

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

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

Volume 52 Number 2 March 2023

One Dollar

## UTILITY POLE DOWNED ACROSS CI AVENUE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by ADOLFO CARRION and KAREN NANI

A fallen utility pole blocked the north end of City Island Avenue in both directions for two days from Feb. 3 to 5, 2023. The pole was struck by a red truck on Catherine Scott Promenade at about 11:35 p.m. Friday night (top photo). Con Edison cut power to 441 Island customers in order to make repairs, but power was restored by 2:21 a.m. on Feb. 4. A new pole was installed, and the broken pole was finally removed on Sunday afternoon. Drivers of automobiles and small trucks were detoured onto Minneford Avenue during the cleanup and repair.

Motorists and bus riders were surprised on Saturday morning, Feb. 4, to find that a fallen utility pole had blocked City Island Avenue in both directions. According to the NYPD, the pole was struck on Catherine Scott Promenade at about 11:35 p.m. Friday night by a 33-year-old female accompanied by a passenger, neither of whom were injured. Although the NYPD reported to *The Current* that the motorist was traveling north, a photograph obtained by the paper taken at midnight on Friday shows that the red truck was heading south. It was removed soon afterward, and the identity of the driver was not given.

Adolfo Carrión, who lives at 620 City Island Avenue, directly across from base of the utility pole, was awakened by tire screeching and the loud bang of a vehicle crashing. "Within a second or two I saw a flash and heard a loud explosion. I ran out of the house knowing something terrible had happened, to see that a red pickup truck had crashed into the utility pole, which crashed down across City Island Avenue. The utility container that holds high-power lines packed in oil had exploded all over the Avenue in the direc-

tion of our curb and sidewalk, which is now damaged by black oil." Then Adolfo saw clearly that the driver of the vehicle was a male and the passenger was a female, suggesting that the driver and passenger switched stories.

He called 911, and the Fire Department was on the scene within two or three minutes; the NYPD came some minutes later. "The driver kept saying he hit an 'ice patch,' but the street was bone dry. The driver left the vehicle and the scene and I didn't see him back at the scene. The vehicle was then towed rather quickly. FDNY personnel from our local firehouse cordoned off the area and redirected traffic away from the avenue."

Con Edison was notified of the incident at 11:41 p.m., and the work crew arrived about an hour later, at 12:43 a.m. Saturday morning. Adolfo saw that "two Con Ed workers came in a small SUV and proceeded to spread an oil-sopping substance in the middle of the street but were not prepared for the amount of oil that was spilled. The oil was left there and pooled in front of our house for more than a day." Con Ed then took 441 customers

Continued on page 7

## HART ISLAND BUILDINGS LAID TO REST

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by ALEX SCHIBLI

The chapel, built on Hart Island in the 1930s, was spared in the recent demolition of structures on the island.

Many City Islanders may not be aware of the building demolition that has taken place on Hart Island since last fall. Nineteen buildings in all have been demolished, among them the smokestack that served as a navigational aid to boaters and will now have to be removed from nautical charts. At the last moment, the chapel, built in the 1930s, was saved from demolition, much to the relief of many who understood its significance in Hart Island's history. The Peace Monument, constructed in 1948 by prisoners where Civil War barracks had been located, has been left in place, along with a fleet of trailers and some shacks to accommodate landscapers, burial workers, and Parks Department employees.

Over the past half century, *The Island Current* has published many articles about Hart Island, which was purchased from John Hunter in 1868 by NYC's Department of Charities and Correction in order to accommodate overflow charity cases from Blackwell's Island (later named Welfare Island and now called Roosevelt Island). Several buildings were already on the island because during the Civil War troops had been trained or imprisoned or buried there, but the first city structure was a workhouse for boys, and within a year the island became the site for burials of unclaimed and unidentified people. Eventually, Hart Island would house a psychiatric hospital, a reformatory, numerous prisons, workhouses for men and boys, a homeless shelter, a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug users, and the location of military installations during World Wars I and II and in the mid-1950s.

As the largest public cemetery in the United States, with more than 1 million people having been laid to rest there since 1869, the island will gain several thousand square feet for more burials with the demolition of these buildings. Although the history of the island will have disappeared from view, there are a few reasons why the demolition was justified. Most structures had not been used for decades and were in poor condition, with crumbling walls and roofs. In 2015, a study by the Department of Buildings (DOB) reported that "Unsafe conditions currently exist for the

twenty historic structures on Hart Island that are accessible to the general public." But two buildings were recommended for immediate repair and two for preservation as historic buildings—the Catholic chapel and the Pavilion, the only 19th-century building on the island; 13 others were recommended for immediate demolition. A revision of the DOB report in 2020 recommended that 16 dilapidated buildings be demolished and that the others be fenced off for safety reasons.

However, in June 2021, days before jurisdiction over the island was switched from the Department of Correction to the Department of Parks & Recreation, an emergency order to demolish 18 structures was issued by DOB, and \$52 million was approved by the comptroller's office for the purpose. As reported in July 2021 by John Freeman Gill in the *New York Times*, the order stated that the buildings "are an immediate danger to the public and the island staff," although he noted that most of them had been in poor condition for several decades and held significant historic value. Indeed, in 2016, New York State designated the entire island as eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

### Demolished Buildings

Perhaps the most important structure from an historic viewpoint, as well as the oldest, was the Pavilion, built as an insane asylum for 300 women patients in 1885. The construction of the Pavilion and other buildings to house mental patients are described in fascinating detail in a memoir written by Dr. G. A. Smith, who was assigned to work on Hart Island in 1882 at the age of 22 after graduating from Bellevue Medical College, until he was transferred to the mainland in 1895. He recounted: "A new building was slated with a capacity of 300. It was of brick and more modern in every way. Steam was placed in [the Pavilion] and electricity was installed on the whole island. A water main was brought from Westchester Water Co. direct to the island." (Excerpts from Dr. Smith's memoir are on page 17 of this issue.)

In 1886 the Rev. Charles A. Wenman

Continued on page 5

**BRIEFLY...**

**DOWN BY THE SEA CARD PARTY**, organized by the P.T.A. of P.S. 175, will be held at the Morris Yacht Club on Friday, March 31, from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) There will be a birthday box, teacher auctions and raffles of all types and prices. You can book a table of 10 or buy individual tickets for \$65 (includes dinner and drinks). Sign up online at [www.cityislandpta.org](http://www.cityislandpta.org) or call 347-739-2076 or go to the school. Include the names of the people at your table and your contact information. Please also consider donating a gift card or items to be raffled off as prizes. The students at P.S. 175 need your support.

**“PLAY ON!”** a play by Rick Abbott, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, as well as 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11. Matinees will be at 3 p.m. on Sundays, March 5 and March 12. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, please e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com) or purchase them on line by visiting the website, [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

**LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION** is open for the 2023 season. Please visit [www.cityislandll.com](http://www.cityislandll.com) for information on how to register. Opening day will be April 8, and CILL is looking forward to a great 2023 season.

**45 BLOTTER**

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 – MENACING
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Jan. 20 to Feb. 15, 2023.

1/23 – On Reynolds Street at 7 p.m., an Island male reported an incident of grand larceny. Complainant noticed that all his vehicle notifications were going off. Upon further investigation, he saw that all the sensors were stolen and the wires were left hanging. Price of sensors is \$2,100, and complainant told police that many Hondas are subject to a similar theft.

2/1 – Police from the 45th Precinct

arrested an Island male, 28, on Winters Street at 5 p.m. and charged him with DWI. The defendant was observed driving a gray Nissan Murano with a NY state license plate on a public street. Defendant was observed operating said vehicle with no front plate. When the defendant passed through a steady red light making a left-hand turn, police conducted a car stop. Defendant’s breath did have a moderate smell of alcohol and watery eyes. Defendant’s NYS driver’s license is suspended.

2/1 – At 1:15 p.m. on City Island Avenue, two Island males made cross complaints of menacing to police. A verbal dispute with a resident in the same building developed because one of the complainant’s dogs attacked a neighbor’s dog. When the second complainant got involved, the dog owner became aggressive and pulled out a pocketknife. The other complainant then lifted up his shirt and displayed a black firearm. Witnesses stated that one of the complainants fled the location in a red SUV. There were no injuries.

Spring is coming!  
**COMPLEXIONS**  
*of City Island*

[complexionsci.com](http://complexionsci.com)  
[complexionsci@gmail.com](mailto:complexionsci@gmail.com)  
 Call: 718-885-0188  
 Text: 347-210-5402  
 403 City Island Ave  
 Bronx, NY 10464

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!  
 JOANNE (917)334-0299  
 MARY JO (347)210-5402

-Facials                      -Myolift  
 -Peels                            -Massage  
 -Botox -Laser Hair Removal  
 and more!  
*Gift Certificates Available!*

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



EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760  
 Display Advertising: 718-885-1636  
 or: [margci@aol.com](mailto:margci@aol.com)  
 Subscriptions: 718-885-9268  
[www.theislandcurrent.com](http://www.theislandcurrent.com)

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

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni  
 SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb  
 ADVERTISING MANAGER: Margaret Lenz  
 BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Bill Stuttig, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, and Johanna Paciullo  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt, Matt Panza and Ron Ternier  
 CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Stephanie Ribaudo, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika. Cartoon format originated by Russell Schaller Sr.

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 2023 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.



Jacqueline McQuade, Owner  
 Family Owned & Operated  
 for over 50 years  
 3535 East Tremont Avenue  
 Bronx, NY 10465

**718-792-0270**

[www.schuylerhill.com](http://www.schuylerhill.com)

**SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS  
 SUPPORTS THE ISLAND CURRENT**

**THE ALL CLEAN SYSTEM**  
 By Father & Son  
 Maintenance & Restoration Co. Carpet & Upholstery Specialist

Discover the **Deep Cleaning Power** of our State of the Art **Truck Force Steam Equipment**  
 Using our own Power & Water supply

**3 AREAS SPECIAL \$149<sup>95</sup> FULL SERVICE**  
 Living Room, Bedroom & Hall  
**DEODORIZED**

**All Work 100% Guaranteed**  
 We use **Green Products**  
 Ask about our Allergy Relief Program

You get the most thorough cleaning or **IT'S FREE**  
 Please Call Jimmy for **FREE estimates 718-892-5827**

# CI Boy Scouts Raise Thousands for Grace

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Scoutmaster James Goonan and the Scouts of Troop 211 organized a fundraiser for Grace Episcopal Church on Jan. 21, 2023. The event included a dinner in the church parish hall, a 50/50 raffle and tributes to the City Island Theater Group (CITG) and parishioners Paul and Karen Nani.

Grace Church is the oldest house of worship on City Island, founded in 1849. Like many houses of worship, the pandemic negatively impacted weekly attendance and offerings. However, Grace continued to serve its congregation, the tenants (including PSS Senior Center and the CITG), and the non-profit community groups (Alcoholics, Narcotics, and Overeaters Anonymous) that utilize the parish hall for their meetings. Through a combination of online services and safe in-person gatherings, the congregation never missed conducting Sunday worship, thanks to the efforts of Fr. John Covington, who led Grace from 2016 to 2021.

When Fr. John retired in September 2021, Grace began the search process for its next spiritual leader and reached out to the City Island community for support. The City Island Boy Scouts heard Grace's call for help and, under the leadership of Greg Clancy and James Goonan, the scouts volunteered to paint the Rectory and prepare it for a new priest.

In March 2022, the Episcopal Diocese of New York told the members of the Grace Search Committee about Fr. Kevin Moroney, a professor at the General Theological Seminary on New York City's upper west side. At the same time, Fr. Moroney had received a call from Canon Nora Smith of the Episcopal Diocese of New York telling him about the search for a new pastor at Grace Church. Although he had lived in New York since 2015, he had never heard of or visited City Island. The search committee and vestry then met with Fr. Moroney in March and were impressed with his experience and enthusiasm for the position. An agreement was reached, and the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church announced in April 2022 that The Rev. Dr. Kevin John Moroney was called as priest-in-charge, the 25th spiritual leader of Grace Episcopal Church.

Meanwhile, the hardworking Scouts did a beautiful job of painting the Rectory, and Fr. Moroney and his family happily moved in during July 2022. But the Scouts were not done volunteering to help Grace. They had held a successful fundraiser for Trinity United Methodist Church in 2019, and they proposed a similar event to support Grace in 2023. Scoutmaster James Goonan suggested the dinner and 50/50 raffle, as well as honoring the City Island Theater Group, which is based at Grace, and longtime parishioners Paul and Karen Nani.

The dinner on Jan. 21 was a huge success with more than 80 attendees and musical performances by the Gracetones and Fr. Kevin. Food for the dinner was generously donated by City Island businesses, including Crab Shanty, Seafood City, the Lobster House, Augie's Deli and Pizzeria, Scavello's and A Taste of Italy. Table sponsors included Bayview Glass, American Legion Post 156,

Sons of the American Legion, and Pilot Cove Manor. The 50/50 raffle was won by an Island resident who is, fittingly, a long-time volunteer outside of Grace Church and the Boy Scouts.

The young Scouts did all the work toward making the evening a success, which included distributing letters all over City Island to announce the event, selling raffle tickets, setting up for the dinner, serving the food and cleaning up. The boys and their scoutmasters earned their badges and a day of rest after all their efforts, which raised over \$10,000 for Grace Church.

James Goonan began the awards presentations by acknowledging the hard work of the Scouts and many adult volunteers, including Susan Goonan, Jim and Kim McGaughan, Victor Lopez, Dan Hickey, Greg Clancy and Evyonne Baker. He then welcomed Nick Sala, longtime director of the theater group, to the microphone. Nick accepted the honor surrounded by members of the CITG board, including Mary McIntyre, Liz Paldino and Karen Andronico. CITG was founded in 1998 and produced 72 shows before going on hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic. The group will present a new version of its very first production, "Play On!" by Rick Abbott, during the first two weeks in March (see Briefly, page 2, for times).

Nick graciously thanked the Scouts for the honor and Grace for supporting CITG during their many productions. "Since our inception, the City Island Theater Group has called Grace Church its home. We wouldn't think of being anywhere else. Grace Church is not only a staple in the community. It's a beacon of light that welcomes all. It represents, hope, joy, community, growth and, most importantly, love. All are welcomed and all are met with grace. A big thank you to Troop 211 for supporting Grace and recognizing its importance in this fantastic community."

