with colorful gardens and community center in Washington Depot, CT. Also in June, a group from the Garden Club toured the Clark Botanical Garden with one of its horticulturists. This garden near Roslyn, NY, dedicated to understanding and appreciating the world's plant life, is a museum and educational facility with extensive garden collections.

The Garden Club's meeting on Friday, July 6, will be a members' lunch with the installation of officers, beginning with a short business meeting at 11 a.m. There is a \$10 charge for the lunch. We have no Garden Club meeting in August.

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings, usually held on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. However, because of the Labor Day holiday, the next Garden Club meeting has been moved to Sept. 10. We will have a presentation about vegetable gardening, which should be of interest to City Islanders who have recently expressed a desire to establish a community vegetable garden. All meetings conclude with home-baked goods and refreshments served by our Hospitality Committee. Everyone is invited to attend!

**Sharynne Wilder**

### American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 9, at 12 noon, our first meeting back after the summer break. Dues are due: \$55 for the 2018-19 year. Please drop off the dues at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope.

As the heat increases, it's time to cool off this summer at City Island's unofficial cooling center. Please feel free to stop by the Post for a nice cold drink, served in a frosty glass. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox, by the post's flag pole.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Members of Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School led a special Youth and Father's Day Service on June 17, 2018, under the watchful eye of Father John Covington. Shown above are the hard working students, who received their second-year pins and presented most of the liturgy, including the sermon (l. to r.): Sophia and Emilio Aponte, Marcus, Christine and Rachel Lopez-Pierre.

Thanks to all Legion family members and participants who joined and helped us in honoring our City Island veterans who have gone before us. Reflecting on their loss during the Memorial Day Parade helped to remind us of their supreme sacrifice. Whether you marched or watched as the parade went up City Island Avenue, we are grateful for your participation.

A thank you goes out to all of those who helped stuff and distribute the chance books.

Thanks to Diane Lott and Judy McCormick for all the snacks they feed us with every Friday.

The annual clambake will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15. Details to follow.

Please visit our website for the latest information and in order to e-mail the Post directly. Our website can be found at [Leonardhawkinspost156.com](http://Leonardhawkinspost156.com).

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

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**

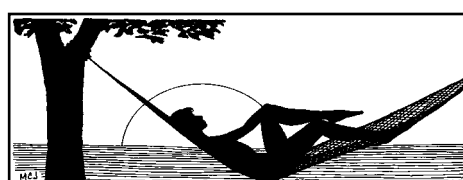
### City Island Indivisible

City Island Indivisible is open to all people interested in working to promote progressive, inclusive issues through activism, conversation, information sharing and coalition building. We welcome you to join our meetings, our mailing list and our Facebook page to stay informed and in action; for more information, e-mail [cityislandtrg@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandtrg@gmail.com) or go to City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

In the past few months, we have welcomed candidates for the state Democratic primary, which will take place in September. In April Alessandra Biaggi, who is running against Jeff Klein for State Senator on the Democratic ticket, met with our group and gave a persuasive argument for her position as she opposes Senator Klein's position on the IDC (Independent Democratic Coalition). Alexandria Occasio-Cortez visited our June meeting to discuss her reasons for running against Representative Joseph Crowley.

Our meeting in July will be on Tuesday, July 17, at 7 p.m. in the City Island Community Center.

**Barbara Zahm**



### Temple Beth El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational place for

observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with celebratory music by Your Band by the Sea.

#### Looking ahead:

Saturday, July 21, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tisha B'Av is the lowest day of the Jewish spiritual year, but it is also the gateway to the High Holy Day season, which comes early this year. Join Rabbi David to open the spirit to brokenness and the updraft to repair and renewal.

Friday, Aug. 3, at 7 p.m. we will have our joyous and gorgeous Shabbat by the Sea under the stars. Do not miss our spectacular sunset Shabbat at water's edge facing Manhattan. This annual mid-summer event crowns all our Shabbats.

TBE invites the City Island Community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes; participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served afterwards. Suggested free-will offering: \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at [kycnyc@aol.com](mailto:kycnyc@aol.com).

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support: no experience required. Even if you are homebound you can make calls and coordinate care. To seek support or to volunteer, please e-mail Chesed chair Shayna Caul at [shaynacaul@gmail.com](mailto:shaynacaul@gmail.com) and send an e-mail through our website, [yourshulbythesea.org](http://yourshulbythesea.org).

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

For additional information, check out our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

**Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol**



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

Oh, what a night we all had at Latin Night in the Center on June 16, thanks to the great work of Eva, Charlie, Gigi, Cathy, Maria, Francesca, Susan, Cheryl and Kenny, and an incredible Latin Dance demo by Eva and Maurice and a surprise visit from Retumba. Kudos to all!

The Jay Howard Garden is well under way. Jay's many friends are doing the good work of digging and planting and providing donations to help make this a beautiful tribute. We hope to dedicate Jay's garden in August. Please look at our website and on Facebook for the exact date.

It's vacation time. Please check with your instructors to make sure your class is meeting.

Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent the Center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure or for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org) or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations.

**SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**City Island Community Supported Agriculture:** Monday, 5 to 6 p.m. Weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. To join or for information, contact [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**NEW Feldenkrais Class:** Monday at 6:15 p.m. beginning July 9. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information to improve the way your body feels and functions. For information, please contact Julie Kavee at 347-266-6247 or [juliekavee@gmail.com](mailto:juliekavee@gmail.com).

**Irish Dance for Children:** Summer step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For day and time or information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

**PROGRAMS**

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

**Ballroom Dance:** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Maurice Bonilla returns on a new day to teach us how to "Dance with the Stars." It's great fun and good exercise. For information, call 718-502-2825.

**Belly Dance:** Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Amira fun-filled dance experience and with benefits of feeling fit and limber. Beginners and all levels welcome. Call 917-251-1269 to join or for more information.

**Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance:** Saturdays, Teens/Adults, 1 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme at this new time to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Join your community in action. (No meeting in August.)

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

**Healing Service:** Francesca Vitale,

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

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

**Island Tots:** Wednesdays, at 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register for September or for more information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Wednesdays and Thursdays after-school classes resuming in September. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. All skill levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938 or visit [www.espanolexperience.com](http://www.espanolexperience.com).

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join our unofficial WW meetings while we build up membership to become official. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

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

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

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

**Patty Grondahl**

**Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156**

We would like to congratulate Post 156 Commander Peter Del-Debbio on being elected Bronx County Commander of the American Legion. Good luck! The Squadron is there for you.

Our new stars and stripes Sons uniform shirts are still available for \$25. If you are interested, stop by the Post. Leave your size, information and payment, and you will be contacted when the shirts are received.

If you are one of the few members who have not paid 2018 dues of \$30, your time is almost up. They must be paid by July 15 for your membership in the Sons to remain active. After that date, you will be removed from the active roster and your membership will be invalid. If you have any questions about dues, please call the Post at 718-885-0639. Remember, there is a reason why you joined in the first place.

There are no meetings for July and August. Our next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

**Peter Booth**

**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.

Following worship is a special program: "Seeking, growing, and sharing . . . more Love, Joy and Peace." Looking to God, placing ourselves "under the wings of Jesus," how can each of us and our families have more love, joy and peace? Pastor Jolly will lead this program. All are welcome; food will be shared. What would you give up to have more love, joy and peace? Come and see!



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

About 100 people attended a luncheon at the Split Rock Golf Course to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the PSS City Island Senior Center on June 7, 2018. Delicious food, a DJ from Vertigo Entertainment, and a photo booth kept the guests well-fed and entertained. The PSS program is based in Grace Church Parish Hall and provides services to keep adults over 60 healthy and connected (Monday through Friday, see *Organization News*).

Trinity is now accepting enrollments for Vacation Bible School, which will be held on Saturdays in July from 9 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall. Registration is required. You can get more information by contacting David Ellis at 347-406-3266 or [artbydellis@gmail.com](mailto:artbydellis@gmail.com).

The Budget Shop is now closed for the summer. Kindly hold your donations until we re-open in September. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

**Rick DeWitt**

**PSS Senior Center**

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

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

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

**Highlights**

July 4, Wednesday: Closed for Independence Day.

July 16, Monday: Free Lickety Split ice cream when you ride the Party Express.

July 20, Friday: Visions Presentation at 12:30.

July 25, Wednesday: Mets game  
Aug. 1, Wednesday: Yankees game

Also a free boat ride to Manhattan and back for those who come to lunch 10 times in July and August before the trip.

Please call for updated July and August events.

**Daily Programming**

**Mondays:**  
9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis for all exercise levels  
10:15 a.m. Card Games and Canasta  
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

**Tuesdays:**  
9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit, vigorous aerobic and strength training  
11:30 to 12 noon: Blood pressure screening the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month  
1 p.m. Yoga Stretch  
1:45 p.m. Crafter's Corner

**Wednesdays:**  
9:15 a.m. Self Defense with Sensei Eddie  
10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop—exercises for all joints  
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Calligraphy

1 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesday of the month: Haircuts by Brenda for \$10; please call to sign up.

**Thursdays:**

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

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Skits and singing; please call for update

**Fridays:**

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life, vigorous cardio and toning

10:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch; July 13 Birthday Party with musician Mark Doyle

12:45 p.m. Dance Party

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's, and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information and for pickup or trips.

We also offer caregivers' support and help with benefits eligibility. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

**Patty Attis**

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

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be closed for the summer months. See you in September.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

**Rose Dietz**

**REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218**

**Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080**

**Al-Anon**  
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

**Overeaters Anonymous:**  
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### Gifted

Hollywood has depicted a wide variety of stories about people “gifted” in some way. The classic film **WarGames** (1983) stars a young Matthew Broderick as David Lightman, a computer genius and high school underachiever, who tries to impress his classmate Jennifer Mack (Ally Sheedy) by hacking into their high school’s computer from his home to change a bad grade. When he tries to access a computer game company, he winds up playing a game called “Global Thermonuclear War”. However, he soon finds he’s tapped into the real thing, and sets events into motion which make for a hair-raising, suspenseful film. The supporting cast includes Dabney Coleman as NORAD Systems Engineer John McKittrick and John Wood as Professor Falken, who designed the military supercomputer.

**Little Man Tate** (1991) was directed by and stars Jodie Foster as uneducated working class Dede Tate, the loving single mom to 7-year old Fred (Adam Hann-Byrd). Fred is gifted in the sciences and creative arts, more so than the most exceptional of children. However, he is a lonely sensitive boy who internalizes many of his feelings, and who has ulcers from worrying about the unsolvable problems in the world. Their lives change when Fred comes to the attention of Dr. Jane Grierson (Dianne Wiest) of the Grierson Institute, a school for exceptional children. The film explores the tension between Fred’s emotional and intellectual needs, and between his mother and Dr. Grierson as the two women struggle to do what they believe is best for him.

An excellent docudrama which was inspired by chess prodigy Josh Waitzken and written by his father Fred, **Searching for Bobby Fischer** (1993) is the story of Josh (Max Pomeranc) whose father (Joe Mantegna) is thrilled to discover his son is a gifted chess player. Josh is heavily influenced by Vinnie (Laurence Fishburne), a speed chess hustler whom he meets in Washington Square Park. When Josh is placed under the tutelage of callous chess master Bruce Pandolfini (Ben Kingsley), there is the peril of the boy putting competition above sportsmanship. This is an inspiring story of the resolution of that conflict.

