

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

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

Volume 51 Number 8 October 2022

One Dollar

9/11 MURAL MAKEOVER

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RENA HANSEN and MATT PANZA

The 9/11 mural on Carroll Street is being restored through the efforts of Bob Carmody (seated, bottom right photo) and painter Chris Mantiera (far right). The original mural was completed in October 2001 but has deteriorated over time.

A number of residents have grown dismayed over the deterioration of the mural on the side of the building at the northeast corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue. The mural was the creation of several artists and business owners in memory of clam diggers and friends who were killed in the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

Bob Carmody of AER Realty was involved in the original plans for the mural. Bob worked with another clam digger, Claudia Deich, who ran Buddy Pontecorvo's hardware store back in 2001. Claudia and the Pontecorvo family, which owned the building, agreed to let the mural be painted on the outside wall in commemoration of 9/11.

Island artist Jane Curtin worked on the design, which was eventually finalized and painted by Chris Mantiera, an artist from Throggs Neck who was working on Fordham Street for John Mini Landscaping. Chris told *The Current*, "I had a lot of emotion for the project after witnessing the collapse of the towers with my own eyes." Mr. Mantiera added many of the patriotic elements, including images of the towers, Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty.

The original mural was completed by October 2001. However, it had already begun to deteriorate after 10 years, so a partial restoration was done around that time organized by Mr. Carmody, Ms. Curtin and Islander Janie Blanks. But the solemn and patriotic artwork continued to peel, and the colors faded, caused by the ravages of time and weather.

Fast forward to 2020 when Mr. Carmody tried to get the restoration going. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit and delayed the start of the project. Then in 2022, he contacted the new owners of the building, JEK, run by Joe and Jack Briody. They gave permission and a generous donation to spearhead the complete restoration of the mural.

In September 2022, Bob posted an ad on his Facebook page asking for artists to help with the project. Fortunately, the original painter, Mr. Mantiera, saw the ad and reached out to Bob. Ironically, the two had never met when the original mural was created as Mr. Mantiera did most of the painting after his regular workday was done.

Chris told Bob: "I don't want it to disappear and lose an amazing tribute to

those who died on 9/11." So with some fundraising and the support of Islanders, the restoration began in early September. Mr. Carmody also organized a Tunnel to Towers (T2T) event on Sept. 18 to raise awareness of the mural restoration and commemorate members of the FDNY and others lost on 9/11. Speakers at that event included Rev. Jolly of Trinity United Methodist Church, Stuart Sorell from Temple Beth-El, T2T Ambassador Jim Reilly and military veterans.

It is important to recall those in whose memory the mural was created. Maurice Kelly of Bay Street was a carpenter who worked on the 103rd floor of the World Trade Center. Mr. Kelly was relatively new to City Island, having moved here only a couple of years before 2001, living first on Fordham Street and later on Bay Street. He needed the larger place because he had custody of his two sons.

According to Mr. Carmody, Maurice's first friend on the Island, he had worked for Conrail but took a job with the Carpenter's Union at the World Trade Center so that he could have more time for his boys. Even in his short time on the Island, Maurice gained many friends and participated in the life of the community as a Little League coach.

Jimmy Waring had not lived on City Island in the years leading up to 2001, but he grew up on Centre Street and was considered a clam digger. He worked as a security guard at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 106th floor and perished in the tragedy when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. The greatest single loss was suffered by the Cantor Fitzgerald company, which was located on the top five floors above where the plane struck the tower.

John D'Allara, the twin brother of Islander Dan D'Allara, was a member of the New York Police Department's Emergency Service's Unit Truck 2 for nearly 20 years and served at countless rescues around New York City before losing his life on Sept. 11. Danny, a Bronx native who moved to City Island several years ago after marrying lifelong City Island resident Angela Booth, was one of 35 people in the nation to lose a twin sibling in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Dan spent most of his free time, including nearly every weekend, overseeing the search for his twin brother at Ground Zero. He received the call he had



been dreading on April 11, when recovery workers found John's remains.