In accepting the honor for himself and his wife, Paul Nani reminisced how he came to Grace. He has been a parishioner since his marriage to Karen Rauhauser in 1982. Karen's family had been active members of the church since the early 1900s, including her parents, Lorraine and Ducky Rauhauser, and her aunt and uncle, Philip and Evelyn Gauss. In his remarks accepting the honor from the Scouts, Paul pointed out the photo on the back wall from a 1934 event in the parish hall showing a six-year old Lorraine Buschmann on the lap of her sister Evelyn.

Paul quickly became involved at Grace, joining the Vestry and eventually serving five times as Senior Warden. He was also the liaison between the tenants, PSS (Presbyterian Senior Services) which sponsors lunch and activities for seniors every Monday through Friday, and CITG. "I had to make sure the heat was on and the toilets were working every day for PSS and for each CITG show," Paul told *The Current*. As many members of the congregation do, Paul also wore another hat as chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee.

Karen was baptized in the church and was a member of the children's choir in the 1960s. When the choir was resurrected



Photos by LEAH NANI and KAREN NANI

City Island Boy Scouts Troop 211 organized a fundraiser for Grace Episcopal Church on Jan. 21, 2023. The young scouts did all the work to make the evening a success, including setting up for the dinner, serving the food (second and third photos) and cleaning up. Special honors went to the City Island Theater Group, represented by board members Nick Sala, Mary McIntyre, Liz Paldino and Karen Andronico, and parishioners Paul and Karen Nani for their longtime support of Grace Church (top photo). Fr. Kevin Moroney and the Gracetones performed and led a singalong during the evening (bottom photo, l. to r.): Barbara Dennis, Betty Carman, Jerry McCue, Victor G. Washington, Stephanie Dominguez, Joyce Benza, Bruce Weis, Sandy Dunn and (friend) Freddie Lando.

by Evyonne Baker and Mother Patty Alexander in the 1990s, she joined again as an adult and has been singing on Sundays ever since. She also helped reestablish the Sunday School and Youth program at Grace and has led the enthusiastic members in the Christmas Pageant every year since 2016.

The evening's highlights also featured the presentation of the colors by the Scouts and songs from the Gracetones, including

a singalong of "Amazing Grace" with the audience (it's the unofficial anthem of the church). Fr. Kevin, who is beginning to be known as "The Singing Vicar," belted out a crowd-pleasing version of "Peggy Sue" and some other 1950s tunes. With continued support from the community and the energetic Scouts of Troop 211, Grace will continue to be an amazing part of City Island history.

Heating & Central Air Conditioning Installation & Service

**COTTAM**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
800-734-8367

482 CITY ISLAND AVE.  
CITY ISLAND, NY 10484

24 Hour Priority Service  
718-885-3328 www.cottamhvac.com

<p><b>CON ED POLE DOWNED ON CI AVE. CAUSES POWER FAILURE &amp; DETOUR ONTO MINNEFORD AVE.</b></p>	<p><b>MOST HART ISLAND BUILDINGS FACE DEMOLITION</b></p>	<p><b>SCOUTS STEP UP AND RAISE MONEY FOR GRACE CHURCH</b></p>	<p><b>BROWN PELICAN SIGHTED AT ORCHARD BEACH</b></p>
	<p>I HAD TO CHUCKLE WHEN THE LANDMARK COMMISSION SENT "ARCHAEOLOGISTS" TO SAVE ARTIFACTS FROM THE DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS.</p>	<p>YEAH, I KNOW. YOU, ME, AND AT LEAST 30 OTHER ISLANDERS HAVE BEEN THROUGH THOSE BUILDINGS AND TAKEN ANYTHING WORTH HAVING LONG AGO!</p>	<p>THE SCOUTS HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR THIS COMMUNITY. WORK AT PELHAM CEMETERY, &amp; 2 LOCAL CHURCHES, PLUS FUNDRAISERS FOR THEM.</p> <p>THEY'RE THE REAL HEROES. I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO HOLD A FUNDRAISER TO HONOR THEM?</p> <p>AND THE WORDS ARE: "I ONLY CAME TO DROP OFF MARLIN &amp; DORY AT THE DENTIST'S OFFICE TO TRY TO FIND NEMO. HEADING HOME SOON."</p>



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

**Military Misconception**

To the Editor,

In the December 2022 issue of *The Island Current*, the article about the Schaller dynasty reminisced about Russell Schaller Sr. who served in the "Air Force in World War II."

With respect to Russell, no one in World War II served in the Air Force because there was none. They served in the Army Air Corps, which was quite different.

But don't feel bad. Over the years many people have said that famous Americans, like band leader Glenn Miller, were in the Air Force too, and, of course, this isn't so.

Mickey Burke



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

Fr. Kevin Moroney performed at the Scout fundraiser for Grace Church on Jan. 21, 2023.

**Graceful Thanks**

Dear City Island Community,

I am writing to thank all of you who helped to support our recent fundraising dinner at Grace Church on Jan. 21. We are a historic community of faith here on City Island, but we are also an active and vibrant community today, as evidenced by all who came together to plan and attend our dinner. I particularly want to thank James and Susan Goonan, Troop 211, Jim and Kim McGaughan, Victor Lopez, Dan Hickey, Greg Clancy, Evyonne Baker, Sandy Dunn and the GraceTones, and Karen and Paul Nani.

I am very grateful to the restaurants that generously donated the food we enjoyed: Crab Shanty, Seafood City, City Island Lobster House, Augie's Deli and Pizzeria, Scavello's and A Taste of Italy. And I want to thank our honorees at the dinner for having provided so much life to our community: Karen and Paul Nani and the City Island Theater Group. God bless all of you for your love and support.

Kevin J. Moroney, Priest-in-Charge, Grace Church, City Island

**HAILING PORT SERVICE INC.**

19 Schofield St.  
City Island, NY 10464

Jane La Scala

Vessel Documentation (800) 634-0361  
Insurance (718) 885-2137  
Commercial & pleasure Fax (718) 885-2427

Please Join Us at Our **Grand Opening Celebration**

March 4, 2023  
Noon to 5 p.m.

*Our New Home!*

We will continue to be open daily from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
271 City Island Ave. • 718-885-3090

**city island handyman**

christian owner

168 ditmars street  
city island, ny 10464

718-679-2396

sheetrock, painting, power washing, carpentry, kitchens, baths, faucets, fences, light fixtures, locks, furniture assembly, moving demo and a whole lot more

free estimates

**Cory Fontana**  
Personal Driver/Owner

914-646-1611

**TEAM Sambrina Transportation .LLC**  
We Serve where others promise

Sambrinatransport@Gmail.com  
All Major Airports, NYC and beyond

**Your Comfort is our Goal**  
Thank you

Like us on Facebook



## Hart Island

*Continued from page 1*

of the Episcopal Diocese of New York described “A new, beautiful and commodious two-story pavilion of brick . . . erected at large expense, was completed a few months ago.” The Pavilion was closed as an asylum in 1895 and subsequently used as a mess hall, a workhouse for young prisoners, and later a shoe and toy factory.

A large brick structure known as the Reformatory was begun in 1910 to house young prisoners in order to keep them separate from older men and to teach them trades. The inmates worked in the island’s laundry, made shoes, raised animals and butchered them, grew vegetables, painted signs, and more. Small buildings dedicated to a butcher shop and a tailor shop were among those recently demolished. To provide power for the island, coal was delivered by boat, and inmates ran the Dynamo Room, the generator that operated until 1976 on the east side of the island. The nearby smokestack was the most visible structure until Jan. 30, 2023, when it disappeared in an instant, although DOB had recommended in 2015 that it be lowered by 20 feet and retained. By the 1930s, the island housed an increasing number of prisoners, and several more brick buildings were constructed, including a large building that was used by Phoenix House from 1967 to 1976, when the rehab facility left the island.

On Oct. 25, 1931, the cornerstone of the new Catholic Chapel at the Hart’s Island prison was laid. The New York Times billed it as the “only separate prison building in the United States set aside for Catholic services.” More than 1,800 persons attended, and addresses were made by the Rev. Msgr. LaVelle, Vicar General

of the Archdiocese of New York, Commissioner Patterson, the Rev. Demetrious Zema, Catholic chaplain; the Rev. Horace T. Owen, Protestant chaplain; and Rabbi Julius T. Price, Jewish chaplain. The finished chapel was dedicated by Cardinal Hayes on May 1, 1932, and it served the prison population until 1966.

According to the late Adelaide Rosenfeld, founder of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, her sister used to play the organ at Hart Island every Sunday, and when the chapel was under construction, her family gave pictures of family members to the stained-glass maker, who put their faces in the window. When the chapel was closed, the Catholic Archdiocese removed the stained-glass window, and vandals later stole the bell. Although the roof of the chapel is damaged, the building itself is actually in relatively good condition, and days before it was to be demolished, the chapel was suddenly removed from the list and sturdy fencing was placed around it.

In 2012, New York City’s Landmarks Commission concluded, after surveying the island, that the buildings were in too advanced a state of disrepair to be viable for designation either as individual city landmarks or as a historic district. In 2016, however, New York State’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation determined that Hart Island contained notable archaeological and architectural resources and was worthy of placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Once the decision was made by the city to demolish most of the buildings, the state backed off and the Landmarks Commission called for archaeologists to save certain artifacts and to provide a survey documenting the demolished buildings.



*Photos by ALEX SCHIBLI and THE HART ISLAND PROJECT*

The Pavilion (top photo), one of the many buildings demolished this winter on Hart Island, was the oldest one on the Island, built in 1885 to house women suffering from mental illness. See page 17 for a memoir written by Dr. G. A. Smith, the doctor responsible for the building’s patients. The photo above is an aerial photograph of Hart Island taken in the 1950s when the buildings had not yet deteriorated. The roof of the chapel is now in poor condition, but the interior is remarkably intact. The stained-glass window (above left), featuring portraits of City Island children, was removed by the Catholic Church in the 1960s.

## New Construction at Orchard Beach

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



*Photo courtesy of the DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION*

This aerial photograph of Orchard Beach shows the location of the new maintenance facility being constructed in the park, an area where the facility will not be impacted by flooding.

Islanders who frequent Pelham Bay Park have noticed that there is construction under way in the wooded area near Orchard Beach. This will be a new facility for the Pelham Bay Park Maintenance and Operations team, which works hard year round to make sure that the park remains open, accessible and clean for visitors. Work began in January 2023 and is scheduled for completion in early 2025.

The current operations center was damaged during Hurricane Sandy and remains in an area that is liable to be flooded in the future. This new facility will serve as the headquarters for the Park staff with a new building and service yard and a fueling sta-

tion. This will consolidate beach and park operations in order to streamline workflow and resource management, which will allow staff to be more responsive and coordinated in the maintenance of the park.

The Parks Department took care in planning the facility to limit construction impacts to the natural areas and wildlife and will plant more than 225 trees in the park, replacing the 65 trees that were removed to accommodate the construction. In addition, Parks transplanted a clump of a rare grass species in another area of the park and has taken care to protect a wet forest area in the vicinity.

Catherine S. Mazzaro

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Income Tax Preparation

INDIVIDUALS  
CORPORATIONS  
NOT-FOR-PROFITS  
SMALL BUSINESS  
ACCOUNTING SERVICES

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
914-738-3329  
CATHERINE.MAZZAROCPA@OUTLOOK.COM

FOR SALE Drive Medical Scout Compact Travel Power Scooter

Compact, lightweight, easy to disassemble. Like new, driven less than 1 mile. Originally \$1200 now \$800

Call 718-335-5057

Leave phone number and message. Cash Only.

TOR TOLL

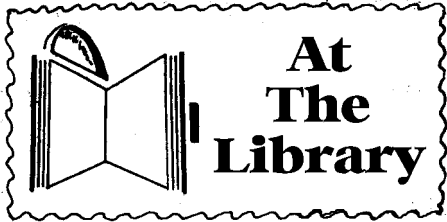
EZPass & Tolls by Mail Violations? Sent to Collections? No Problem!

Let our violation dispute analysts fight your case!

607-867-8655

www.tortoll.com

Se Habla Español



# At The Library

### CITY ISLAND LIBRARY

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays,

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays,

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

320 City Island Avenue, Bronx 10464

718-885-1703

**Shelf Help:** Tell us your reading interests and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests. [www.nypl.org/shelfhelp](http://www.nypl.org/shelfhelp).

This location offers free at-home COVID-19 tests for the general public.

### MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes, and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

**Start with Art:** Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

**Chill Zone:** No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

### MARCH TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

**Teen Unwind:** Celebrate the end of

the week every Friday at 3 p.m.: Digital Women's History, March 3; Hanging Succulent Gardens, March 10; Maker's Club, March 17; Paint It! Part 1, March 24; Painter It! Part 2, March 31.

### MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

**Introduction to Computers:** Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, March 2, 16 and 30, at 11 a.m.

**Adult Coloring:** Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, March 9 and 23, at 11 a.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, March 13 and 27, at 5 p.m.


**Island Writers:** Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Women's History Film Fest:** Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 2 p.m.: March 4, *On the Basis of Sex*; March 11, *A League of Their Own*; March 18, *Bombshell*; March 25, *Suffragette*.

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






Quality Wash Dry & Fold  
Professional Dry Cleaning  
Service  
Expert Tailoring Available  
**Free Pick Up & Delivery!**  
7 a.m. - Last Wash - 9 p.m.  
Clam Digger Owned &  
Operated  
917-709-0713  
310 City Island Avenue



Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place. That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk?  
Whatever you have to.  
**Friends don't let friends drive drunk.**

# HARLEM YACHT CLUB

established in 1883, still *the* friendliest place to be on City Island!

Share light refreshments in our beautiful waterfront Clubhouse and let us tell you why we love the Harlem Yacht Club--for more than 135 years the friendliest place on the Western Sound.

## JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

March 12, April 16, May 21, 2023 • 1-6pm • Learn More About Us



### Membership Options:

- Active—boat owners
- Intermediate—Club Boat Program
- Social—access to restaurant, bar, and social activities
- Summer Affiliate—trial program for prospective Active members

- ASA Sailing Lessons:
- Sailing school for adults & teens
- Junior Sailing Programs for kids and teens
- Waterfront dining April - October
- Award-winning chef
- Active racing program on water
- Social events ashore

If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Membership Chair Anthony Rosco at [membership@hyc.org](mailto:membership@hyc.org) or call our office at 718-885-3078. If you'd like to visit but can't make an Open House, send Anthony an e-mail and arrange a tour when you can.