**Finding Forrester** (2000) stars Sean Connery as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who befriends a black teenager, Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown). Jamal, though brilliant and a gifted writer, has been an underachiever in high school; but his athletic prowess and high SAT scores cause him to be offered a scholar-

ship to a private academy. There he uses his extraordinary knowledge of literature to challenge his arrogant English professor (F. Murray Abraham), who is infuriated. He is befriended by the lovely Claire Spence (a teenaged Anna Paquin), much to the consternation of her father (Michael Nouri). Busta Rhymes is on hand as Jamal’s encouraging brother Terrell. How old man Forrester and the teen-aged Jamal learn from each other is truly inspiring.

Based on the memoir *Traveling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen*, by Jane Hawking, **The Theory of Everything** (2014) stars Best Actor Oscar Winner Eddie Redmayne as one of the world’s greatest minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. While at Cambridge, he falls in love with fellow student Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones). At the age of 21, Hawking receives an earth-shattering diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, (or) a motor neuron disease), which caused him to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. With Jane’s help, Stephen succeeded in writing his most ambitious scientific work, *A Brief History of Time*. Originally having been given roughly two years to live, Hawking died this past March at the age of 72.

**Amadeus** (1984) stars Tom Hulce in the title role as 18th century musical genius composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The story is told from the viewpoint point of an aging royal composer Antonio Salieri (F. Murray Abraham), who recalls the events of three decades earlier, when the vulgar and obnoxious young Mozart first gained favor in the court of Austrian emperor Joseph II (Jeffrey Jones). Seething with jealousy and enraged that God would bless the appalling young man with divine genius, Salieri sets out to sabotage Mozart’s career. Amadeus won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Actor for F. Murray Abraham. In 2002, the film received a theatrical re-release as “Amadeus: The Director’s Cut,” a version that includes 20 minutes of additional footage.

**Immortal Beloved** (1994) is the story of another musical genius, Ludwig von Beethoven (Gary Oldman). The film creates a narrative around an actual letter found after his death, addressed only to the composer’s “immortal beloved,” and to whom he left his entire estate. The story follows Beethoven’s secretary Anton Schindler (Jeroen Krabbé), as he seeks to discover this mysterious person’s identity. The investigation turns into an exploration of the composer’s life. Through recollections and scattered hints, we receive glimpses of Beethoven’s relationships with women, particularly his close interaction with a pair of very different Countesses: Anna-Marie Erdödy (Isabella Rossellini) and Johanna Reiss (Johanna ter Steege). The film also considers the composer’s obsessive relationship with his young nephew Karl (Marco Hofschneider), and explores Beethoven’s eventual hearing loss and descent into emotional instability.

My favorite film of 2010 was the highly under-rated **Mao’s Last Dancer**. It is a drama based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin (Chi Cao), who at the age of eleven was taken from his poor Chinese village by Madame Mao’s cultural delegates to Beijing to study ballet. Years later, during a groundbreaking cultural visit to China, American-based English ballet director Ben Stevenson (Bruce Greenwood), recruits him as an exchange student at the Houston Ballet. There, Li is seduced by the luxurious American lifestyle and wants to stay. It is also the story of the Cultural Revolution in China. The juxtaposition of the two cultures and scenery is accomplished with flashbacks and the right amount of suspense. The dancing is spectacular, as is the cinematography.

**A Ballerina’s Tale** (2015) is a documentary about gifted ballerina Misty Copeland, who made history when she became the first African-American woman to be named principal dancer of the legendary American Ballet Theater. The film, narrated by Copeland herself, begins with archival footage of her as a child at a small ballet studio, and focuses on her cultural impact and professional success. This is an inspiring story of how she overcame near career-ending injuries to become one of the most revered dancers of her generation.

Matt Damon earned a Best Actor Oscar nomination for his performance in the title role in **Good Will Hunting** (1997), as an MIT janitor who is an intellectually gifted mathematical genius. He is “discovered” by MIT Professor Lambeau (Stellan Skarsgard), who rescues him from police custody on the condition that Will study with him and get therapy. Psychotherapist Sean McGuire (Robin Williams) challenges Will emotionally, especially when Will falls for Skylar (Minnie Driver) a British medical student. Ben Affleck (who co-authored this Oscar-winning script with Damon) plays his supportive best friend Chuckie.

2001’s best picture, **A Beautiful Mind** (which also garnered a best director award for Ron Howard) stars Russell Crowe, in a magnificent portrayal of Nobel Prize-winning mathematician, John Forbes Nash Jr., and his struggle with schizophrenia. Crowe’s performance was the heart, mind and soul of the film, which also featured Jennifer Connelly as his wife Alicia (who won best supporting actress). How this brilliant man is debilitated and then deals with his demons is a wonder to behold.

Set in the 1960’s, **Hidden Figures** (2016) is the incredible recounting of the brilliant efforts of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), intellectually gifted African-American women working at NASA. Facing discrimination of separate bathrooms, and even coffeepots, they each served as integral personnel in the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Their stunning achievements included the mathematical genius of Johnson, the engineering brilliance of Jackson, and the ambition of Vaughn in the IBM mainframe computer world. Without their contributions, the U.S. might have lost its dominance to Russia. These visionary women crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to come.

**Gifted** (2017) is the story of Frank Adler (Chris Evans), a loving single man raising his seven-year old niece Mary (Mckenna Grace), a child prodigy. Frank wants to follow his late sister’s desire for a normal school life for Mary. Unfortunately, when Frank’s formidable mother Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan) learns of Mary’s mathematical abilities, her ambitions for her granddaughter threaten to separate Frank and Mary. The supporting cast includes Octavia Spencer as Roberta, Frank and Mary’s landlady and best friend; and Jenny Slate as Mary’s teacher, Bonnie.

And until next time, have a wonderful summer, and happy viewing...