Lastly, one of Bob Carmody's closest friends, Firefighter Vincent Princiotta of Ladder Company 7, 29th Street, was one of the rescuers who were lost when the towers collapsed. A Bronx native and a resident of New Rochelle, he was best man at Bob's wedding and godfather to his daughter, Kelly.

To preserve the memory of these lives and others lost on 9/11, Mr. Mantiera hopes the mural restoration will be completed in about six weeks, in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For those watching the progress, he has had to put a solid layer across the top where the sky was previously depicted. But this layer will be covered with neon colors that resemble the original.

Mr. Carmody plans to hold a re-dedication ceremony once the project is

completed. You can visit his Facebook page under Robert Carmody or City Island Rocks for updates on the restoration of this special City Island mural.

ORCHARD BEACH EMERGENCY CENTER

On Thursday, Sept. 22, Mayor Eric Adams announced that because of the increased number of refugees seeking asylum, temporary shelters will be constructed in New York City. Within a few weeks, winterized tents are planned for the Orchard Beach parking lot, designed to provide shelter for single adults, mostly men, lasting no more than four days. Cots will be lined up in rows, and services provided will include showers, medical and mental health care and legal information.

CLAM UP!



Photo by MATT PANZA

The annual clam chowder contest was held on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, in Hawkins Park during the Chamber of Commerce Arts & Craft Fair with help from volunteers like Rose Kolb (above).

BRIEFLY...

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS DINNER DANCE

will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Harlem Yacht Club. This year's honorees are Jerry Landi; Sue Kawczynski; Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir; the American Legion Post 156, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion; and Anthony's Italian Restaurant. The cost for the dinner is \$85, and reservations can be made at the Kaleidoscope Gallery, payable by check or cash. Checks with a guest list can be sent to the City Island Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 13, Bronx NY 10464 or by making a donation to the Chamber on the organization's PayPal account, which can be reached through www.cityislandchamber.org.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held by the Bronx Masons on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. You will need to show a photo ID before you can donate. The life you save may be your own!

MUSIC LESSONS FOR KIDS for grades 3 through 8 are being offered at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in partnership with Paul Effman Music. Instruments include trumpet, flute, clarinet, trombone, saxophone, bells and drums, and there will be modest tuition fees. For more information, e-mail gregclancy@hotmail.com.

FALL CLEAN-UP! On Saturday, Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. a City Island clean-up organized by the City Island Civic Association and the City Island Strong Coalition, together with the NYC Department of Sanitation, will begin in front of Hawkins Park. Entertainment and other festivities will follow. Be sure to make your calendars.

ATTENTION TRICK OR TREATERS: On Oct. 29, starting at 4 p.m., all trick or treaters are welcome to stop by the Masonic Lodge at 241 City Island Avenue for a trick-or-treat experience via a quick walk through the haunted house. Please come out and join the brothers of Pelham Lodge #712 for some Halloween fun! Then join the Halloween parade starting at Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue on Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m.

LATIN DANCE CLASS, presented by the P.T.A. of P.S. 175 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, will be held at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Thursday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. Learn to dance salsa, bachata and merengue and enjoy Latin appetizers and finger foods. Free of charge and fun for the whole family. For more information, go to the website www.cityislandpta.org.

SECOND ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME SALE, sponsored by the P.T. A. of P.S. 175, will be held at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. If you wish to donate new or gently used costumes, leave them in front of P.S. 175 in the tan bin. For more information, go to the website www.cityislandpta.org.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during August and September 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - FORGED INSTRUMENT
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Aug. 23 to Sept. 22, 2022.

8/28/22- Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 58, driving approximately 35 mph in a 25 mph zone on Fordham Street at 12:30 a.m., and with upon inquiry his license plate was discovered to have been forged and the defendant was found to be operating a vehicle with a revoked NYS ID.