## Bartow-Pell Events

“Nature Inspires: An Art Exhibition” will be on view from March 5 through March 26. There will be opening reception on March 5 at 2 p.m. of this exhibition of contemporary works of art that reflect the beauty of our natural world. Curated by Mary Colby and Alison McKay.

“Inspiring Beauty: Hudson River Landscapes and Country Estates” is a series of lectures that will be held on Thursdays in March. First will be a talk on the Hudson River School painters by Elizabeth Kornhauser, American paintings curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. On March 9, photographer and historian Pieter Estersohn will discuss the series of 35 country seats along the Hudson built by the Livingston family between the 17th and 20th centuries. On March 16, Jennifer Carlquist, executive director of Boscobel House and Gardens, will provide an overview of Boscobel and its role in continuing the ongoing, dynamic dialogue between Hudson Valley design, history and nature.

A March Gardening Series with horticulturalist Duncan Himmelman will be held on Saturdays March 11, 18 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Connecting to nature through gardening has a number of health benefits, including stress relief, lowering blood pressure and improved psychological well-being. This trio of

classes will help you develop an appreciation for our natural world, improve your gardening skills, increase biodiversity and beautify your home landscape.

Last November, Bartow-Pell was delighted to host NYC-Arts, the PBS television program produced by WNET, as they filmed four introductory segments featuring the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, its collections, gardens and grounds. NYC-Arts is co-hosted by 2011 Emmy Award winners Philippe de Montebello and Paula Zahn, who filmed introductory segments in Bartow-Pell's double parlors, while providing viewers with a glimpse into the mansion's history and its collection of fine and decorative arts. The best way for you to see them all without having to watch each full episode is on the BPMM YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@BpmmOrg>.

## Utility Pole

*Continued from page 1*

out of service in order to make repairs, and power was restored by 2:21 a.m. They worked through the weekend to install a new pole, and the broken pole was finally removed on Sunday afternoon.

Some Islanders did not even realize they lost power until they woke up Saturday morning and noticed their clocks and timers blinking. The clock in the Grace Church parish hall, for example, was behind by about two hours when parishioners arrived on Sunday morning for worship.

Drivers of automobiles and small trucks used Minneford Avenue as a detour to get to the Island below the fallen pole, but buses and large trucks were unable to do so. Many Islanders were inconvenienced, but if there is any good news to be reported, this happened over a weekend and the new pole no longer leans precipitously over the Avenue.

# TREES ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Legend		Count	Outlook	High Probability Total	IDEAL Total
Empty Tree Pit	Area in sidewalk - Already cut out and empty	14	Definite	45	57
Stump	Dead stump	5	Definite		
Grass area	Area of grass that could accommodate a tree	26	Very High Probability		
Concrete Area Prime for Cut	Area of concrete sidewalk, not in a bus stop where there is room for a tree due to ample spacing	11	Hoping for some		
Private Green Area	Front Yard St Marys Church	1	? Need permission		
Budget initial planting @ \$150 a Tree (Agreed)				\$ 6,750	\$ 8,550
2 Yr additional maintenance Budget @ \$250 a Tree (Estimated)				\$ 11,250	\$ 14,250

Chart by BILL CLANCY

The City Island Civic Association, led by officer Bill Clancy, has embarked on an ambitious program to plant trees along City Island Avenue. Members of the community, the Department of Parks & Recreation and elected officials have expressed their support for the initiative, which could take place as early as this spring.

Members of the Civic put together a map of the avenue that identifies the areas that might be able to accommodate a tree (see chart above). These areas include empty tree pits (where a tree has died), tree stumps (which could be ground out), grassy areas between the sidewalk and the street curb, and concrete areas may qualify for

a cut to create a new tree pit. These possible spaces (not counting concrete areas) amount to 45.

The Parks Department has agreed to install the trees at no cost, but the trees must be purchased by the community, at \$150 each. Mr. Clancy has appealed to elected officials for funding, and the Civic Association has pledged the cost of at least one tree. Anyone who wishes to become involved in the program is invited to e-mail [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com).

As Bill Clancy told *The Current*, “We are committed to this public/private partnership, not just for the initial 2023 planting, but to ongoing maintenance and watering.”



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast in Rick Abbott's “Play On,” which the City Island Theater Group will present in March, rehearsed taking a bow two weeks before the production opens (l. to r.): Elizabeth Paldino, Brian Argiento, Penelope Golden, James Mohn, Toni Fazio, Joseph Scaduto and Victoria Hernandez. See “Briefly” on page 2 for more information about the production.

## Free Income Tax Prep for Seniors

Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto, in conjunction with the Iona University Accounting Department, is once again offering free income tax preparation for seniors 62 years of age or older who live in his district (Co-op City, Throggs Neck, Morris Park, Pelham Bay and City Island). Tax documents can be dropped off at the Assemblyman's office beginning on Monday, Feb. 6, and is limited to seniors who meet the following criteria:

- Only simple filings will be accepted.
- Complete copies of 2022 federal and state returns must be included (with a note if there have been any changes in taxpayers or dependents).
- Name, Social Security number, and date of birth for all people claimed on the return as taxpayers and dependents, must be supplied.
- Adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2022 must be under \$50,000.
- All necessary paperwork must be included as a complete file and brought to the office, or it will be returned.
- You must provide a telephone or cell-phone number where you can be reached during normal business hours and on Saturdays.

• You must provide a photo ID so a copy can be included with your tax paperwork.

• A cancelled check must be included to facilitate the timely deposit of the refund into your checking account.

Seniors are encouraged to bring all their tax documents to Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 3602 East Tremont Ave, Suite 201 or 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, anytime from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. (The tax preparer will collect documentation until Friday, March 10th and no more taxes will be done after that date. All participants will be contacted when the forms are completed.) All returns are prepared by student volunteers from Iona University as a service to the community. All returns will indicate that they were prepared by a non-preparer.

This free service is limited to the first 100 constituent respondents. For more information, please contact Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 3602 E. Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx NY 10465 (718-892-2235 or at 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475 (718-320-2220).

# CLIVE'S TITLE IS FUNERAL DIRECTOR, BUT HIS REAL JOB IS CAREGIVER



Clive Anderson  
Owner /Funeral Director  
Caregiver

**PELHAM**  
FUNERAL HOME

(914) 738-1060  
[PelhamFuneral.com](http://PelhamFuneral.com)

**Everything you want in a Pharmacy and**  
**FREE DELIVERY! NO Minimum\***  
\*City Island Residents Only

**10% OFF** for **City Island Residents**      **Seniors** get an **Additional 10% OFF**

**B Benjamin's Pharmacy & Surgical**

<p><b>Cleaning</b></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b> YOUR CHOICE Selected Sizes and Varieties</p>	<p><b>Gillette</b></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b> Your Choice Selected Sizes</p>	<p><b>Secret</b></p> <p><b>\$1.79</b> 1.7oz <b>\$3.49</b> 2.6oz Powder Shower Fresh</p>	<p><b>Personal Care</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b> Original Mint 1 Liter <b>\$5.99</b> Original Mint 1.5 Liter</p>	<p><b>Crest</b></p> <p><b>\$8.99</b> 4 Pack 8oz each</p>	<p><b>GOLD BOND</b></p> <p><b>\$9.59</b> Gold Bond Ultimate Diabetics Lotion</p>	<p><b>Aquaphor</b></p> <p><b>\$5.29</b> 1.75 oz Selected Varieties</p>
<p><b>Downy</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b> Your Choice</p>	<p><b>Laundry</b></p> <p><b>\$9.99</b> To 128 oz! Selected Sizes and Varieties</p>	<p><b>head &amp; shoulders</b></p> <p><b>\$10.99</b> 32.1 oz</p>	<p><b>PANTENE</b></p> <p><b>\$7.49</b> Your Choice</p>	<p><b>PANTENE</b></p> <p><b>\$6.59</b> Selected Varieties</p>	<p><b>Herbal Essences</b></p> <p><b>\$6.59</b> Selected Varieties</p>	<p><b>Olay</b></p> <p><b>\$24.99</b> Regenerist Selected Varieties</p>

**Call or Text Your Order 718-405-9111**

<p><b>Pharmacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast Prescriptions</li> <li>Specialty Medications</li> <li>HIV • HEP C</li> <li>Infertility</li> <li>Pain Management</li> <li>Nutritional Supplies</li> <li>MultiDose Packaging</li> <li>Blister Packaging or Pill Boxes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Store Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UPS Access Point</li> <li>OTC Card</li> <li>WIC &amp; SNAP Accepted</li> <li>Metrocards</li> <li>10¢ Copies / Fax / Stamps</li> </ul>
---	---

**Ensure**      **Glucerna**

**Look for Our Monthly Savings Circular!**

**Surgical • Medical • Lifestyle Supplies**  
**FREE DELIVERY**

- Back & Knee Braces
- Wheelchairs
- Canes & Walkers
- Compression Stockings
- Diabetes Supplies & Shoes
- Incontinence Supplies
- Blood Pressure Monitors
- Nebulizers
- Breast Pumps

**Call or Text 718-405-9111 for Special Orders**

Medicare, Medicaid and Most Insurances Accepted

**Diabetic Supplies & Insulin Solutions**

**Diabetic & Therapeutic Shoes**

Your Podiatrist can Fax Your Prescription to 718-405-9112

**Our Mission Is To Make Your Life Easier**

New York State **WIC** Medicare Medicaid

ACCREDITED BUSINESS (BBB)      ACCREDITED (ACHC)



# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the Culinary Club. In February we were totally mad for a meatloaf we had made in the Italian style. It's old-fashioned, quick and easy to make, and it's gluten and dairy free. Not only did we enjoy the meatloaves we made, but we also cooked some awesome sides—creamy mashed potatoes, string beans, red cabbage and, last but not least, delicious mushrooms and onions. At our March meetings, we will have our annual Irish cooking recipes.

## Lisa's Gluten-free Dairy-free Meatloaf in Gravy

### Ingredients

- 1 pound of ground beef
- 1 packet Lipton onion soup mix
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon adobo seasoning
- ½ cup water
- 3 tablespoons of Gravy Master

### Directions

Combine all ingredients and form into a loaf. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

**BUDDY'S HARDWARE & MARINE**  
 A full service hardware & marine supply store  
**KARL HOEDL**  
 268 City Island Ave.  
 Bronx, NY 10464  
 718-885-1447  
 Fax: 718-885-1617  
 hoedlk@buddyshardware.com

**PIANO TUNING**  
 Rebuilding & Refinishing  
 Buying, Selling & Moving  
 30 Years Experience  
 Please Contact:  
**Ralph Merigliano**  
 Cell: 914-262-6912  
 rmerig3@msn.com

**CJS** City Island, NY  
**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, LLC.**  
 LAWN CARE \* HEDGES & SHRUBS \* TREE SERVICE \* PRESSURE WASHING \* MULCH  
 GUTTERS \* FENCING \* PLANTING \* BACKYARD OVERHAUL \* DECK REPAIR \* PATIOS  
 DEMOLITION \* GENERAL CLEAN-UP \* TOP SOIL/SAND/GRAVEL \* SNOW REMOVAL  
 !!FREE ESTIMATES!! - CJSPROPERTY10464@GMAIL.COM - 646.772.7681  
 SERVING THE CITY ISLAND COMMUNITY FOR DECADES

**Kismet REALTY NY**  
 invites you to our  
**GRAND opening**  
 MARCH 11th SATURDAY - 12PM to 3PM  
 626 City Island Avenue  
 Bronx, NY 10464  
 (718) 313-9000  
 Info.KismetRealty@gmail.com

# TUNE IN THE MUSIC

By KAREN NANI



The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

King Avenue resident Ralph Merigliano brought his three-tiered musical skills to City Island when he moved here 17 years ago. Ralph can tune your instruments, give piano lessons and even provide a recording studio for aspiring Island performers.

Originally from nearby Pelham, Ralph began studying piano in the 1970s at the age of 10 with jazz pianist Joe Savello, who happened to live across the street. His teacher also encouraged him to learn the technical side of music, including piano tuning and rebuilding.

So after high school, Ralph attended a trade school in New Jersey to learn about the technical aspects of music. "It didn't work out as planned," he told *The Current*. "I didn't learn that much from the school, but later I dated a girl whose father was a piano technician. I learned how to manually tune a piano from him with, in those days, a tuning fork."

By the 1990s, Ralph was tuning pianos in Westchester homes electronically with strobe tuners. During that time, he also created a teaching program, and in 2012 he became the music director at the School of Rock in Mamaroneck, NY. For more than six years, he taught teenagers how to tune their guitars, learn piano, work as members of a band and then present live performances in front of large audiences.

Sound like a busy schedule? The energetic teacher also became an audio engineer after working as an apprentice in White Plains. This eventually enabled Ralph to develop his own recording studio, BRL Studios, which is a full-service music facility now based on City Island. "It stands for Big Rock Star Lizard, an expression I got from my grandmother who lived in Miami. I spent my summers with her growing up."

So how did Ralph wind up on City Island? In 1987, he met Diane Earl, who was then working for CBS & Polygram records. It took 17 years, but while he was working in a recording studio, a friend reminded him about her and suggested he call. They started dating in 2003 and were married soon afterward. "Diane was from Woodhaven, Queens, but we wanted to live on this side of the bridge." They started looking for single family homes in different Bronx neighborhoods, such as



Musician Ralph Merigliano runs his piano tuning and music lessons business out of his home on King Avenue. He is shown above with his wife, Diane, and in his recording studio for aspiring Island performers.

Silver Beach and Edgewater. In 2006, they found a great converted bungalow on King Avenue, and the happy couple has been here ever since.

Diane is not Ralph's first family member in the music business. The oldest of three children born to Ralph and Marilyn Merigliano, he has an uncle and a brother, both of whom are professional drummers.