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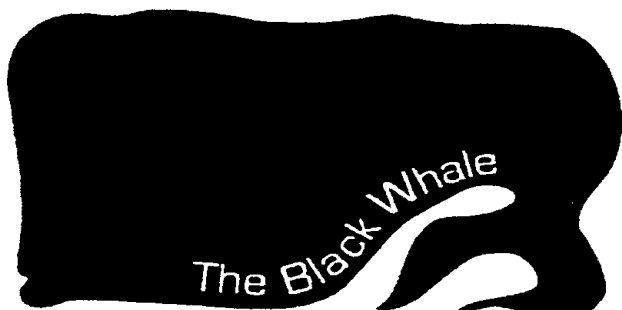
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**SUMMER BAND SCHEDULE 2018**

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Unless otherwise noted, the bands will play in Hawkins Park at 4 p.m.

- Sat., June 30: Blue Collar, 1 p.m.
- Sun., July 1: The Boatyard Band (Ambrosini Little League Field) at 1 p.m.
- Sun., July 8: Papa Guyo/Reggae
- Sun., July 15: The Potato Heads
- Sun., July 22: Wreckless Jester
- Sun., July 29: Blueberry Jam
- Sun., Aug. 5: Papa Guyo/Funk
- Sun., Aug. 12: Strange Brew
- Sun., Aug. 19: Gene DiNaploi / Oldies Review
- Sun., Aug. 26: Papa Guyo/Flamenco
- Sun., Sept. 9: Alive-n-Kickin' Duo / Pepe and Tim
- Sun., Sept. 16: Blueberry Jam

**A FAIR TO REMEMBER!**



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MATT PANZA

The annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, was held under mostly sunny skies on June 2 and 3, 2018. Events took place along City Island Avenue from Bay to Schofield Streets featuring local artists and businesses selling paintings, food, photography, jewelry, textiles, clothing, woodwork, candles, soaps, personal care products, handicrafts and more. There were baked goods for the sweet tooth from Grace Episcopal Church and information tables for NYC Sanitation composting, Stepping Stones Lighthouse, Hutchinson River Alliance, the City Island Nautical Museum and more. Afternoon music in Hawkins Park was performed by the Lickety Split Band. Calendar alert: the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, is scheduled for Sept. 8 and 9, 2018.

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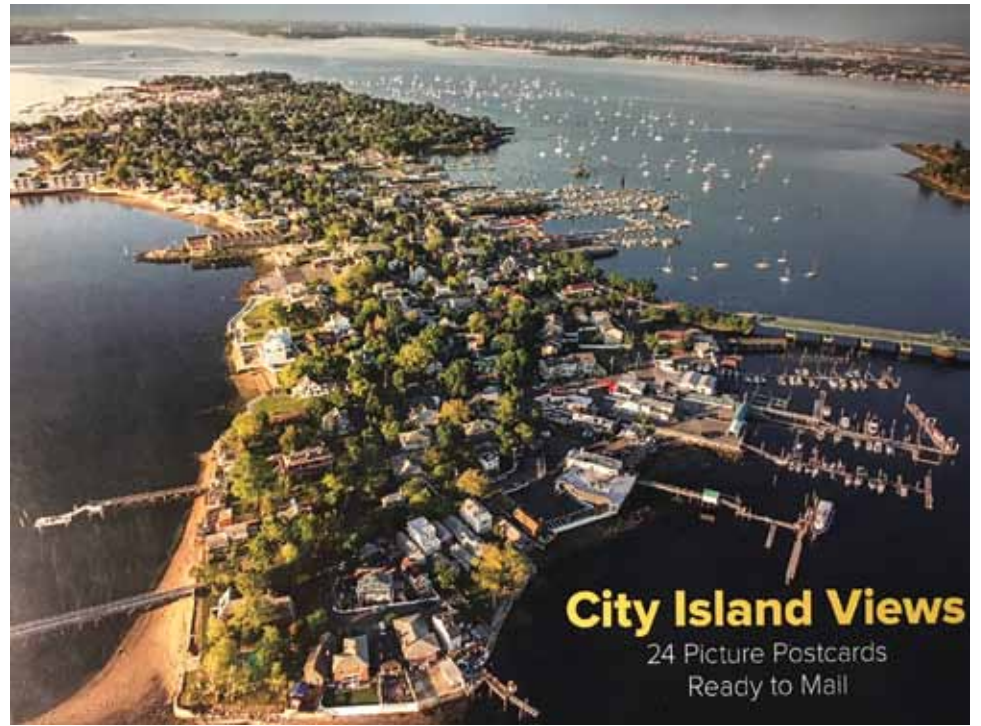


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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200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