8/29/22 - On City Island Avenue at 2:40 p.m., an off-Island female told police that when she was at a commercial establishment, another off-Island female assaulted her. Complainant states while on line buying food the defendant approached her, tapped her on her shoulder and asked "Hey what's up?" Complainant states that after she told the defendant not to speak to her, the defendant punched her on the right side of face with a closed fist, striking her right ear.

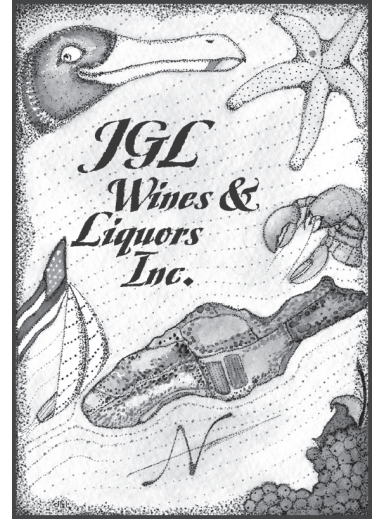
9/2/22 - An incident of harassment was reported on Fordham Street at 8 a.m. Complainant stated she has received multiple notes left on her car by an unknown person, who she believes might be following her and causing her to be alarmed for her safety.

9/3/22 - At 5:27 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island female reported aggravated harassment. Complainant states her former employer keeps contacting her via cell phone after multiple requests to stop texting and

calling her. Complainant states defendant was able to gain access to her Instagram and e-mail accounts, which she was able to retrieve after telling defendant that she was calling the police.

9/11/22 - On Cross Street at 12:45 a.m., a male Islander told police that an unknown vehicle was making a left turn onto City Island Avenue when it struck him, causing injury and pain to his neck. A female driver exited the vehicle and asked if he was okay but when the complainant started to call 911, she fled the scene of the accident without leaving any information.

9/14/22 - An Island female reported an incident of criminal mischief on Reville Street at 8 p.m. The victim parked her vehicle and upon return found that all four tires were slashed by an unknown person.



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PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt and Matt Panza
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 2022 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.



Clam Chowder Contest

Photos by MATT PANZA
Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez sponsored the event and selected as her favorites the Harlem Yacht Club for the

Manhattan clam chowder and Johnny's Reef for the New England chowder. The People's Choice Winners for the Manhattan clam chowder were the Harlem Yacht Club for first place and Johnny's Reef for second place. The New England clam chowder from the Sea Shore Restaurant won first prize as the People's Choice, and Sammy's Fish Box came in second.

City Island Filmmaker Wins Awards

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Hyonok Kim (right) with Dani Jae, who presented her experimental film "Weeping Water" with the award for best experimental film at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival award ceremony in August 2022.

Islander Hyonok Kim received several important awards for her short film "Weeping Water," most recently at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival in Hollywood, where it received the award for best experimental film of 2020 on Aug. 27, 2022.

"Weeping Water" focuses on the destruction of sea life, telling the story of a shark whose fin was cut off and sold for fifty cents, leaving him to struggle until his death. As the filmmaker herself describes the film as "the perils of a shark whose fin is hunted to sell as a delicacy. The dancer interprets the grace of the shark's movements until the dire moment when he is captured in ropes and his fin is severed. The pain, the struggle and the inescapable death of the wounded shark are meant to project the suffering of all animals haunted to satisfy the human greed for domination over all living species. A shark's fin sells for 50 cents but costs this magnificent animal his life."

The film has also received best experi-

mental film awards at the International New York Film Festival, the New York Movie Awards and the One/Reeler Short Film Festival, as well as a best achievement award at both the Tagore International Film Festival and the Luis Bunuel Memorial Award Ceremony.