When asked about why he advertises in *The Island Current*, Ralph exclaimed, "I get so many calls from my ad, not just from City Islanders, but from all over. It is usually for piano tuning, but in many cases it leads to lessons as well." At one point, he was teaching 50 students each week, but the pandemic shut down lessons for over a year. Now his student load is about 30 students per week, with most lessons in their own homes, but sometimes in the studio on King Avenue.

Meanwhile, he continues to work with professional musicians and aspiring singers developing a catalogue of songs that can be performed or sold to other artists. Even through the pandemic, Ralph remained optimistic and reminded his students and collaborators: "Don't be afraid to fail every day. There will be wins!"

So if you need the family piano tuned or you have an aspiring rock star in the family, give Ralph a call at 914-262-6912 or e-mail him at [merig3@msn.com](mailto:merig3@msn.com). He will help you tune in the music.

*Weddings By Antonia*  
 Antonia Santiago Licensed & Registered Marriage Officiant  
 Insured Wedding Coordinator  
 Same day elopements, vow renewals & more!  
 www.WeddingsByAntonia.com  
 info@weddingsbyantonia.com Direct: 929-458-0557

## 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.

### AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street. Our St. Patrick's Day lunch will be March 9 at noon. New members always welcome. Hope to see you there.

Joyce Kennedy

### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity has been blessed for more than a century in being able to host innumerable community programs, events and celebrations. From Scouts to Seniors, 12-Step Programs and Blood Drives, Picnics, Youth Programs and the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner—the list of groups and individuals who have been welcomed to Trinity's facilities is long and joyful.

And these same groups and individuals—the entire City Island community—have always given Trinity the generous support that allowed us to provide a community home for everyone.

Unfortunately, for several months we have been unable to fully offer the facilities needed. We had to remove the aging kitchen stove, and at this point the 50+ year-old kitchen is in real need of modernization.

We are asking the community to once again help Trinity continue our role as partner in the life of City Island. With your financial assistance, we will be able to implement badly needed renovations—so please help us “close” the kitchen (for approximately 1 month) so we can then reopen it fully, going forward in service and ministry.

Donations by mail may be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464; electronically through “Givebutter” <https://givebutter.com/trinity>.

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace through our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry and greater focus on the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.). Each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

On March 5 at 11:30 a.m., Bible study after worship will focus on More Love, Joy and Peace in God's Words.”

On Wednesdays at Trinity at 4:30 p.m., the Youth Group will be held for all children in the 5 through 12th grade. At 6 p.m. there will be a community supper of soup and bread and then at 6:30 p.m. a time of prayer. On Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. there will be prayer time in Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Saturday's Budget Shop is fully open and fully stocked. Thank you to all who donate and shop.

If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845-532-3378.

Rick DeWitt

### City Island Civic Association

At the January meeting, the Civic membership voted to send a letter to our elected officials and the head of Economic Development explaining that the Civic Association is in favor of a ferry to Orchard Beach but not to City Island.

Tom Smith proposed to Community Board 10 that Hawkins Street be named Richie DePierro Way, and Councilwoman

Marjorie Velázquez will propose this to City Council. Once this has been approved, her chief of staff will work with the 45th Precinct to have a dedication ceremony.

Bill Clancy has proposed that the Civic work with the NYC Parks Department to fill all or some of the 40 empty tree beds on City Island Avenue. NYC Parks has agreed to provide the labor for planting the trees in April; the cost of each tree is \$150, and we must reach out to our elected officials for financial assistance. The Civic will be responsible for watering the trees for at least a year after they are planted. We might be able to fund some of the project, and it was voted that the Civic would donate the first tree.

Stu Sorell of the Unity & Solutions Committee reminded members that there is an ongoing collection for food and monetary donations for the food pantry at the Methodist Church.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance.

Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight or graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember that all our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our NYPD Neighborhood Community Officer Rugovac can be reached at 917-434-8847.

We are collecting dues for 2023 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the “friends and family” option so a service charge is not deducted.

Our next City Island Civic Association meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Cathy Cebek

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), “your shul by the sea,” is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this COVID period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only, however, some are taking place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, meditation, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is recommended. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. Proof of vaccination is required for all in-person events. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for March 2023:

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services: (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

March 3: with Shari and Monty (online

only)

March 10: with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

March 17: with Stu and Leslie (online only)

March 24: with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

March 31: pot luck Shabbat (at Temple and online)

Saturday Morning SoulSpa: Spiritual Learning of Torah with Kabbalah: (10 a.m. start, online). With Rabbi David. No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

Spiritual Writing: Midrash and Meaning with “The Velveteen Rabbi” (Sundays, 2 p.m.; online). With Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. Registration required; see website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Purim Party. Theme: Under the Sea (think Little Mermaid, or Jaws! (Sunday, March 5, 5 p.m. to ?). No registration required. June come prepared for joy?

The Tree of Life, the Sefirot and the Tarot (March 19, 3 p.m.). We are honored to have Mark Alan Horn, author of “Tarot and the Gates of Light: A Kabbalistic Path to Liberation,” speak with us about his work connecting the traditional practice of Counting the Omer with the imagery of Tarot cards. Please join us for an enlightening discussion.

Tuesday Morning Meditation: (10 to 10:30 a.m., online). A calming way to start the day. With Tenzin.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO ISRAEL?

Join Rabbi David on a 10-day guided tour of Israel's most historic sites.

Trip begins after Memorial Day weekend. Refundable deposits are now being accepted.

Visit our website for more details.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We would be happy to host you.

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

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

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

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

**Rachel Stark, Acting President; Shari Berkowitz, Acting Vice-President**

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m., usually on the second Sunday of the month. We have finished reading the book of Judith and are taking a winter's break and resuming our reading after Easter.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday in April. We will also

begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

The GraceTones: We are happy to announce that we are in rehearsal to resume singing at area nursing homes and rehab centers that are open to live entertainment. We are a fun and inclusive group, predominantly female, and we are seeking to bridge the gender gap by inviting more men to sing with us. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com) or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sales! Sales! Sales! Watch for our many sales.

We will be closed from March 16 to the 25th and will reopen on March 30 with our spring collection. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, March 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to spend an hour with Jesus.

God's graces on the 12 students in our Religious Education Program receiving First Penance on Saturday, March 11.

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

After being closed for a few weeks, our Thrift Shop will reopen with the Spring Collection on Thursday, March 30. Come and see all our spring bargains!

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

Rosette Dietz

### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting is Sunday, March 5, at 12 noon, both in person and via Zoom. The link will be found on the main page of the Post 156 website. Dues are past due: \$55 for the 2023 year. Please drop the dues off at the Post and make sure your name is on the envelope. We are operating at 100 percent capacity, so currently we can offer the hall for rental.

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

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

The following are dates of upcoming events: March 11, 6 to 10 p.m.: St. Patrick's Dinner hosted by Squadron 156; March 12: St. Patrick's Day Throggs Neck; March 15: Happy Birthday to the American Legion (1919); March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day!; March 19: Vietnam Veteran's Day; March 20: First day of spring / Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003; March 25: Congressional Medal of Honor Day.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 104 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio



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

March ushers in spring! On behalf of all the members of the Board of the City Island Community Center, we wish you health and peace in the new season. We have a fun and culturally celebratory schedule of events and programs for our members and residents this spring!

But first, thank you to all who joined our annual Blood Drive on Feb. 9. We appreciate everyone who donated critical blood for those in need. Thank you to the NY Blood Center for bringing this much-needed resource to our community each year. Look out for our next drive in the fall.

In the spirit of spring, we would like to announce the return of the Pysanki Egg Making craft on Sunday, March 26. This event was a fun community activity last year! Our expert artist Gloria Toscano will be back with this time-honored seasonal tradition that was begun by Jay Howard, founding Community Center board member. Proceeds raised will be donated to the ongoing humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Please look out for our event flyer with all details. We hope to see you and your loved ones there!

With the annual St. Patrick's Day holiday approaching, our Culinary Club will explore the culture and cuisine of Ireland on Monday, March 6 and 20. Irish Dance continues to teach and celebrate the beautiful tradition of Ireland as well. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

The Center also welcomed Lisa and Rocco Patto as full-time board members, after they participated for many years as members of the Culinary Club. We welcome them to our board and their new ideas for community engagement. We are excited to have them!

Our schedule of offerings continues through the spring. Below please find our Spring 2023 programming schedule -

**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873

**City Island Civic Association:** Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

**Children's Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga and Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.  
**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Happy spring,

**Melissa Cebollero**

### City Island Theater Group

The closing scene of the City Island Theater Group's production of "God of Carnage" was on March 1, 2020. Three years and three days later, the lights will

once again come up with the group's production of Rick Abbott's "Play On!," which was the inaugural production of the group in 1999.

"Play On!" is the story of a small community theater group attempting to stage a performance of "Murder Most Foul," despite constant interference by the playwright, who is constantly changing, adding to and deleting from the script as well as the cast. Act I is a rehearsal of the play. Act II is a disaster of a dress rehearsal. Act III is a small part of the actual performance and all that goes wrong.

This production will be directed by Nick Sala, and the cast includes Brian Argiento, Carol Dooner, Toni Fazio, Penelope Golden, Victoria Hernandez, James Mohn, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Paula Rocheleau-Hernandez and Joseph Scaduto. Pam Johnston is the production stage manager. See *BRIEFLY* on page 2 for information about the dates and purchasing tickets.

**Mary McIntyre**

### City Island Oyster Reef

CIOR is pleased to announce that, with the support of a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound's Futures Fund, we have been able to hire high school, college and graduate students who are passionate about protecting the environment. They will be actively involved in collecting and analyzing data, developing our educational programs and running our shell collection program with local restaurants throughout 2023. CIOR is a 100 percent volunteer organization except for the students that we support.

Karen Heil, science teacher at P.S. 175 and CIOR advisor, is organizing the second annual Teach In for Climate Justice on March 29 at P.S. 175 in partnership with Bard Graduate Program for Sustainability. Many local environmental organizations are involved in this program, which ignites our students' passion for marine ecology and preserving our natural environment.

Keep an eye out for notices about the 13th annual Beach Clean-Up and Clambake at Orchard Beach—hosted by CIOR—which is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We need beachcombers and divers to clean up the beach and the Sound. For more information, call Mike Carew at (718)885-1588 or e-mail [mike@captainmikesdiving.com](mailto:mike@captainmikesdiving.com).

To find out more about City Island Oyster Reef, visit [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org).

**Sally Connolly**

### PSS City Island Center

Welcome, March! Check out all the exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC and the NYC Health Department, which means a face covering is recommended.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and formal tablet/I-phone training classes in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements, such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

A six-week Walk with Ease program will be starting in early March, facilitated by Susan and Alex. We will be walking at Orchard Beach three times a week weather permitting. Please sign up at the Center.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members



Photo by MYRA MILLER

Quilters by the Sea presented Quilts of Valor to two World War II veterans at a performance of "Letters From Home" at Symphony Space on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023: (l. to r.) Anthony Valletta, David Sexton, performers Dan Beckmann and Erinn Dearth, and QBTS leaders Harlan Sexton and Joanne Valletta.

of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could possibly benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the center.

#### March Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Friday, March 3, 11 a.m. Cholesterol 101 with St. Johns (virtual stream)

Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m. Meet the Author (Paula Marie Usrey), Refusing to be Invisible for Women 50+ (virtual program @ PSS Life! University)

Wednesday, March 8, 1:15 p.m. Women Trailblazers

Thursday, March 9, 1:15 p.m. Ford Mustang Day

Friday, March 10, 11 a.m. How to Read Food Labels (virtual stream with registered dietician; PSS Life! University)

Monday, March 13, 11 a.m. Battery Hacks

Tuesday, March 14, 12:45 p.m. NYC Emergency Preparedness Presentation (tentative date), Elder Empowerment #3: The Empowerment and Benefits of Meditation at 1 p.m. (virtual stream @ PSS Life! University), and Pi day festivities.

Wednesday, March 15, 1 p.m. Importance of Understanding Trusts (virtual stream @ PSS Life! University)

NEW: Gardening Club and Virtual Travel Club starting soon!

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

#### The Current Schedule

##### Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)  
10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)

9 a.m. to 12 noon One-on-one tech assistance with Julio  
11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 to 2:30 p.m. Tablet & I-Phone Training Course (must be pre-registered)

##### Tuesday

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

12 noon In the News  
12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1:15 p.m. Bingo

##### Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)

11:30 a.m. Tech Byte  
12:30 p.m. Knitting & Crochet Club

##### Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)  
10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

##### Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Danny Durr (in person and remote)

10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction  
10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing  
11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat resumes March 10

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot.

Stay safe and healthy.

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

### American Legion Auxiliary

It's a new year, and we look forward to seeing everyone again. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our holiday fair on Dec. 17 and to those who so generously donated to Toys for Tots. Both were a great success.

We are excited to share that we were able to make two donations of \$500 each to some great organizations that support people with autism. One is the Jesse J. Kaplan PTA and the other is Daybreak Independent Services, Inc. Both organizations were brought to our attention by our wonderful membership. What an amazing community we have here!

Please mark your calendars. Our next Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, at 7 p.m.

**Michelle Del Pozzo**

### Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club is busy planning its projects for 2023. The most noticeable projects will be the replacement of nine of our plant containers on City Island Avenue with new ones. Our white rectangular containers have served us well for many years, but they are reaching the end of their lives. The new containers, which are round and gray, are scheduled to arrive in late winter. At the end of March, we will be installing spring flowers in both the remaining old containers and the new ones.

We are looking forward to our annual Beautification Fund Drive. In April, we



### Eighth Annual Bingeworthy Television

From the creator of **Dr. Who** and **Torchwood**, **Years and Years** (British, 2019, 6 episodes) is a quirky dramedy wherein an ordinary British family contends with the hopes, anxieties and joys of an uncertain future in a six-part limited series that begins in 2019 and propels the characters 15 years forward into an unstable world. There's a war with China, a nuclear strike, a failed bank in the U.K., a refugee crisis and much more. The story primarily details the lives of four Lyons siblings: Stephen (Rory Kinnear), a financial advisor who lives in London with his wife, Celeste (T'Nia Miller), and their two daughters; Daniel (Russell Tovey), a housing officer for refugees who becomes involved with a Ukrainian looking for asylum; Edith (Jessica Hynes), a political activist; and Rosie (Ruth Madeley), who has spina bifida, is a single mother, has two sons and works in a school cafeteria. Anne Reid appears as the matriarch of the family, grandmother Muriel Deacon. As we get to know the Lyons family, an outspoken celebrity, Vivienne Rook, (Emma Thompson), begins her transformation into a political figure whose controversial opinions will divide the nation. As the Britain of this imaginary drama is rocked by political, economic and technological advances, the family experiences everything both hoped for and feared in a future that "could" happen. This nihilistic projection is eased by a buoyant sense of humor and characters who are easy to become invested in.