**JULY 2018**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0137	7.67	0808	0.51	1412	7.22	2004	0.96	Sun 01
02 Mon	0207	7.63	0833	0.55	1440	7.30	2043	0.98	Mon 02
03 Tue	0246	7.57	0909	0.58	1516	7.40	2128	1.00	Tue 03
04 Wed	0329	7.47	0951	0.62	1559	7.49	2215	1.01	Wed 04
05 Thu	0416	7.34	1037	0.67	1647	7.58	2307	1.00	Thu 05
06 Fri	0508	7.19	1126	0.71	1738	7.68			Fri 06
07 Sat	0003	0.92	0604	7.07	1220	0.71	1833	7.82	Sat 07
08 Sun	0105	0.76	0704	7.03	1317	0.65	1931	8.00	Sun 08
09 Mon	0214	0.50	0807	7.08	1418	0.52	2030	8.23	Mon 09
10 Tue	0329	0.13	0912	7.24	1522	0.32	2129	8.48	Tue 10
11 Wed	0439	-0.29	1015	7.48	1627	0.08	2228	8.69	Wed 11
12 Thu	0539	-0.68	1115	7.73	1732	-0.15	2326	8.83	Thu 12
13 Fri	0635	-0.94	1214	7.94	1835	-0.32			Fri 13
14 Sat	0023	8.84	0729	-1.06	1311	8.08	1936	-0.40	Sat 14
15 Sun	0121	8.71	0823	-1.02	1408	8.12	2037	-0.36	Sun 15
16 Mon	0222	8.45	0917	-0.82	1509	8.08	2140	-0.23	Mon 16
17 Tue	0327	8.10	1014	-0.53	1612	7.98	2244	-0.06	Tue 17
18 Wed	0437	7.73	1113	-0.18	1717	7.88	2348	0.10	Wed 18
19 Thu	0547	7.42	1212	0.14	1821	7.81			Thu 19
20 Fri	0052	0.21	0652	7.22	1313	0.40	1921	7.80	Fri 20
21 Sat	0153	0.23	0753	7.13	1411	0.56	2019	7.85	Sat 21
22 Sun	0251	0.19	0850	7.14	1506	0.65	2113	7.92	Sun 22
23 Mon	0345	0.13	0943	7.21	1557	0.68	2203	7.99	Mon 23
24 Tue	0434	0.08	1032	7.30	1644	0.70	2249	8.04	Tue 24
25 Wed	0520	0.07	1117	7.39	1727	0.73	2332	8.04	Wed 25
26 Thu	0601	0.11	1159	7.45	1805	0.77			Thu 26
27 Fri	0011	7.99	0638	0.20	1237	7.46	1837	0.82	Fri 27
28 Sat	0042	7.90	0710	0.32	1309	7.44	1856	0.84	Sat 28
29 Sun	0058	7.81	0728	0.42	1324	7.44	1910	0.79	Sun 29
30 Mon	0111	7.80	0736	0.43	1336	7.54	1940	0.70	Mon 30
31 Tue	0140	7.82	0803	0.39	1405	7.68	2017	0.64	Tue 31
<b>AUGUST 2018</b>									
01 Wed	0217	7.79	0838	0.37	1442	7.81	2100	0.62	Wed 01
02 Thu	0259	7.70	0919	0.40	1524	7.90	2146	0.65	Thu 02
03 Fri	0345	7.54	1004	0.48	1611	7.94	2236	0.71	Fri 03
04 Sat	0437	7.34	1053	0.60	1702	7.95	2332	0.76	Sat 04
05 Sun	0533	7.14	1148	0.72	1759	7.95			Sun 05
06 Mon	0035	0.76	0635	7.01	1247	0.78	1901	8.00	Mon 06
07 Tue	0151	0.63	0743	7.03	1354	0.73	2007	8.12	Tue 07
08 Wed	0323	0.30	0857	7.22	1511	0.53	2115	8.32	Wed 08
09 Thu	0433	-0.16	1008	7.54	1630	0.18	2223	8.55	Thu 09
10 Fri	0530	-0.59	1111	7.91	1737	-0.21	2325	8.74	Fri 10
11 Sat	0624	-0.90	1207	8.21	1835	-0.51			Sat 11
12 Sun	0023	8.80	0715	-1.03	1301	8.40	1931	-0.67	Sun 12
13 Mon	0119	8.71	0804	-0.98	1353	8.45	2025	-0.66	Mon 13
14 Tue	0214	8.47	0854	-0.76	1446	8.36	2121	-0.49	Tue 14
15 Wed	0311	8.12	0946	-0.40	1542	8.17	2219	-0.21	Wed 15
16 Thu	0412	7.71	1040	0.04	1642	7.93	2319	0.12	Thu 16
17 Fri	0516	7.34	1138	0.47	1745	7.72			Fri 17
18 Sat	0021	0.41	0621	7.08	1238	0.83	1849	7.59	Sat 18
19 Sun	0122	0.60	0723	6.97	1338	1.06	1949	7.58	Sun 19
20 Mon	0221	0.67	0821	7.01	1435	1.15	2045	7.65	Mon 20
21 Tue	0315	0.66	0915	7.15	1528	1.13	2137	7.77	Tue 21
22 Wed	0405	0.59	1004	7.33	1616	1.05	2224	7.89	Wed 22
23 Thu	0450	0.51	1050	7.51	1700	0.95	2307	7.97	Thu 23
24 Fri	0531	0.46	1131	7.64	1738	0.85	2345	7.99	Fri 24
25 Sat	0606	0.44	1207	7.70	1810	0.76			Sat 25
26 Sun	0016	7.95	0635	0.45	1234	7.72	1831	0.66	Sun 26
27 Mon	0030	7.91	0650	0.43	1243	7.78	1848	0.51	Mon 27
28 Tue	0044	7.93	0704	0.35	1301	7.94	1917	0.37	Tue 28
29 Wed	0114	7.97	0733	0.26	1332	8.11	1953	0.28	Wed 29
30 Thu	0151	7.95	0809	0.24	1410	8.23	2034	0.27	Thu 30
31 Fri	0233	7.84	0850	0.31	1453	8.27	2120	0.36	Fri 31
<b>SEPTEMBER 2018</b>									
01 Sat	0320	7.65	0936	0.47	1541	8.21	2210	0.53	Sat 01
02 Sun	0411	7.39	1026	0.69	1634	8.07	2307	0.72	Sun 02
03 Mon	0509	7.14	1123	0.91	1733	7.92			Mon 03
04 Tue	0015	0.85	0615	6.98	1227	1.05	1840	7.82	Tue 04
05 Wed	0153	0.79	0732	7.02	1349	1.00	1955	7.87	Wed 05



This book of vintage postcards depicting classic scenes of City Island in the early 20th century is available at the City Island Nautical Museum, which is open all summer on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. To order a copy (\$13.50), leave a message at 718-885-0008 or call 718-885-1616.