Hyonok Kim's other films have won many awards at international film festivals, including "For Sunrise," filmed entirely on City Island in 2018, as was her early film "Night Divide Yourself." "Dance with Horses" (2017) and "Ode on a Korean Urn" (2011) were shown on City Island at a film event organized by Ron Turner in 2019.

She was born in South Korea, where she was a professor in the dance department at Keimyung University. She earned a PhD in art at the Université de Paris, where she also studied dance, and then came to New York, where she studied film directing at the New York Film Academy. She has lived on City Island for over 20 years and is now working on a new film that will be partially shot at Orchard Beach.

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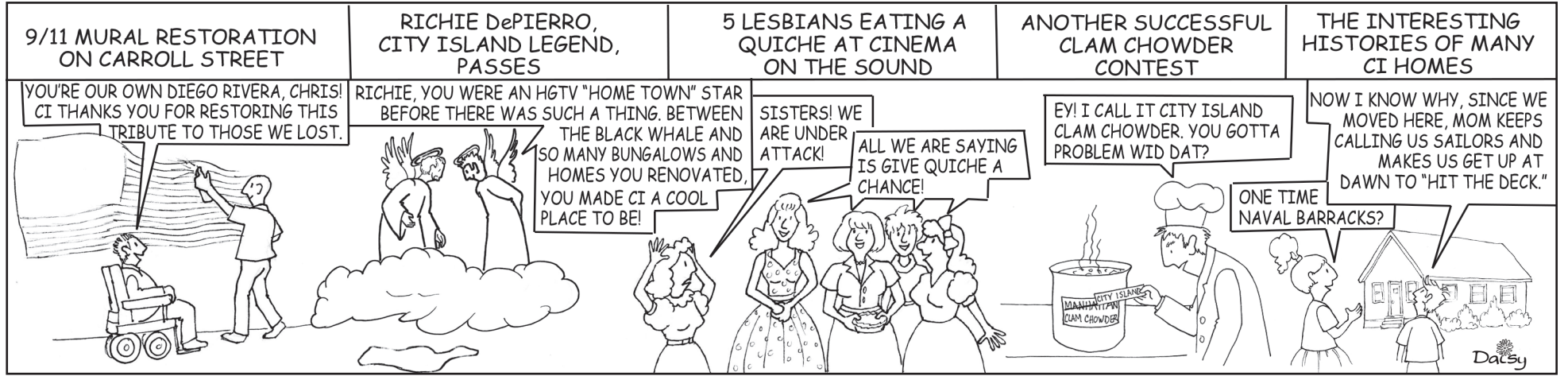
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Fall Street Fair a Success

To the Editor:

The Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, was a huge success. We had a record-breaking number of vendors taking 80 booths that lined City Island Avenue in the Central Business District.

We again shared the weekend with



9/11 Reflections Table in Hawkins St. park.

the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The Chamber, along with the help of Rabia Graney and her crew from City Island State of Mind, set up a reflection area in Hawkins Park and invited people whose lives were changed by that tragic day, to stop by, sit, reflect and write their thoughts and feelings, notes to loved ones, etc. The notes were sealed, placed into a lock box and later blessed by representatives of all the houses of worship on City Island.

Also on Saturday, we held our annual City Island Chowder Contest, which was co-sponsored by Councilperson, Marjorie Velázquez. Again, restaurants and yacht clubs participated by donating either New England Clam Chowder (white), Manhattan Clam Chowder (red) or both, for the People's Choice and Councilperson Velázquez's blind taste test. Local volunteers helped serve chowder, and everyone enjoyed this feel-good community event. The big winners were the Harlem Yacht Club, Sea Shore Restaurant, Johnny's Reef and Sammy's Fishbox.

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City Island Culinary Club

By KENNETH SELESKY

On Monday, Sept. 12, the City Island Culinary Club was very excited to start its eighth season. The group meets twice a month on Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, at 190 Fordham Street, where recipes based on a monthly theme are shared and discussed. In addition to cooking and sharing recipes, the group also supports the City Island community whenever needed by baking or cooking for events and sales.