In a different take on the future of the Earth, **The Silent Sea** (Korean, 2022, 8 episodes) presents our planet suffering from a global drought so serious that draconian measures have been put in place for rationing drinkable water. Scientist Song Ji-An (Bae Doona) joins a hand-picked team of elite personnel to go on a lunar mission to an abandoned research facility, Balhae Station, where her sister died five years ago along with 117 personnel who were killed under mysterious circumstances. The crew also includes a soldier for the Space Agency, Captain Han Yun-Jae (Gong Yoo), as well as Lieutenant Ryu Tae-seok (Lee Joon) of the Ministry of National Defense. Their mission is to retrieve a mysterious and sensitive sample that can address Earth's hydration problem. At the lunar facility, Song discovers that the powers-that-be have lied about the nature of the accident that wiped out the staff. The sample turns out to consist of a new element that ostensibly looks like water but multiplies like a virus when it comes in contact with living cells. The group also must contend with the fact that some members of their own party may have ulterior motives that lead to betrayal.

The amazing partnership of Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks created **Band of Brothers** (2001, 10 episodes) a dramatized account of "Easy Company" (part of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment), assigned to the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division during World War II. Starting with jump training at Camp Toccoa, GA, the series follows the unit through the American airborne landings in Normandy, Operation Market Garden, the Siege of Bastogne, the invasion of Germany, including the liberation of a concentration camp, and on to the war's end. Major Richard Winters (Damien Lewis) is

the central character, who works to accomplish the company's missions and keep his men together and safe. Although the series features a large ensemble cast, each episode generally focuses on the actions of a single character. I found Episode 9 especially compelling because, though Jewish myself, I learned many things I never knew about the liberation of concentration camps by American soldiers. Every episode is moving, and the ensemble cast is truly stellar.

**Rubicon** (2010, 13 episodes) is an American conspiracy thriller series that centers on a team of intelligence analysts working for the American Policy Institute (API) in New York City. The series stars James Badge Dale as Will Travers, a brilliant man with an aptitude for pattern recognition, who takes over as team leader after the death of his father-in-law, David Hadas (Peter Gerety). Will begins unraveling a conspiracy that threatens U.S. national security, all based on a code discovered in newspaper crossword puzzles. Kale Ingram (Arliss Howard), Will's enigmatic supervisor at API, assigns Maggie Young (Jessica Collins) to be Will's assistant in order to spy on Will and the rest of his team. Team members include young Tanya MacGaffin (Lauren Hodges), MIT graduate with a genius-level IQ, Miles Fiedler (Dallas Roberts), and oldest member Grant Test (Christopher Evan Welch) who resents being passed over as team leader in favor of Will. Miranda Richardson appears as Katherine Rhumor, the widow of businessman Tom Rhumor (Harris Yulin), who committed suicide as part of the convoluted plot, and she enlists Will's aid in determining the true cause of her husband's death.

**The Split** (British, 2018–22, 18 episodes over 3 seasons) is a British legal drama that follows the lives of the Defoes, a family of well-known female divorce lawyers in London. The series presents an authentic and compelling look at how four very different women attempt to hold their ground in all areas of their lives—from their relationships to their careers and the surprise return of their estranged father, Oscar Defoe (Anthony Head) after a 30-year absence. The eldest sister, Hannah (Nicola Walker), works for a rival family law firm Noble & Hale and is married to barrister Nathan Stern (Stephen Mangan). Ruth Defoe (Deborah Findlay) is Hannah's mother and director of the family firm where the younger sister, Nina (Annabel Scholey), is also a lawyer. Rose (Fiona Button), the youngest sister works as a nanny. The series seriously considers love, loss, ambition and commitment.

**My So-Called Life** (1995–96, 19 episodes) is the story of Angela Chase (Claire Danes) a 15-year-old high school student who lives in the fictional Pittsburgh suburb of Three Rivers with her mother, Patty (Bess Armstrong); father, Graham (Tom Irwin); and little sister, Danielle (Lisa Wilhoit). This series accurately captures high school teen angst and realistically portrays Angela, whose life is in constant turmoil. The majority of episodes revolve around Angela's crush on heartthrob Jordan Catalano (Jared Leto). Each episode is narrated by Angela, following her trials and tribulations as she deals with friends, parents, guys and school. The show launched Claire Danes' career as well as those of Jared Leto and Wilson Cruz. It was produced by the team of Marshall Herskovitz and Edward Zwick, who previously collaborated on the popular **Thirtysomething** (1987–91, 85 episodes over four seasons).

**Halt and Catch Fire** (2014–17, 40 episodes over 4 seasons) is a fascinating depiction of a fictionalized insider's view of the personal computer revolution in the 1980s and the early days of the World Wide Web in the 1990s. The flawed geniuses followed in the story are visionary Joe Macmillan (Lee Pace), engineers Gordon Clark (Scoot McNairy) and his wife, Donna (Kerry Bishé), and prodigy programmer Cameron

Howe (Mackenzie Davis). They risk everything to realize their vision of building a computer that can change the future. They also conceive of the idea of the World Wide Web. The show's title refers to computer machine code instruction Halt and Catch Fire (HCF), the execution of which would cause the computer's central processing unit to stop working.

**Ozark** (2017–22, 44 episodes over 4 seasons) is a drama that stars Jason Bateman (who also produced and directed the show) as Marty Byrde, a genius financial planner involved in a money laundering scheme gone wrong. Forced to pay off a substantial debt to a Mexican drug lord, in order to keep his family safe he moves his wife, Wendy (Laura Linney), and their two kids, Charlotte (Sofia Hublitz) and Jonah (Skylar Gaertner), to the Lake of the Ozarks, where they look for new money laundering opportunities. Many stereotypes are dispelled as we meet Ruth Langmore (Julia Garner), who seems like "dumb white trash" but is in fact extremely intelligent and becomes indispensable to Marty's operation. Among the problem people faced by the Byrde family are FBI agents Roy Petty (Jason Butler Harner) and Maya Miller (Jessica Frances Dukes); local heroin producers Jacob Snell (Peter Mullan) and his scary wife, Darlene (Lisa Emery); Wendy's bipolar brother, Ben Davis (Tom Pelphrey); and Mexican cartel members, lieutenant Camino Del Rio (Esai Morales), cartel leader Omar Navarro (Felix Solis), Navarro's hotheaded nephew, Javier Elizondro (Alfonso Herrera), and the creepy Chicago-based attorney who represents the cartel, Helen Pierce (Janet McTeer).

**Better Call Saul** (2015–22, 63 episodes over 6 seasons) was the slogan of Saul Goodman, the sleazy ace attorney for chemistry teacher-turned-meth dealer Walter White in **Breaking Bad**. However, this prequel takes place six years before he begins to represent Albuquerque's most notorious criminal. Goodman starts his career as Jimmy McGill, a small-time lawyer hustling to make a name for himself despite the disdain of his paranoid high-powered attorney brother, Chuck (Mike McKean). The show follows Jimmy's transformation into morally challenged lawyer Saul Goodman, a forceful champion for his low-income clients, whose morals and ambitions often clash. Jimmy works with fellow lawyer Kim Wexler (Rhea Seahorn) at a firm that is run by Howard Hamlin (Patrick Fabian). This prequel also introduces subsequent characters such as private eye Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks), a former Philadelphia cop serving as a fixer who saves Jimmy on more than one occasion. We are also introduced to Gus Fring (Giancarlo Esposito), Lalo Salamanca (Tony Dalton) and Nacho Varga (Michael Mando), opposing drug cartel members.

**Doc Martin** (British, 2004–22, 79 episodes over 10 seasons) is the droll story of prestigious London-based surgeon Dr. Martin Ellingham (Martin Clunes), who develops a phobia that causes him to vomit at the sight of blood. He relocates to the picturesque seaside village of Port Wenn, where he establishes himself as the area's general practitioner. He grew up in the village, having been raised by his now-widowed Aunt Joan Norton (Stephanie Cole), who tries to help him overcome his phobia. Martin's situation is made more difficult by his complete lack of an acceptable bedside manner. He is gruff, abrupt and intolerant, in issues not only related to medicine, but also to life in general. He and the headmistress of the local school, Louisa Glasson (Caroline Catz), are clearly attracted to each other and slowly develop a relationship despite their awkwardness.

I must admit that I discovered the rather disgusting zombie show **The Walking Dead** (2010–22, 177 episodes over 11 seasons) at the very beginning of the pandemic shutdown. The depiction of fears I could never imagine somehow eased the actual fears going on in our real world at the time. Based on Robert Kirkman's comic book series, this dystopian drama portrays life in the months and years that follow a zombie apocalypse. At times, the interpersonal conflicts present a greater threat to their continuing survival than the "walkers" that roam the country. The series' main protagonist is Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln), a former sheriff's deputy. I became hooked on the series with a fascinating twist in episode four that involves Glenn Rhee (Steven Yeun), who saves Rick's life and eventually goes on to marry Maggie Green (Lauren Cohan), leader of the Hilltop Community. Norman Reedus appears as Daryl Dixon, the group's primary hunter, and Rick's trusted lieutenant, Melissa McBride, is Carol Peletier, originally a meek housewife who overcomes domestic abuse to become a skilled resourceful fighter. Jeffrey Dean Morgan is Negan who first appears as a totalitarian, sociopathic leader but eventually spends the rest of his life seeking redemption. For fans of "The Walking Dead Universe," there have been and will be several spin-off series.

And until next time, stay safe and healthy, and happy viewing...

MATCH POINT

When putting out a  
campfire, drown the fire,  
stir it, and drown it again.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN  
PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service  
and the  
National Association of State Foresters.

WHEN YOU WORK WITH ME TO BUY OR SELL,  
YOU ARE WORKING WITH THE BEST!



Louise Del Giudice

NYS Lic. Real Estate Salesperson, CBR, CDPE  
2022 Centurion President's Producer &  
Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Awards  
#14 C 21 Agent in New York State

Century 21 Marciano

546 North Ave.,

New Rochelle, NY 10801

e-mail: [Louisedel.C21@gmail.com](mailto:Louisedel.C21@gmail.com)

Cell : 914.497.9021

Looking to sell  
your house?  
Now's the time.  
I would love to help you.

### Org News

Continued from page 11

will drop off fund-drive letters at every residence on the Island and mail letters to our businesses. The funds we collect go toward our beautification projects, such as maintaining our plant containers and the Post Office garden. We thank all of you who donated last year and hope that you will do so again this year. Donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Our annual fund-raiser luncheon will be held this year at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club on Thursday, May 25, at noon. We will include further details in the April and May issues of *The Island Current*.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 6, at 10 a.m., at City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

**US MORTGAGE CORPORATION**  
NMLS #3901 *Helping You Make It Home.*

**DO YOU NEED A MORTGAGE?**

**BUYING OR REFINANCING A HOME? Call US Today!**

**JAZMINE SANTANA**  
Mortgage Loan Originator  
NMLS #795623  
o: 347-576-1254 | m: 646-406-7821  
[usmortgage.com/jazmine.santana](http://usmortgage.com/jazmine.santana)  
Hablo Español

**JESSICA COEN**  
Branch Manager  
NMLS #68055, Loan Officer  
o: 888-456-6647 | m: 347-712-6576  
[usmortgage.com/jessica.coen](http://usmortgage.com/jessica.coen)  
Hablo Español

FHA • CONVENTIONAL • VA • RENOVATION LOANS • REFINANCE • AND MUCH MORE

Branch Office (NMLS #2075230), US Mortgage Corporation, 3004 Middletown Road, Street Level, Bronx, NY 10461. Licensed Mortgage Lender. CT, FL, NY (NYS Department of Financial Services - Lic. #95006333), NJ State Banking Department/Regulators. Approved Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac Direct Seller & Servicer. Certain restrictions may apply. This is not intended as an offer to extend credit nor a commitment to lend. US Mortgage Corporation is licensed as a mortgage lender nationwide except for HI and NV. For licensing information, go to: <https://usmortgage.com/disclosures/> and <https://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org/EntryDetails.aspx?COMPANY3901>.

Licensed & Insured by NYS DEC In Business Since 1938 Reg. Lic. # 17257

**A & E Safeway Systems Pest Control, Inc.**  
*Crawling Insects • Flying Insects  
Rodents • Termites*

Dave or Halli  
189 Schofield Street  
City Island, NY 10464

Office: 718-220-1410  
Cell: 718-506-2250  
Fax: 212-409-8555



**"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."**

★ ★ **Make a Difference. Volunteer.** ★ ★

When you volunteer to help your neighbors, you help your nation.  
Find out how at [USAFREEDOMCORPS.GOV](http://USAFREEDOMCORPS.GOV) or call 1-877-USACORPS

**USA Freedom Corps**  
*Make a Difference. Volunteer.*

## A Current Review "Velvet Determination"

By BRUCE WEIS



Writer and performer Cynthia Shaw presented "Velvet Determination" at The Artist on Feb. 11 and 12, 2023.

The Artist, City Island's premier music space, continued in its performance-focused phase with the recent presentation of what might be described as an autobiographical keyboard performance, "Velvet Determination," written and performed by Cynthia Shaw. The show was bright and enjoyable as Cynthia described her personal journey from a childhood in Colorado to a career of music and acting in New York. The performance is billed as "a musical journey about wrong notes, hard knocks and the keys to success" and might be characterized as a roadmap of what worked and didn't work, and how her life finally came together.

Cynthia grew up in Pueblo, CO, as a skilled pianist with a mother who loved to have her play for friends and family and a jazz musician father who played the trombone and showed no interest in her piano skills. Although she feared that she wasn't good enough, that no one wanted to listen to her, she came to New York to attend the Manhattan School of Music. Since then, she has been music director for more than 30 regional and off-Broadway shows and has acted in New York City and regional theaters. She sang backup vocals for Paul McCartney at Carnegie Hall, for Björk at Riverside Church and with the New York Philharmonic. She has also played piano for Garrison Keillor and "Prairie Home Companion" on NPR and at Town Hall, New York.