**TIPS FOR A STAY AT HOME SUMMER**

For those readers who are not planning the sort of spectacular summer getaway that you can read about in a travel magazine, we have a suggestion. Try something new in one of the more than 7,000 acres of parkland the Bronx has to offer. That's approximately 25 percent of the borough's total area, a fact that may be easily overlooked, especially while you're sitting in traffic on the Cross Bronx Expressway.

At this time of year, the reason to go to Pelham Bay Park is obvious: Orchard Beach! For hiking, though, there are better options. This is because of the deer population in the park, which, of course, means ticks. Van Cortlandt Park, on the other hand, may or may not have resident deer, and if so they would be confined to the North Woods area. It is probably safe to say, then, that Van Cortlandt Park is, by comparison to Pelham Bay Park, tick-free. That said, why not try a bird walk through the park? The Audubon Society will be sponsoring them all summer long. We were there a few weeks ago and were impressed by both the variety of birds and other fauna. The bullfrog made the biggest impression, though, the sound of it even more so than the sight. And then there were the trees. One fellow bird walker referred to them as Stephen King trees. We will leave that metaphor to your own wild (Stephen King-inspired?) imaginations.

If bird walking is not your cup of tea, you can always catch a game of cricket on the weekends. Or maybe a catfish in the lake. Another Bronx park with freshwater fishing opportunities is Crotona Park. In fact, families are invited to Crotona's own Indian Lake on Sunday, July 8 at 1 p.m. Some of the park's Rangers will be

sharing what they know about freshwater fishing in New York City. If you are lucky, you may even catch a pumpkinseed sunfish, a carp or a chain pickerel. The event is free, although to participate you will have to be among the first to arrive.

If fishing doesn't float your boat, there is always the world-famous attraction of Bronx Park. Many people are not aware that both the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden (we still prefer Bronx Botanical Garden) are situated in another one of the Bronx's parks. General admission to both attractions can be pricy, so consider going on a Wednesday, when admission is free. Admission is also free to the Garden on Saturdays between the hours of 9 and 10 a.m. For those less concerned about cost, there are some exciting "behind the scenes" opportunities to consider. We highly recommend the cheetah meet and greet.

The other thing to consider this summer is City Island itself. Take a walk up and down some of the side streets. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you see. On Buckley Street, for example, a neighbor is training a rosebush into a tree. The effect is sure to bring a smile to your face. Another neighbor on King Avenue has put together the kind of whimsical garden usually associated with the English countryside. The colors will dazzle you; the wisteria covered gazebo will tempt you—almost—to trespass. On Fordham Street, one neighbor is working wonders with clematis on a genuine picket fence. Another is allowing nature to be its wondrous self. If you haven't yet seen the elm tree in front of the home on Fordham Street where it intersects with William Avenue, please make it a point to do so this summer. It is a tree for the ages, if you ask us.

Have a happy, safe summer, everybody. See you in the fall.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

### Buckley Street rose

#### Roses and Grasses

Once upon a time a woman who lived on City Island was a great rose collector. Her roses were perfectly grown, and her collection had many rare and lovely varieties, along with many choice perennials. Suddenly one day, she decided to move, and she put her entire garden up for sale. When I found out, I called a few friends, and they were quick enough to snap up some truly lovely things.

So when I recently got the call from a friend on Buckley Street to come and see what her rose had done, I was amazed at how it had grown up nearly to the top of her cherry tree. Luscious red and perfectly healthy was this rose of roses. I think the variety might be Paul's scarlet climber. Although it flowers only once, the anticipation makes its arrival even more beautiful. She also has a white climber called pearl drift. It is four inches across, has white rosy flushed flowers, is disease resistant and has deep green shiny leaves.

On Carroll Street, the Westerland rose was planted. Up and over the house it went, creating a fairy tale effect. Its apricot hue is the perfect complementary color to the blue of the house. My purchase was Bobby James, big enough to cover a porch entrance. I struggle to tie in its waving arms, which are long and elegant. I think that if I let it go, it would take over the front yard. The beautiful rose was "the gift" she gave me. So this woman, whom I dubbed Ms. Rose, continues in her way to still live on City Island and to great effect.

People have gone crazy for the new knock-out roses, whose unfortunate name I find very offensive. One does not want to think of boxing gloves and bloody noses when smelling a rose. The flower shapes are not comely and there is no scent, but they bloom throughout the season with no dead-heading. The new yellow and cream ones might be allowed in my garden. David Austin's roses are shapely, cupped, old fashioned and repeat blooming. You can see them all at the Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden. Order the catalogue; it is an eye catcher.

Good companion plants for roses are clematis, salvia, geranium, oxeye daisy and poppies. Grasses are also beautiful with roses, and here are a few I would recommend. Karl forester is an upright grass that fades to a beautiful auburn in the fall and is great for tight spaces. Drop seed is small and dainty at two feet and good for edging. Deschampsia cespitosa is a favorite, making nice green clumps that are evergreen; their inflorescence is tall and airy, gleaming gold

in the sunlight.

Steer clear of the miscanthus grasses if you don't have large enough areas to accommodate them, but morning light is lovely with thinner blades, which look great massed on an embankment. Also, Miscanthus si-

nensis 'yaku jima' is smaller at five feet. A grass that mimics miscanthus is pennisetum. At half the size, it puts on a great show. I would not recommend cortaderia with roses, but they are the big boys of grasses, and their plumes are like big ostrich feathers in cream or startling white. They are tender, but you can try Cortaderia pumila, which is smaller, at four feet wide by four feet high. They are sometimes tender, but City Island's zone is a bit warmer than the rest of the region. They can stand alone on a lawn, where oohs and aahs will be their constant companions.