September was all about recipes involving lemons: lemon chicken with lemon-roasted vegetables, and for dessert we had a no-bake lemon cheese cake. A great time was had by all, and the group would be happy to welcome anyone who would like to join the fun.

Here is a recipe that is easy and delicious for a weeknight dinner or for weekend company.

Easy Lemon Chicken

- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons minced garlic (about 9 cloves)
- 1/3 cup dry white wine (we used chardonnay)
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest (about 2 lemons' worth)
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon minced dried thyme leaves
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 boneless chicken breasts, skin on
- 1 lemon

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Warm the olive oil in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the garlic and cook for only a minute; don't allow the garlic to turn brown. Off the heat, add the white wine, lemon zest, lemon juice, oregano, thyme, and 1 teaspoon of salt, and pour into a 9-by 12-inch baking dish.

3. Pat the chicken breasts dry and place them skin side up over the sauce. Brush the chicken breasts with olive oil and sprinkle them liberally with salt and pepper. Cut the lemon into 8 wedges and tuck them among the pieces of chicken.

4. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, depending on the size of the chicken breasts, until the chicken is done and the skin is lightly browned. Allow to rest for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and serve hot with the pan juices.

For October the club will be exploring the subject of pickling for the second time. The first time this subject was explored was back in 2016, and it was amazing what the members came up with. Did you ever taste a pickled strawberry?

A Current Review

“5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche”

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by CAI HALL

The cast of "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche," presented at Cinema on the Sound during August: (l. to r.): Tygar Hall, Stephanie Bonner, Antonia Marrero, Cassandra Giovine and Lina Sarrello.

Jerry Landi has a mission. Chef at the Clipper Café by day, he spends his spare time converting a former antique shop into a City Island performance space. Cinema on the Sound at 270 City Island Avenue, although not fully evolved, has been up and running for some time. The space is quaint and intimate, with about 50 seats, and up to this point the theater has mainly presented (mostly classic) movies that have drawn Jerry's attention.

This changed with the August presentation of "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche" by the All-Hands Theater Company. Cinema on the Sound has clearly entered new territory, and City Island can look forward to an ever-expanding catalogue of performance types from the venue.

"5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche" is a high-concept show. The play itself is a farce, meant to be ridiculous, but it brings many 1956 truths to the fore along with the humor. Written by Evan Linder and Andrew Hobgood in 2012 and directed by Island resident Tygar Hall, the story opens with the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein holding its annual quiche breakfast, in, oddly enough, a bomb shelter. As the assembled crowd awaits the announcement of the society's prize-winning quiche, air raid sirens sound! Have we suffered an atomic attack from the Communists? Can the quiches outside the shelter be saved? How will the society respond as their idyllic town and lifestyle face attacks? In short, the story presents 1956-era elements—the omnipresent fear of nuclear war juxtaposed with the cult of female domesticity.

The play was presented enthusiastically and interactively by the All-Hands Theater Company as a sort of theater-in-

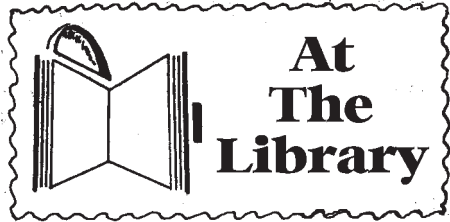
the-round. Each audience member was assigned a character name as he or she entered and was then randomly pulled into the action of the play. I myself learned that I had been acting suspiciously at a party the day before. Some poor devil who had forgotten his quiche was roasted throughout the evening.

The play is crammed with increasingly obvious innuendo. The ladies ask what sort of society member wants to put sausage—horrors, meat!—in a quiche, that pure vehicle of egg? Then there were the constant references to eggs. Something to do with the society's founder, although the feminine attributes of eggs are merely hinted at. Finally, at the official quiche tasting, one of the tasters gets carried away and dives head first (make that tongue first) into the winning entry.