"Velvet Determination" came about when Cynthia realized that her story could be a one-woman show. Working with director Page Clements, she developed this show, which premiered on Sept. 21, 2018, at The Philadelphian. It was performed across the nation for the following year and won Best Personal Journey at the Boulder Fringe festival. Since then, with the help of a new director, Peter Michael Marino, the show has been performed and won awards at festivals across the country and abroad. In a nod to current events, her performance was included in the online Ukrainian PRO. ACT Fest hosted by the ProEnglish Theatre and Scenesaver in August 2022.

Part of the life story Cynthia tells in "Velvet Determination" is of crossing paths with the right (and occasionally wrong) mentors, first in Pueblo and later in New York. Ultimately, as she came to believe in herself, hard work, discipline and technique brought her to the level where she is today. Her performance at The Artist included a wide range of music demonstrating her musical skills, from classical to Broadway composers. The show was directed by Peter Michael Marino, and Hannah Glick handled the technical aspects. "Velvet Determination" show will return to The Artist, and when it does, I recommend the show as an uplifting, endearing experience and a reminder that people are willing to listen to you.

**R** Shouldn't your property also stand out to sell faster, and at a higher price?

NEW YORK

I am still seeking waterfront properties on City Island for Manhattan & Florida buyers, - let me know if you would consider selling!

New listing this month: 158 Ditmars Street

- Always committed to getting you the highest price for your property.

**REAL ESTATE & INTERIOR DESIGN BY SANDRA SALANDER**

**SANDRA SALANDER**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
C: 212-810-9231  
[ssalander@weNewyork.com](mailto:ssalander@weNewyork.com)

# How Do We Help Boys Develop Positive Masculine Traits?

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

We live in a time where “toxic masculinity” is a buzzword in the media. The #MeToo movement, as well as high-profile cases such as those involving Harvey Weinstein and Jeffrey Epstein, paint a picture of men as predators and abusers. Yes, there is a patriarchy in our culture—a predominance of white male privilege in our institutions of government and the economy—yet boys also suffer from role models and expectations that are based on power rather than community. How do we nurture the positive aspects of being male?

Feminism did a good job of creating more opportunities for women to move into all areas of society rather than the prescribed roles of housewife, Mother, and second-class citizen. Men also need the opportunity for new roles: active co-parent, compassionate listener, secondary breadwinner, mentor for youth and engaged protector of home and family. Advances in the education and professional success of women are ongoing and substantial. Meanwhile, fewer men are succeeding in college and male mental health issues have risen dramatically.

SO, what is positive masculinity? The ability to:

- Address disrespect
- Embrace equity of opportunity for all
- Encourage other men to express emotions freely
- Encourage compassion and kindness towards themselves and others
- Listen to experiences and validate feelings
- Check-in with male friends and loved ones
- Help the people you walk through

life with on a day-to-day basis

How do we raise boys who embrace positive masculinity?

- Encourage all forms of play: from wrestling to playing with dolls, we are a species that learns from play and needs active and joyful engagement with others.
- Point out examples of those who bend the old stereotypes and show men in roles that allow for the full expression of all emotions, vulnerability and a use of physical force that is constructive rather than punitive (as in building a playground rather than physically fighting with or threatening a neighbor).
- Hang around with men who are non-competitive and nurturing.
- Address disrespect when you encounter it. Model being an “upstander” rather than a “bystander” in front of your child.
- Support team coaches for boys who stress skills development over winning, teamwork over star promotion and compassionate correction over shaming and belittling.
- Understand that gender exploration is a natural part of human development. Asking a boy to “act like a real man” may in fact create inner conflict with regard to feeling soft and vulnerable and affection to others of all gender expressions.
- Lovingly speak with the males in your life, offering support and “shoulder to shoulder” intimacy as you share activities and the usual “stupid life stuff” that make up our days.

This is a win-win proposition: boys and girls both get a wider set of choices and the support of wise and loving adults.

# ISLANDER CHANNELS OLD BLUE EYES



Singer Tom McGuire

City Island native Tom McGuire, who now lives in Brussels, has been a longtime


admirer of crooner Frank Sinatra. During the month of January, Tom gave two performances in Manhattan called “A Bronx Accent from Brussels,” accompanied by a jazz quartet led by Latin-Grammy award-winning pianist Baden Goyo.

Tom featured some of Sinatra’s most popular songs and added other jazz songs in French and Italian. As David Walters, a critic for *www.thefrontrowcenter.com*, put it: “Tom is not so much a mimic of Frank’s voice and his style, as he takes the musicality and plays with it in his own unique Bronx way. If you close your eyes and just listen while Tom is singing, you can hear Frank, funneled through the New York subways northern termination. It’s comfortably familiar and unique all at the same time.”

Tom McGuire plans to perform again in the city on May 10, 2023, at 54 Below, in the basement of Studio 54 at 254 W 54th Street. For more information or to make a reservation, call 646-476-3551.

**“I FEEL LIKE A FISH WITH NO WATER.”**

**—JACOB, AGE 5 DESCRIBING ASTHMA**



**Ad Council** | You know how to react to their asthma attacks. Here's how to prevent them. | **EPA**

**1-866-NO-ATTACKS** | EVEN ONE ATTACK IS ONE TOO MANY.

For more information log onto [www.noattacks.org](http://www.noattacks.org) or call your doctor.

*Sailing... The Beach... Fishing... Power Boating... Relaxing by the Bay...*

*... and the BEST Views & Sunsets on City Island!*

**2023 OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY APRIL 23RD & SUNDAY MAY 21ST**

**12PM - 6PM**

*Regular & Associate Memberships Available*



*Full Bar Restaurant Party Room*



**MORRIS YACHT & BEACH CLUB**  
25 CITY ISLAND AVENUE, BRONX NY 10464  
718.885.9814 - [mybcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mybcmembership@gmail.com) - [www.morrisybc.com](http://www.morrisybc.com)

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

FEBRUARY 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
24	Fri	0218	7.97	0858	-0.67	1449	7.25	2108	-0.23	Fri 24
25	Sat	0311	7.63	0955	-0.23	1548	6.77	2200	0.31	Sat 25
MARCH 2023										
01	Wed	0113	1.31	0727	6.90	1401	0.77	2001	6.36	Wed 01
02	Thu	0212	1.28	0823	7.04	1453	0.70	2053	6.62	Thu 02
03	Fri	0303	1.13	0913	7.22	1539	0.58	2139	6.89	Fri 03
04	Sat	0349	0.93	0958	7.36	1620	0.46	2221	7.11	Sat 04
05	Sun	0428	0.72	1037	7.43	1655	0.37	2257	7.25	Sun 05
06	Mon	0501	0.52	1109	7.44	1723	0.31	2323	7.33	Mon 06
07	Tue	0526	0.33	1128	7.40	1740	0.24	2335	7.43	Tue 07
08	Wed	0546	0.13	1142	7.39	1755	0.12	2352	7.60	Wed 08
09	Thu	0612	-0.04	1209	7.39	1822	0.03			Thu 09
10	Fri	0021	7.78	0646	-0.14	1243	7.34	1856	0.02	Fri 10
11	Sat	0058	7.90	0725	-0.13	1324	7.21	1936	0.13	Sat 11
All times are Eastern Daylight Time beginning Sunday, March 12										
12	Sun	0140	7.92	0909	0.02	1509	6.98	2120	0.35	Sun 12
13	Mon	0326	7.82	0959	0.28	1600	6.69	2210	0.67	Mon 13
14	Tue	0419	7.62	1056	0.59	1658	6.41	2307	1.00	Tue 14
15	Wed	0518	7.37	1208	0.83	1807	6.25			Wed 15
16	Thu	0015	1.23	0629	7.20	1400	0.78	1938	6.36	Thu 16
17	Fri	0152	1.17	0757	7.24	1519	0.38	2111	6.81	Fri 17
18	Sat	0332	0.67	0928	7.55	1619	-0.12	2212	7.38	Sat 18
19	Sun	0436	0.01	1033	7.92	1711	-0.58	2304	7.91	Sun 19
20	Mon	0531	-0.60	1127	8.19	1759	-0.90	2351	8.30	Mon 20
21	Tue	0621	-1.05	1216	8.28	1844	-1.03			Tue 21
22	Wed	0036	8.50	0709	-1.27	1302	8.19	1927	-0.97	Wed 22
23	Thu	0119	8.51	0756	-1.23	1347	7.94	2008	-0.71	Thu 23
24	Fri	0201	8.35	0842	-0.96	1433	7.58	2048	-0.30	Fri 24
25	Sat	0244	8.05	0930	-0.51	1520	7.15	2126	0.20	Sat 25
26	Sun	0330	7.66	1021	0.04	1614	6.73	2207	0.74	Sun 26
27	Mon	0423	7.24	1118	0.58	1716	6.41	2259	1.26	Mon 27
28	Tue	0531	6.89	1221	1.02	1824	6.26			Tue 28
29	Wed	0018	1.64	0646	6.71	1324	1.27	1928	6.31	Wed 29
30	Thu	0134	1.79	0752	6.72	1422	1.32	2026	6.51	Thu 30
31	Fri	0236	1.70	0850	6.86	1514	1.24	2118	6.79	Fri 31



**What's It Worth?**

Readers of this column are no doubt familiar with the expression "A picture is worth a thousand words." Well, this month we are here to tell you that some pictures may be worth even more. Let us begin with exhibit A:



Photo by HAILEY CLANCY

**Cooper's hawk**

We learned from a neighbor that our visitor Coop—a juvenile—had taken up residence in her yard, a circumstance easily explained by the birdfeeders that she and another neighbor had set up. The last time we saw the hawk, though, it was in our own shrubbery, chasing after the sparrows that call our junipers home. The birdfeeders probably had not been filled that day.

The next picture tells the most improbable story of all.



Photo by KATIE McCORMICK

**Great horned owl**

That's a real great horned owl gazing out onto Eastchester Bay. Or perhaps it is the city skyline that has grabbed its attention. Or both! We watched this specimen for about an hour as it flew from the gazebo on Hawkins Street to the one on Bay Street with a stop in between on the Fordham Street pier.

Great horned owls hunt at night, which is what this one was doing when it wasn't distracted by the view. Almost the next day, we were visited by the Cooper's hawk in the picture above right. And not for the first time!



Photo by PATRICK HORAN

**Brown pelican**

It's not every day that a brown pelican makes an appearance at Orchard Beach. Yes, you heard that right—a pelican at Orchard Beach! This picture is not only worth a thousand words, but it would appear as if the pelican himself has been captured mid-sentence exclaiming some of them. You can almost hear the words.

**LICENSED & INSURED MASTER ELECTRICIAN**

Office: (718) 885-0824  
Office: (718) 885-1200

**KEE** Inc.  
ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION  
KURT W. EBINGER

"QUALITY IS OUR KEE TO SUCCESS"

RESIDENTIAL • EMERGENCY SERVICE • COMMERCIAL  
Light • Heat • Power • Installations • Design Service

107 Caroll Sreet • City Island, NY 10464  
keeelectric@aol.com

**BAYVIEW GLASS**

*Insulated Glass and Parts*  
Mirrors • Table Tops • Blinds • Shades  
Storm Windows and Doors

Tel: 718-885-2100 or 718-885-2155  
Fax: 718-885-2126  
104 Hawkins Street, City Island, NY 10464

THE SNUG'S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**ST. PADDY'S DAY PARTY**  
FRI., MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>  
12 NOON TIL...

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE  
(OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH DISHES)

MUSIC ALL DAY LONG

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH NOW!!

885-9559

(\$6 IRISH COFFEE/12-3 P.M.)

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

Family Owned & Operated  
Since 1959

**OWENS  
TREE SERVICE**

Trimming & Removal

**718.885.0914**

Free Estimates & Fully Insured | OwensTrees.com

# In The Garden

By PATRICK GANNON



Photo by PATRICK GANNON

## Pollen basket

### Are Plants and Honeybees Engaged in Symbiosis?

A big question like that has no simple answer, of course, unless you, like me, believe that plants and bees are sentient “creatures.” Symbiosis is “a relationship between two types of animal or plant in which each provides for the other the conditions necessary for its continued existence” (Cambridge Dictionary); thus honeybees and plants appear to be symbionts.

There are three examples of benefits that plants “provide” for bees, versus a single—though huge—fourth benefit that bees provide for plants. These four benefits in order are pollen, nectar, propolis and pollination. Let’s consider them.

**Pollen**, which is collected by female bees from the flowers of male plants (not females), provides protein and other nutrients for food to both adult and baby bees. Pollen is used by bees as a part of larvae food called bee bread, which is a byproduct that comprises plant nectar (pre-honey), honeybee salivary enzymes and fermentation. As discussed below, the collection of pollen from male flowers by

bees offers the only mutual benefit to bees and plants.

**Nectar** is collected by female bees from female plants only, which makes sense since female bees (worker bees) are the only ones that do work, and female plants are the only recipients of male pollen for reproduction. Nectar is produced by glands, known as nectaries, in the flowers of female plants. It is a carbohydrate solution containing a mixture of sugar types, primarily sucrose, glucose and fructose, as well as numerous aromatics, which are unique to plants and offer the flavor profile of honeys (like City Island Gold, etc.).

Honey is converted to honey from nectar by honeybees through a multistep process. Female bees have a long proboscis that reaches down into the nectary capsule to suck nectar up into their “honey stomach.” The bee’s honey stomach is not used for digestion, but enzymes, such as the invertase produced there, start with the process of nectar-to-honey conversion. When the bees get back to the hive with the second-stage nectar, it is passed over to a house bee to be placed in the hexagonal cells, where it continues to mature and is dehydrated by bee-wing fanning to 85 percent sugar in water (from nectar’s 15 percent of sugar in water). The very high sugar content in honey is why it can be used as an antibiotic (the battle salve used by Roman and Egyptian troops), since bacteria cannot survive in that hyper-saturated sugar environment. Some male plant flowers offer both pollen and nectar as two types of rewards to recruit insect visitors. Think of it like serving a hamburger, with carbohydrate and protein both.