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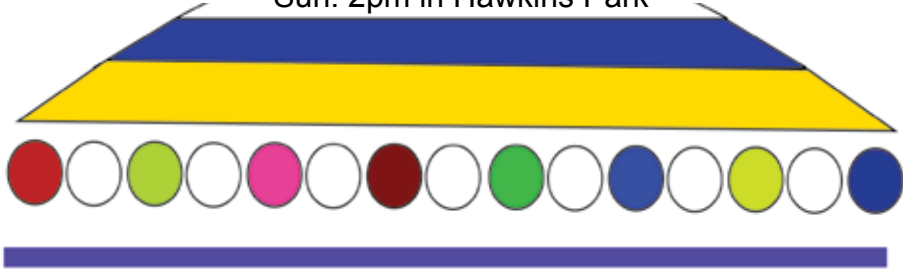
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Photo courtesy of CALVARY HOSPITAL

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, Barbara Dennis (shown above with Fr. John Covington) of Grace Episcopal Church donated several beautiful afghans made by Margaret Lannie to Calvary Hospital. Although the church's Hearts and Hands group disbanded some time ago, Ms. Lannie continued to make afghans, which were gratefully received by E. Gorman of the Calvary staff.

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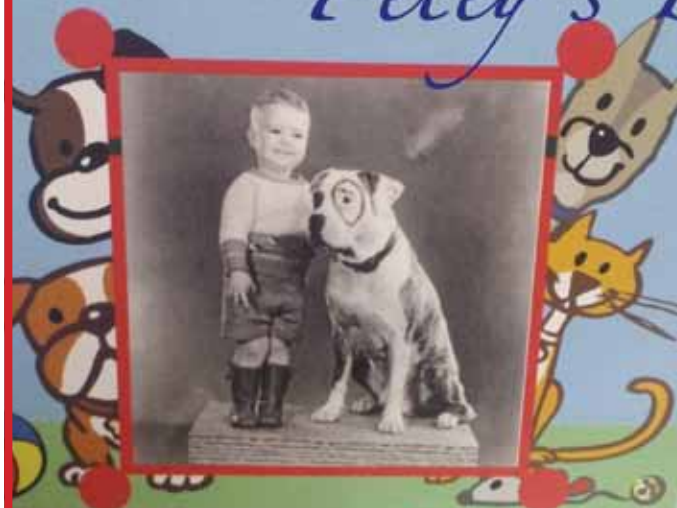
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# Obituaries

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.



### Helen A. Hinck

Longtime Belden Point resident Helen Hinck passed away on Feb. 10, 2018, at the age of 88.

She was born in Brooklyn on March 9, 1930, to John and Helen Dyevoich, who were immigrants from Dubrovnik, Croatia.

She was a graduate of Bishop McDonnell High School in Brooklyn and Hunter College in Manhattan. Helen went on to work as a teacher in the New York City Public School system, where she loved working with young children.

On April 17, 1960, she married John H. Hinck, and they lived together on City Island for the next 45 years. Helen and John supervised the restoration of their historic home on Belden Point, while also raising three children and caring for several aging relatives over the years.

Helen was active in St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister, lector, cantor, catechist and confirmation teacher.

She loved music, played piano by ear and organized a prayer group, sharing her musical gifts and prayers for healing with others. Later in life, she continued her music ministry at Wheelock Terrace Assisted Living, in New Hampshire, where she seized every opportunity to play the piano for the staff and other residents.

Helen is survived by her three children, Christina Avery and her husband, Don;

Jack and his wife, Frances; and Stephen and his wife, Mary. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, James, Stephanie, Erica, Matthew, Stephen, Angela and Clara. Other survivors include her sister Nicolette Dyevoich Goga, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Requiem Mass was held for Helen on Feb. 24, 2018, at St. Denis Roman Catholic Church in Hanover, NH. She was interred at Pine Knoll Cemetery in Hanover.



### Linda McCue

Island resident Linda McCue passed away on June 13, 2018, at the age of 78.

She was born Linda Hansen and grew up in Port Washington, NY, as did her husband of 57 years, Jeremy McCue. She went to nursing school at Lenox Hill Hospital while Jerry served in the Army, and they married in 1961.

The McCues moved to Levittown, NY, where they raised five sons. Linda worked at home while Jerry worked first for the New York Police Department and later teaching at St. Mel's Catholic Academy. After her sons reached school age, Linda went to work as a school nurse.

The McCues moved to City Island 12 years ago, and they both became involved in the community, where they felt very much at home. They joined the Morris Yacht Club, and Linda was an active member of the Garden Club of City Island. Their sailboat, a 25-foot Cape dory, which is moored off Bowne Street, was named *Saint Linda* in honor of the boat's first mate.

Linda is survived by her husband and her five sons, Jeremy Jr. (Kathy), Michael (Lori), Andrew (Donna), Brian (Natalie) and Erik (Deirdre) and 12 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, on Saturday, June 16.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Friday, June 15, 2018, a project sponsored by the Garden Club of City Island with funding from former Councilmember James Vacca, began to take shape, as James Kaechele of the Parks Department's Tree Trust began the installation of tree guards on the tree pits on City Island Avenue between Fordham and Hawkins Street.

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

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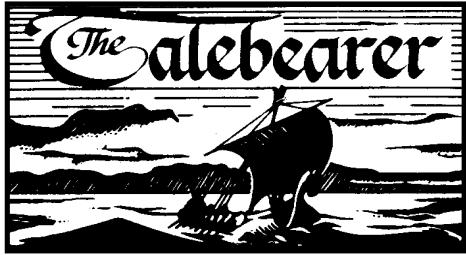
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



**Nellie Jae Farrell born on May 23, 2018, to Danielle and Kevin Farrell.**

Congratulations to Mark Joseph Piri on his eighth-grade graduation. May you step into the next chapter of your life at Archbishop Stepinac H.S. with great success. Love from Mom, Dad and Priscilla.