"5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche" was first written as a 10-minute playlet before it was developed into a full-length play. The show was a hit at the 2012 New York Fringe Festival before settling into an extended run at the SoHo Playhouse. The All-Hands Theater Company's production of the show featured Stephanie Bonner, Cassandra Giovine, Tygar Hall, Antonia Marrero and Lina Sarrello. There wasn't a weak link in this chain, as all of them turned in great performances.

Nearly all backstage tasks were also handled by the play's actors (an impressive feat) except for the lighting by Eddie Jackson, banner design by Wes Roundtree and poster design by Ryan Bedford. The producer was Cai Hall.

All performances of the play were to sold-out houses. We look forward to more productions of this caliber from Cinema on the Sound.



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OCTOBER 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.

Bilingual Storytime: It is Spanish story time! Gather your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun! ¡Tiempo de Lectura para niños! ¡Media hora de cuentos cortos, rimas, música, y diversión! First come, first served. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 11 a.m.

Books and Bites: Every week, come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! Our current book is "Before the Ever After" by Jacqueline

Woodson. Ages 10 to 14. Monday, Oct. 17 and 24, 3 to 4 p.m.

OCTOBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Twisted Stitches: A teen/tween knitting, crochet, and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Thursdays at 3 p.m.

Latinx Heritage Month Programs: Celebrate Latinx heritage with crafts and discussions that explore culture, landmarks and more from Spain and South America. Vejigante Mask Art on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m.. Venezuela's Kerepakupai Merú on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 3 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. In October, all month long, we will be enjoying J.R.R. Tolkien's classic and genre-defining series "The Lord of the Rings." with crafts and activities! Lord of the Rings Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 7; Hobbit Riddles on Oct. 14; Lord of the Rings Bookmarks on Oct. 21; Lord of the Rings Trivia on Oct. 28.

OCTOBER 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, Oct. 6 and 20, at 11 a.m.

Color Me Calm: 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, Oct. 13 and 27, at 11 a.m.

Spanish Café: Online Advanced Spanish Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish-language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and other exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself. Coffee or tea encouraged! Every Wednesday at 4 p.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, Oct. 3 and 17, 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.

Movie Screening: Come and join us as we screen core works that define the new queer cinema movement! Saturday, Oct. 1

and 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Adults 18 +

ESOL Cafe! Online Beginner English Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for beginner non-English speakers to practice their conversational skills by discussing life, the arts, food, culture, current events and other topics of interest. Patrons will be welcomed to ask questions regarding grammar, syntax, pronunciation and translation in order to facilitate their learning process. Register online. Every Friday at 10 a.m.

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.

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Military Barracks on City Island, and Other Housing Models

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

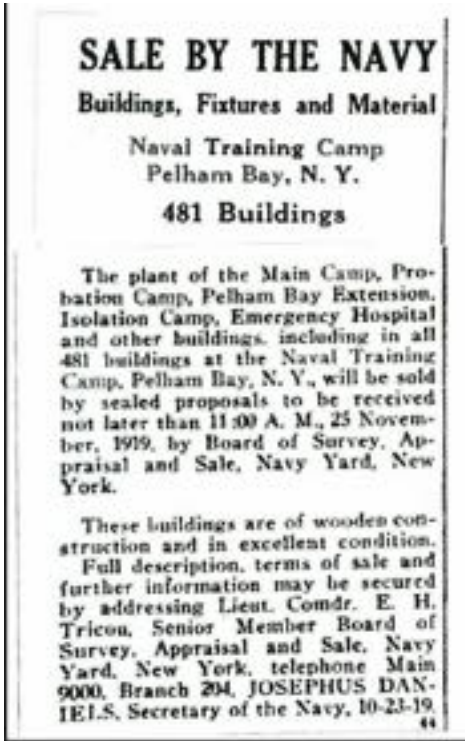
In a map of Pelham, NY, drawn in 1868, one can count about 100 buildings on City Island, most of them residential dwellings. The largest houses were at the north end, near the ferry dock, or at the southern end, where they were built and owned by members of the Horton family. In the center there were many smaller buildings, several of them belonging to the oystering Fordham and Leviness families, farmers such as Daniel and William Scofield, and various businesses, including hotels, bars and shops. In those days the population of Pelham was 1,025, and most of the residents lived on City Island.