**Propolis** is a dark brown, sticky, aromatic, resinous substance that is collected by bees from the buds of cone-bearing

trees. It is used by trees to strengthen buds and protect them from adversity, such as fungus and insects, and to stimulate bud growth and fruit set. There is no advantage offered by bees to the plants, but the amount collected is too small to be a disadvantage. The advantage to bees is that propolis is used inside the hive for construction and repair, as a sealant for openings against wind and rain and for smoothing out internal walls. Propolis is the bane of beekeepers, since it makes hive investigations much more difficult, and this is why honeybee breeds are selected for reduced propolis use.

**Pollination** is defined by the US Forest Service as “the act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma.” Some plants depend on the wind for pollination, but since this definition captures the early onset of pollination, it behooves us to understand how it took place 60 million years ago (at end of the dinosaurs) since pollinators existed long before flowers came on the scene. It’s like the famous kindergarten chicken and egg puzzle: Which came first, the flower or the pollinator? Research has shown that mutually beneficial relationship between flowering plants (angiosperms) and pollinating insects co-evolved over millions of years and may have started with crawling insects such as beetles, which were non flower-based pollinators. Angiosperms developed adaptations that attracted pollinators, while pollinators evolved survival skills to gather nectar and spread pollen. Honeybees evolved a body part on their back legs to carry large amounts of pollen, the pollen basket (see photograph).

Since wind pollination is still around (e.g., oak, beechwood, grasses, cereal crops, ragweed, cannabis), it works, but what are the advantages and disadvantages of wind pollination (anemophily) versus insect pollination (entomophily)? An advantage of wind pollination is that plants limit the investment of resources to attract

pollinating organisms, so that there is no need to use valuable resources to produce showy, colored flowers with scents and nectar or pollen. A disadvantage of wind pollination is that it is wasteful, since it is non-directional and local compared to pollination by organisms, because less pollen is transferred reliably to female plants over greater distances, promoting adaptive variation. Further, if there is calm weather with no wind for a long period, pollination does not occur, and a critical moment might be lost.

The main disadvantage of insect pollination is that plants are dependent on the presence of local pollinators that will fly from plant to plant and don’t rely on other back-up elements for fertilization. A key advantage of insect pollination is that the pollinator, after visiting a male flower for pollen, usually goes to a female flower of the same species to get nectar. That involves the liberation of considerably less pollen and higher success, unlike a dust cloud of pollen from wind pollination, which can cause hay fever for humans.

To finish on a high note, people on City Island who suffer from spring fever should be aware that local honey can prevent the problem caused by local pollens in the spring, (rather than treat its symptoms, with all the side effects). By presenting to your body small amounts of local pollen in honey, you will give your immune system the OK message so that it will not over-react later.

VHF-Ch 16      Capt. Dan  
718-885-3420

**TowBoatUS<sup>®</sup>**  
**CITY ISLAND**

U. S. Coast Guard Licensed & Approved  
For Marine Towing Assistance & Salvage  
P.O. Box 58  
City Island, N.Y. 10464

*Cormac McEnery, Esq.*

**Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.**

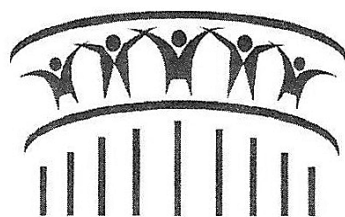
*Elder Law  
Estate Planning  
Wills & Trusts*

**(718) 885-1234**

**562 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464-1103**

**Email: [cormac@cormacmcenery.com](mailto:cormac@cormacmcenery.com)**

**[www.cormacmcenerylaw.com](http://www.cormacmcenerylaw.com)**



**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS, INC.**

**MEMBER**



## A HART ISLAND MEMOIR

The following text consists of excerpts from a memoir written by Dr. G. A. Smith about his career as a physician, which included several years on Hart Island until he left in 1889 to work at the State Hospital for the Insane in Central Islip, New York.

Having graduated in medicine from the Bellevue Medical College in March 1881, I took a Post Graduate course at Bellevue, taking special courses and assisting in clinics. On my graduation I was a little over 22 years of age. In February 1882 I was appointed as assistance physician to Hart Island under the direction of the Department of Charities and Correction, which had branch institutions and received the overflow of those on Blackwell's Island, then so called, now Welfare Island.

This appointment was made at the recommendation of Dr. Joseph Bryant, who was consulting and investigating surgeon in the department. I did not know where the Island was, but he took me aside and told me that outside of the Branch Charity Hospital and Branch work, the largest institution of New York City Branch Lunatic Asylum (then so called), he felt it would be a great advantage for me to get experience and knowledge of the insane at very little cost. "Please remember, Smith," that the insane have the same anatomy as the sane and are subjected to the same surgical and medical interference as the sane. It is a great opportunity for you to study this special branch, as well as keeping up with the surgery. You have all the material that you need. Take advantage of it, and go ahead and try it for a year, if not eighteen months, and if you do nothing else, wear whiskers.

On the 26th of February, I shipped my trunks and made my way down to the foot of the 26th Street Charity dock, and boarded the boat called the "Fidelity." The "Fidelity" looks like a large tug. A cabin in the rear of the boat carried patients and visitors. The hold of the boat carried prisoners. We started up and stopped at the Charity Hospital Dock at Blackwell's Island, took on some patients, then stopped at the store house dock, took on stores and provisions. We stopped again at Ward's Island at Hell Gate's side and took on 1 or 2 passengers and continued on our way to Hart's Island.

When we landed at the lower end of the Hospital, I was met by the Superintendent, and he immediately took me to my quarters. All the buildings except three were old barracks that had been there since the Civil War. Stoves supplied the heat, and kerosene lamps, the light. The location of these quarters was called "The Hollow." At the upper end of the Island was a peninsula which hid the other end of the Island, and this was Potter's Field, where I could bury my mistakes. This was called "The Hill," and this was a hospital for men, used during the war for officers.

There were 400 and 500 women insane, 130 in The Hollow. On The Hill were about 150 men and 200 prisoners. Prisoners were used to do the general work around the grounds, and to bury the dead in Potter's Field. There was a warden for

the prisoners and a superintendent for the lunatic asylum. I was on the payroll of the Branch Lunatic Asylum, as well as the staff of 4 men: 1 on the Hill in charge of the Hospital and the prisoners, 1 physician for the Female Branch in The Hollow, a senior physician, and the superintendent. We had to substitute for each other in case of absence.

Our meals were brought from one kitchen where they cooked all the meals for those on the south end of the Island... I remember our first meal there. The cockroaches were abundant. I did not like the looks of the dishes or the tin "silverware." I got so used to the cockroaches that if one dropped in my soup, it was questionable as to whether I would notice it or not.

The means of communication with New York was by boat, which left at 11 o'clock every day, reached Hart's Island in the neighborhood of 1 o'clock, and left at 3. All other communication was by row-boat to City Island, a little over ½ mile.

I became interested in the situation of the Island, which to me was beautiful. With Long Island Sound filled with steamers, and City Island Rhodes [a sheltered part of the sound] so near, I found it very pleasant. Being a sort of water duck, one of the first things that I acquired was a Newport cat sailboat for diversion. I must say that as I looked at and treated the chronic insane, it struck me that they were simply castaways. There seemed to be no great interest in their recovery. They were simply given good care.

The beds had straw mattresses and springs that were changed as often as necessary, and always once a month. They had unbleached sheets with plenty of coarse army blankets, and a hair pillow. The beds were made up every morning, and they covered all the coarseness underneath with a beautiful white spread, and a pillow sham. To the onlooker they presented an excellent appearance, but they were never inspired to look at the straw beds underneath.

I would start my rounds in the morning at 9 o'clock and would go through the wards. Everything was as clean as possible. In my ward book I kept a record of the ill or complaining. I would talk with my patients if they wanted to speak to me. Every day I took a history of patients and prescribed. I spent my spare time doing research work or sailing my boat.

My first month was rather discouraging. I was afraid I would not be able to stay 6 months, but before 6 months was up, I was intensely interested, and there was something magnetic and pleasant about Hart's Island on the sound.

The prisoners were able-bodied men sentenced to imprisonment from 6 months to a year. They were committed mostly for petty crimes, intoxication, vagrancy, petty thievery. The women prisoners were of the same class, mostly, alcoholic and of loose character, among them some of the best cooks that we had, but good cooks are noted for their peculiarities.

Hart's Island was noted for a ghost, which was supposed to appear between the hours of 11 and 1 in the morning. This



Photo courtesy of JULIA RYAN

Dr. G.A. Smith, who worked on Hart Island in the late 1800s, wrote a memoir describing his work on Hart Island, excerpts of which are printed here. He was responsible for the construction of the Pavilion, the only 19th-century building left on the island before it was demolished in January.

ghost was supposed to be old man Hart who used to live on the Island. He became a soldier, died and was buried in that portion of Potter's Field that was reserved for the two posts in New York. It was seldom that you could get any of the employees to walk about 10 pm from one end of the island to the other. Generally, people whistled. I passed there many times, but I never have seen the ghost.

The oyster beds were numerous, and at low tide we could get a barrel of oysters without difficulty. Soft clams were numerous, too, and we often got enough to feed the patients as well as ourselves. We often got ourselves a supply of lobsters, although we could not supply the patients with these. My recreation was sailing, duck shooting in the fall and spring. Fishing was excellent, and the City Island shores were filled with fishermen on Saturdays and holidays.

My greatest interest was in the matter of the insane. I found that they were amenable to training, that they became easily hospitalized, that they would make beds, and would make them correctly. They would talk to themselves, but if spoken to, they would go on with their work. I found that the greatest medicine was occupation, diversion, attention, and suggestion. We found that we had some very fine talent, singers, dancers, etc.

The insane, at that time in New York, were simply put in hospitals and forgotten. There seemed to be a stigma to those who were committed, and families and relatives would keep away, and even though they got well, they were always treated just the same as an ex-prisoner is treated, with doubt. People did not know then as they know now that a person can be as sick in the head as they can be in the stomach. They know now that there is no reason for a stigma to be attached to the person who is committed.

Ninety percent of those insane can be taught, and will respond well to occupation and diversion, and will take suggestion. They will have spells of excitement in which they are not responsible for what do or say. Yet they go to their meals and go through the routine of the hospital without trouble.

In 1887, as the new building [the recently demolished Pavilion] was opened for women insane, this increased our census to 1,000 insane people. Gradually conditions were improved. All prison help was abolished, and no prisoners were detailed to the asylum side. The number of attendants and employees was increased. This was a great improvement, as the association with prisoners was not proper.

I became more and more interested in the work and made up my mind to con-

tinue this work in the care and treatment of the insane. We found many cases that were given up as incurable, sufficiently improved under this treatment to go home to their families and become useful citizens.

Most of the insane appreciate kindness. About 90 percent of them do, because, before commitment, most of them have been abused, and treated as cast-offs. Being treated kindly, having clean beds to sleep in, 3 meals a day no matter how bad, gave them a new life, and they approved of it. I can say that 4/5 of the patients that were on Hart's Island at that time, never lived as well as they lived as patients, as many of them came from the lower strata of society from the worst parts of New York.

In 1882, April, the superintendent resigned and I was appointed superintendent. I could have things entirely my own way. I then had 1,400 patients, of which 400 were men, the rest women. There was a staff of 7 doctors. I now lived in the Superintendent's cottage at the south end of the Island. I was enthusiastic and contented.

One December we were short of coal. The sound froze, and by the first of January we were frozen in without coal and no means of getting any. In the road by Hart's Island and City Island was a tow of 3 coal barges, which were frozen in on their way to Boston. The only way to get a supply was to get out to one of the barges. I skated out to the barge, made arrangements with the Captain to see if he could break the law. There were 300 tons of coal on board. I telegraphed to Dr. McDonald what I had done and waited for his answer. He replied, "go ahead." They brought the barge in to the dock, and the patients unloaded the barge.

One afternoon I found the cook laying with his head on the table. He had a fever and a high temperature of 105. I knew that there was a typhus fever epidemic in New York, and I knew that the cook had been to town a few days previous, so I diagnosed the case as typhus fever and had him put in quarantine at once. Then the trouble commenced. A second case broke out. From 2 cases we had 14, and out of the 14 we lost 2. During that time, I had the patients walk outdoors as much as possible. Every ward was thoroughly fumigated. Not one patient was affected. They showed no fear but went along as usual, and I did not have the slightest trouble with them. During that time the nurses offered their services willingly, and I had more volunteers than I needed. Of approximately 20 day nurses, not one of them were affected. One reason

Continued on page 19

**Let Helen & Tricia do all the work**

**Clam Diggers Laundromat**

**323 City Island Ave**

**347-449-7400**

**Senior Days (60+)**

**Tuesday and Thursday.**

**Pick up and drop off**

**15 percent off.**



**Open 7 days a wk 6:30 am - 8:30 pm**

**Last wash @ 7:30pm**

**FREE SOAP & BLEACH EVERYDAY**

# 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.



### Frank Ferrara

Frank Ferrara, who grew up on City Island, passed away suddenly at the age of 53 in Tannersville, PA, on Feb. 16, 2023.

Frank was born in the Bronx and graduated from Salesian High School, after which he went on to receive a culinary degree. As a teenager, he began his lifelong love of cooking at the Shrimp Box, and his career continued to grow at several other restaurants on City Island, including the Sea Shore, Lobster House and Sammy's Fish Box.

At the time of his death, Frank was working at the Original Pocono Pub in Bartonsville, PA. He was well known for his wonderful food and his willingness to mentor those who wanted to learn more about his craft. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing with his sons, especially at his childhood home, City Island.

Frank was predeceased by his father, Giuseppe Ferrara. He is survived by Denise (née Rodriguez) Ferrara, his wife of 26 years; his sons Jonathan and Christopher Ferrara; his mother, Virginia Ferrara; and his siblings, Josephine Moskowitz, Carmella Bellocchio and Alberto Ferrara; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.



### Helen Gregoire

City Island resident Helen Gregoire passed away on Feb. 6, 2023, at the age of 74.

Born in Greenock, Scotland, to Thomas and Mary Hardie, Helen was one of nine children. She was raised in Greenock, where she attended Captain Street primary school before graduating from St. Mary's

Loretta secondary school.