Happy birthday wishes on Aug. 16 to Nolan Quinn, with love from your family and friends.

Michael Proietti would like to wish Patti Peterson a very happy birthday on July 16.

Best wishes to Bobby Swieciki as he embarks on the next phase of his Coast Guard career as Operations Officer aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Blacktip* in Oxnard, CA. Family and friends joined Bobby at a farewell party at the Harlem Yacht Club to wish Bobby good luck and safe travels.

Happy anniversary wishes go out to Bay Street's Tommy Delaney and Luisa Benedetto on Aug. 26.

Birthday greetings on Aug. 30 to Samantha Emerick, with love from your family and friends.

Wedding bells were ringing in the Dominican Republic for Chase's City Island Branch Manager, Jazmine Santana, and Robert Castillo on June 23. Your co-workers and customers send their love and best wishes for a lifetime of happiness.

Welcome to Nellie Jae Farrell, born May 23 to Danielle and Kevin Farrell. According to proud grandparents, Islanders Gigi and Mike Lyons, their granddaughter arrived at White Plains Hospital



**Dr. Christopher Hennessy, shown above with his wife, Erin, graduated from Hofstra/Northwell School of Medicine in May. He is now an emergency medicine resident at New York-Presbyterian Columbia Cornell.**

weighing in at seven pounds. Congratulations to all!

Belated happy birthday wishes on June 21 to my special pal of over 70 years: Carolyn (Foley) Peters, formerly of City Island and now residing in Huntsville, AL. So many happy memories of our fun and mischief on City Island! Love from Barbara (Haas) Lynch.

Former long-time Marine Street resident Alice Stuttig, now residing in Florida, was thrilled to have a visit in May from her daughters, Cathy and Carol, and son, Bill Stuttig. Alice sends her regards to all her City Island friends and neighbors.

Congratulations to Olivia Chadwick on her eighth-grade graduation and her awards in both math and science. Way to go Livy! With love from Aunt Marg and Uncle Pete.

Congratulations to Christopher Hennessy, M.D., who graduated from Hofstra/Northwell School of Medicine in May. He is now an Emergency Medicine Resident at NY Presbyterian Columbia Cornell. Chris's wife, Erin, who graduated from Hofstra School of Law in 2014, is an attorney. We wish them well as they begin the next chapter in their life together.

Happy birthday on Aug. 9 to clam digger Roger Nani. Roger is a member of the P.S. 175 class of 1998, so congrats to all the members of that class as they mark 20 years since graduation.

Happy birthday wishes to Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson, who celebrates her day on July 14. With lots of love from Deb, Elzie and Ken.

Birthday greetings on Aug. 22 to Maria Christina Swieciki, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families. Have fun!

Happy 5th birthday on July 11 to our



Photo by KAREN NANI

**Islander Bobby Swieciki (standing, middle in blue shirt) embarks on the next phase of his Coast Guard career as Operations Officer aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Blacktip* in Oxnard, CA. Family and friends held a farewell party at the Harlem Yacht Club on June 13, 2018.**



**Former Marine Street resident Alice Stuttig (center) enjoyed a belated birthday celebration in Florida with her daughters, Carol and Cathy, and her son, Bill Stuttig.**

adorable grandson, Arlo. He'll be off to kindergarten in August, when school starts in New Orleans. July is also the birthday month for his mother, Beth Rota, and Aunt Susie Rauh. The end of the month brings the celebration of Beth and Matt's 13th anniversary. Love, Mom and Dad.

Belated June birthday wishes to our daughters-in-law Mere (June 3) and Danielle (June 15). Belated Father's Day wishes to our sons Ant and Phil, two of the most wonderful dads we have ever seen in action. Happy 10th anniversary to Mere and Ant (June 21), a time to celebrate all the good and wonderful times you shared and the things you accomplished together. Love, Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday to our precious and talented granddaughter, Alana, who turns 8 on July 9. You always put a smile in our hearts and on our lips. Hugs and kisses, Nonni and Pop.

Long-distance birthday wishes across the miles in St. Louis to former Islander Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld, who will celebrate on July 9. We miss you!

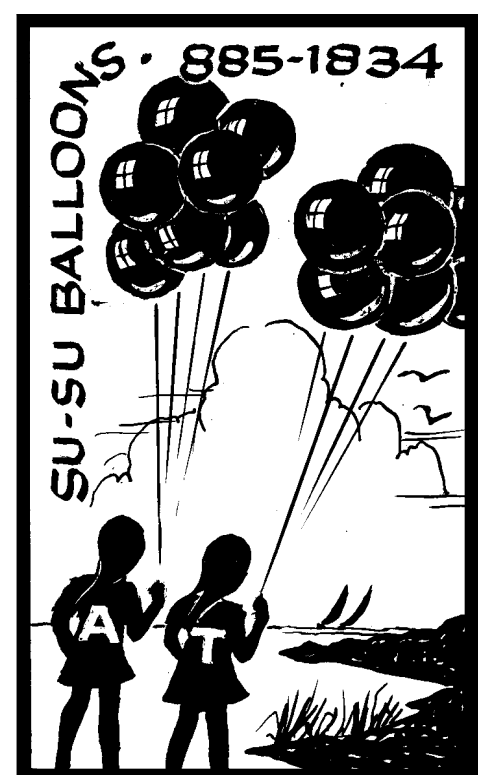
Happy birthday (July 19) and get-well wishes to Hawkins Street's Lori Travers.

The gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty sends good luck wishes to former sales associate Maria Swieciki at her new gig at Today Realty Corp.

July 21 birthday greetings to Jennifer Carman, with love from your family and friends.

And to all our neighbors, friends and readers, the staff of the Island Current wishes you a wonderful, safe and fun-filled summer! See you in September.

Maria Swieciki



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