In a current map of City Island, one can count at least 20 times that number of buildings, most of them houses. The 2020 American Community Survey, based on information from the U.S. Census Bureau, indicates that there are 1,874 occupied households on City Island, more than half of the houses having been built before 1939.

The construction of the first bridge from the mainland to City Island in 1873 increased the population here, and it was during the last decades of the 19th century that City Island became established as a desirable place to live, especially in the summer. August Belmont Jr. began to buy up large pieces of property at the turn of the 20th century (see the September issue of *The Island Current*) with the hope of creating a prosperous upper-class community on City Island like that at Tuxedo Park. Wealthy boatyard owners, members of Tammany Hall and other notables constructed large summer houses on the shore for themselves, with smaller houses nearby as rental properties. One of the most appealing collection of cottages built as summer rentals is at the west end of Rochelle Street, built by Henry Sayers Sr., the founder of Minneford Yacht Yard.

In 1914, a real estate firm calling itself City Island Homes, under the direction of the prominent realtor Joseph P. Day, proposed dividing the island into five residential parks, which consisted of the properties that August Belmont had purchased. Day published a very attractive booklet promoting City Island's attractions. It isn't clear how many lots actually sold in 1914, but a decade later, after Belmont's death in 1924, Day's firm sponsored a major auction offering 30 lots on City Island and the following year a second auction offering 170 lots in "Rodman Park," which had originally been open farmland and orchards between Centre and Pilot Streets. It was at that point that all of the streets between Centre and Pilot Streets were given names drawn from City Island history.

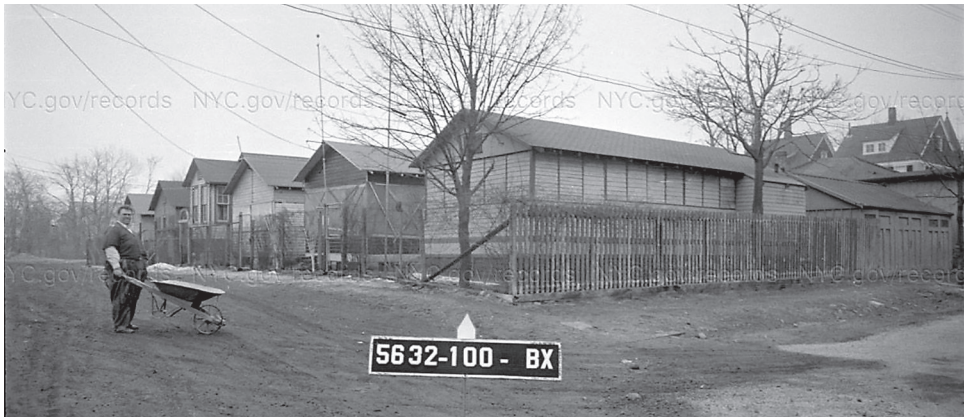
As the boat-building and sail-making businesses grew on the Island, year-round houses were in high demand by workers and their families. Some property owners



on City Island during the first third of the 20th century built their own houses, many of them of brick, in order to prevent the threat of fire that had destroyed so many wooden houses. In the early 1920s, the owner of the former market at the corner of City Island Avenue and Fordham Street built a row of small houses facing each other just behind the building to house members of his family. And in 1926, as an added attraction to the building lots, Joseph P. Day's firm offered "beautiful year round homes" with steam heat, eight rooms and a sleeping porch for prices that ranged from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