Helen worked many jobs after graduating from St. Mary's Loretta. As a young girl in Scotland, she worked on the factory floor for Playtex and was later a bus conductor. At the age of 21 she came to New York, where her first job was as a telephone overseas operator with AT&T.

Helen met her husband of 48 years, Claude Gregoire, in New York City. They were married at St. Agnes Church in Manhattan, where they raised two children, Claude Joseph James and Kelly Danielle.

Helen was a caregiver at heart. For the last 30 years of her life, she worked caring for others, both young and old, but she will be remembered by most as a family woman. She loved spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. She also loved having a laugh, a night out with friends, traveling, attending mass daily, her book club, yoga classes, walking and listening to a wide variety of music. She would go out of her way to help a friend in need and because of her outgoing personality, she made many.

Helen is survived by her children, Claude Joseph James and Kelly Danielle, and her son-in-law Domenick DiMasi and her daughter-in-law Megan Gregoire. She will be deeply missed by her three grandchildren, Ella Rose, Miles Mico and Evelyn Elizabeth. She is also survived by five siblings, her many nieces, and nephews, as well as close friends and extended family. Helen will be missed by everyone who knew her.

A celebration of Helen's life was held at the Pelham Funeral Home on Feb. 10 and a memorial service took place at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Feb. 14.



Photo by RON TERNER

### Mary Ann Manfredonia

Longtime City Island resident Mary Ann Manfredonia passed away at the age of 81 on Jan. 26, 2023, at her Bowne Street home surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Mary Ann Babel was born on Aug. 2, 1941. She moved to City Island at the age of 9 with her parents, Marie and William Babel, and her baby sister, Joan, who still lives on City Island with her husband, Richard Kretzmer. After attending P.S. 17, where she met lifelong friends, Mary Ann graduated from Columbus High School and set out for new adventures.

After graduation, she went to California, but returned a few years later, when City Island called her back. She worked as a hairdresser at Lina Petite. She met Ralph (Ray Jones) Manfredonia and on Feb. 24, 1973, they were married. They settled first on Carroll Street and then on Bowne Street, where they raised their four children, Keith, Dean, Elise and Ralph.

Mary Ann was affectionately known as the Diva by all who knew her. She was always ready for fun and excitement and opened her home to the many City Island friends of her children. As her children grew, so did Mary Ann's interests. She loved to travel with family and friends,

and finding new places or locating the best that Manhattan, Westchester, the U.S.A. or Europe had to offer was a passion for her. However, her travels always brought her back to City Island, where she attended many City Island functions and participated in or donated to various organizations.

Her zest for life and her love for family and friends will be missed by all who knew her.



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

### Retirement Rule Changes for 2023

In December 2022, Congress just passed some new retirement rule changes that will affect how much you can save for retirement, and how much and when you must withdraw from traditional retirement accounts.

Mary Ann was predeceased by her husband, Ralph, and her grandson Keith. She is survived by her four children and their spouses, Keith and Lisa; Dean and Joanne, Elise and Dominick, Ralph and Jennifer, as well as 10 grandchildren, whom she adored, and her sister, brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and she was interred in Pelham Cemetery.

To summarize: Starting in 2023, Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) ages have been revamped. If you have a traditional IRA, a 401(k) and/or a 403(b), federal regulations require minimum withdrawal amounts based on IRS life expectancy tables.

New regulations state that if you were born between 1951 and 1959, the need RMD age is 73, and RMD withdrawals must start at age 75 for those born in 1960 or later.

Prior rules have not been revised, so if you were required to start taking your RMD at 72 and have already started doing so, you must continue to do so in accordance with the IRS RMD tables.

In addition, you must take the minimum, but you can always withdraw more than the minimum if you either want or need to do so.



## Insuring City Island families and businesses since 1965.



Homeowners

Business Owners Policies

Auto

Liability

Flood

Workers Compensation

Landlord Packages

Life, Health & Long Term Care

Call or stop by for a quote.  
www.islandinsuranceagency.com

(718) 885-1050  
(718) 885-3419  
498 City Island Ave.  
City Island, NY 10464  
info@islandinsuranceagency.com



al maintains an excellent redressing and retraining service whereby the... restored at a nominal charge... d is inspected... and dressed... n radius and ac... ned at nominal... outour of the cut... ces. Each gener... edging diamond... face is returned... of cutting face... diamond impreg... as an excellent red... a nominal charge... ed and correct... sed for maximum... d acid etched for... ul charge if ren... and each edging... cutting face is... for proper taper and r...

# CLASSIFIED

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

**CLEANING SERVICES:** Home or Office City Island references available. Text Fany @ 646-881-2784.

**DAVE, THE PAINTER & MORE:** Painting and plastering, electrical, carpentry, plumbing. Professional work at affordable rates. Call for a free quote. C.I. references available. 646-548-8573.

**MARY COLBY STUDIO GALLERY** open by appointment to browse and shop. Call 917-804-4509.

**ISLAND RESIDENT SALE:** Brand new, never used Brothers sewing machine \$100, Kitchen Aid food processor, never used \$45, Garden Joy bench/kneeler unopened box \$20, upright Kenmore vacuum with attachments and bags \$25, white ceramic planter 18" high x 16" wide \$45. Vizio 18" screen TV \$30, framed and unframed prints and paintings \$20 to \$100. Call 718-885-2327.

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

**EXCLUSIVE NEW LISTING:** Waterfront, newly renovated, 2 bedroom/2 bath ranch-style condo. CAC, LR, kitchen-new granite counters, new SS appliances, large closets, new 50 gal. water heater, 1 car garage, pool, mooring space, low taxes \$4200 yr. Pet friendly. For an appointment, pre-qualified buyers may call: Licensed realtor, Maria Swieciki, Today Realty Corp. at 718-885-0017 (cell).

**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. Show your bridge love!

**PART-TIME SECRETARIAL POSITION AVAILABLE** at Trinity United Methodist Church on City Island. Must be computer literate. Average of 7 hours per week, with an annual salary of \$5000. Email your resume and/or questions to [PatL724@aol.com](mailto:PatL724@aol.com).

**OWENS TREE EXPERTS:** Tree trimming & removal. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call 718-885-0914.

**FOR SALE: DRIVE MEDICAL SCOUT COMPACT TRAVEL POWER SCOOTER:** Lightweight, easy to disassemble. Like new, driven less than 1 mile. Originally \$1200 now \$800. Cash only. Call 718-335-5057, leave phone number and message.

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

**O'PIDDLE D'POO!** Daily individualized walks, leash training, pet sitting. Caring for City Island's adorable pets for 20+ years. References available. Call 646-316-6089.

**CALLING ALL PARENTS:** Give the gift of educational expertise to yourself and your child. As an experienced child development specialist/certified school psychologist/parent educator who has worked in schools for over fifty years, I will help you and your child to develop a toolbox for lifelong learning and resiliency at home and in school. Call John Scardina 718-885-9305.

**CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS:** Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

**JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED:** Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

**AVON REPRESENTATIVE:** Full line of cosmetics, jewelry, clothes and much more. Call Emily Leni at 718-885-2430 for a catalog, or view my website on [avon.com/eleni](http://avon.com/eleni). (My rep name is Erminia Leni).

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

**SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER:** I will clean your house, office or boat. City Island references available. Call Margaret 917-287-1132.

**BOAT SUPPLIES: BURCK'S BOAT STORE,** 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559. Open 8a.m. Customer parking.

## HI Memoir

Continued from page 17

was that they were not timid. Another was that I ordered them to go out on the beach in the fresh air every hour.

In July 1893 the Branch Work House was abolished. Due to the overcrowded conditions in the asylum for insane, the buildings occupied were turned over to the asylum with the exception of barracks for 30 men. I was acting Deputy Warden, and I might say undertaker. I now had the whole Island for the insane with the exception of a few prisoners for burial purposes. A church had been built at the south end of the Island, and a hall was used for church at the north of the Island. Religious services were carried on by Catholic, Protestant, and Episcopal ministers. A Jesuit priest came every Friday, and would remain until Monday. An Episcopal minister would come every Saturday and remain until Monday.

Aside from the smell of garbage, everything was beautiful. I had the patients remain outdoors as much as possible. I must say that I found it very pleasant for me and my family, and I found that the insane were appreciative and sensitive to kindness, and that the majority of them were happy.

Nevertheless, I would not look upon it as a proper place for the insane. Although it was a beautiful spot, we were subject to terrific storms. Also it was rather confin-

ing for the employees, as there is no social life except among the hospital staff. I found that a superintendent of a hospital must know something about everything, instead of knowing everything about something, as a specialist does. I found nothing in my association with the insane that caused me fear, but I grew more interested in the work every day.

Dr. McDonald in 1888 had the city buy 1,000 acres of land on Long Island, for the purpose of establishing a farm for the insane. In 1895 he wanted me to go down and act as first superintendent of Central Islip to organize it, as Hart's Island would never be improved, as no further buildings would be built. Naturally I answered that I would go. He asked me to go look over the place so that I would know what to expect. I returned that night to the Island, and never did it look so good to me. Electric lights shone from every window, and the effect was cozy and looked like home to me. The knowledge that I was a water duck, and a boating enthusiast left me with an empty homesick feeling, for I knew that inland there would be none on those things.

I will never forget saying goodbye to several of the patients. Some of them who never spoke at all during the time they were on the Island jumped up and grabbed my hand, shook it, and said "Goodbye Dr. Smith. I wish you success."



(718) 885-0429 • Fax: (718) 885-2120  
P.O. Box 58 • City Island, NY 10464

**ALL PRO MARINE CONTRACTING CORP.**

Dock Building & Pile Driving  
Bulkheads & Surveys • Towing & Salvage



**exp REALTY**

**YOUR GO-TO AGENT!**

Helping people find their dream home IS MY PASSION!

777 Westchester Ave, Ste 101  
White Plains, NY 10604  
[janie.blanks@exprealty.com](mailto:janie.blanks@exprealty.com)

**JANIE BLANKS**  
RE Associate Broker

PHONE: 646-404-1040

## Your Ad Could Be Here



You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you.

1888 200 4005 • [adoptuskids.org](http://adoptuskids.org)



### LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Betty Lavelle-Esola & Maureen McEnery-Hraska

Residential  
Condos  
Commercial



Houses  
Co-ops  
Rentals

City Island ♦ Country Club ♦ Throggs Neck ♦ Pelham Bay

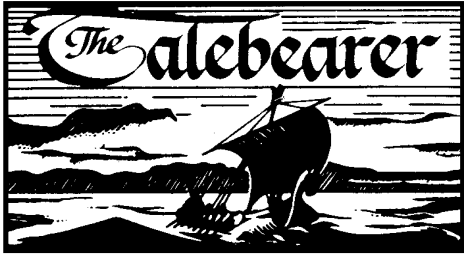
*A City Island business serving City Island*

562 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464

718-885-9600

[www.cityislandrealestateny.com](http://www.cityislandrealestateny.com)  
[agent@cityislandrealestateny.com](mailto:agent@cityislandrealestateny.com)





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.



Annabelle Carmen DeRosa was born on Jan. 31, 2023.



Isolde Josephine Rodstrom came into the world on Jan. 17, 2023.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Schofield Street's Betty Carman, who is recuperating at home from a nasty fall last month.

Happy birthday on March 31 to Lola Sage, with love from the Lotrionte family.

Congratulations to Tina Ruggiero on passing the broker's licensing exam! She

is now an Associate Broker with Century 21 Marciano.

Welcome to baby Isolde Josephine Rodstrom, who came into the world on Jan. 17. Big brother Benjamin couldn't be more proud, and, of course, parents, Matthew and Lisa, and the entire Rodstrom family. Ben and his cousins, James and Henry, all become happy two-year-olds in March and April.

Happy March 31 birthday wishes to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, with love from your family and friends. Enjoy your special day!

A very warm welcome to Carroll Street's newest residents, Emma Ruth Huang, R.N., and John Paul Huang.

Very happy birthday greetings to Dotty Tomsen (March 11), Eugene Occhicone (March 15) and Judy McCormick (March 18), with lots of love from your family and friends.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Anne and Scouse McIntyre, who will celebrate their anniversary on March 28.

Congratulations and wishing much success to Matthew Breines, who has taken over the family window treatment business.

The Pena family has lots of birthdays to celebrate: a belated first birthday to



Islander Matthew Breines is now in charge of his family window treatment business.

Ryder Pena on Feb. 26, Bobby Pena on March 7 and Ryan Pena on March 31.

Happy birthday wishes on March 8 to Christopher Butterworth, with love from your family and friends.

Say hello to Annabelle Carmen

DeRosa, who arrived on Jan. 31, 2023. Thrilled are parents Izzi and Michael DeRosa and proud big brother, Daniel.

Welcome to spring, which arrives on Monday, March 20!

Maria Swieciki

## THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?

### Top 3 Reasons Why:

- Lowest inventory since I started in the business in 2006.
- Consistent buyer demand keeping home prices very high.
- Because I LOVE helping my clients achieve their goals!

Please call me for a confidential meeting, or if you have any questions. I would love to help you.

**THE TIME IS NOW!**



Louise DelGiudice

914.497.9021

louisedel.c21@gmail.com

#1 Century 21 Agent in Westchester & The Bronx 2022

#14 Century 21 Agent in New York State

**CENTURY 21** Marciano

## EDMOND (Teddy) PRYOR ATTORNEY AT LAW

(718) 829-0222  
www.pryorlaw.com

292 City Island Avenue  
City Island  
New York 10464

**CRAB SHANTY**  
361 CITY ISLAND AVENUE  
885-1810

OPEN 7 DAYS  
(11a.m.-2a.m.)  
DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS



PARKING AVAILABLE

### MOVING?

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:  
ISLAND CURRENT, P.O. BOX 6, CITY ISLAND, NY 10464

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ALLOW 6-8 WEEKS FOR CHANGE TO TAKE EFFECT.

### Subscriptions



**The Island Current**  
P.O. Box 6 City Island, N.Y. 10464

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT.# \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Send a Gift Subscription to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT.# \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Rate: \$12 per year Gift Card to Read \_\_\_\_\_

(Rate on Request for Airmail, U.K. & Europe). All subscriptions prepaid. Enclose check or M.O.—Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of first issue.



358 City Island Avenue  
City Island, NY 10464  
jgl358@verizon.net  
718-885-0200

SU-SU BALLOONS • 885-1834