But there were other ways to construct houses that didn't require so much attention or money. When the Pelham Bay Naval Station closed in 1919 after the end of World War I, ads appeared in local newspapers offering all 481 buildings for sale. Islander Richie DePierro recalled that his grandfather had purchased a great deal of lumber from the Navy to build houses "in the Bronx," and these may have been on City Island, but it is also clear that actual barracks ended up as private houses here. Several houses are recognizable as barracks today on the south side of Tier Street east of William Avenue, on Bay Street between William and City Island Avenues, and on Centre Street. They are easily recognizable by their long rectangular shape, and some of them still have the original rows of windows.

Perhaps the most economical way to construct a year-round house on a small lot was to order a "kit house," a pre-fabricated structure that one could order by mail, have



Photos from NYC MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES and by BARBARA DOLENSEK

During the first four decades of the 20th century, City Island's population expanded considerably, thanks to the boat-building business, and private houses sprang up all over the Island. In 1918, after the end of World War I, the Naval Training Station in Pelham Bay Park offered its buildings for sale. Many of the barracks are now homes here, including the row of houses along Tier Street, documented in 1940 and in 2022. During the 1920s, properties owned by the August Belmont Jr. syndicate were sold for new housing; in 1935, summer tents evicted from Orchard Beach ended up on City Island, and kit houses became very popular.

it delivered and arrange for a local contractor to put it together. Sears Roebuck houses are the best known, and the firm sold nearly 70,000 kits throughout the country between 1908 and 1940. At least one of their houses is on City Island, on the north side of Pell Place, where it is known as the Captain John H. Stafford house, named for its owner who worked for Marshall Field III as the captain of his yacht *Corisande*. The house was ordered from a catalogue where it was called The Osborn, "inspired by the Golden West," and was offered for sale at \$2,705 fully delivered. One might assume that Field had something to do with it, since his family ran a major department store in Chicago, where Sears Roebuck was headquartered at the time.

City Island has many other houses (as well as garages) ordered from kit house producers, such as Montgomery Ward and Aladdin, many of which resemble the Sears houses and carry lovely names such as the Alhambra, the Newport, the Victoria and many more. Retired sea captain Frederick Gauss, who built the large white house on the water at the end of Horton Street, had three of these houses built as summer rental bungalows, and two of them still exist. According to Islander Ken Binder, at least one of the houses on Terrace Street still has details that indicate it was a kit house, as many of the houses alongside it seem to be. Islander Bob Branizza, who earned a degree in civil engineering after having spent almost a full year in a German prisoner of war camp in World War II, put together a kit house for himself on King Avenue facing the cemetery and gave it his own esthetic touch.

Not all small buildings were kit houses, of course. Shortly before the Great Depression began in 1929, an enterprising builder constructed a series of small houses along King Avenue just south of Pelham Cemetery. At one time these houses were very similar looking, but renovations over the years have given each one a distinctive appearance. A little-known fact is that the contractor who built the houses built a larger one for him-

self, with two extra bedrooms, next to the cemetery, which gave him a nice view and neighbors on only one side.

The 1930s saw little new construction here, no thanks to the Depression, but a decision made by Robert Moses, commissioner of New York City's Parks Department helped contribute to City Island's need for new housing as military commissions increased work at the boatyards. Many Islanders are aware of the history of Orchard Beach, where a large colony known as Tent City was located near the City Island bridge. Beginning late in the 1890s, New Yorkers who wanted to spend summer near the water could pay a small fee for a permit to occupy a small area and to build a platform to hold a tent. Eventually the colony grew so large that it had named streets and its own mail delivery service. In 1935, however, Robert Moses evicted Tent City, which by then had a population of 3,500, some people even living there year-round. Harry Chernoff, the "button king" who ran a dry cleaning shop on City Island, recalled seeing people dragging their tent structures (more like bungalows) over the bridge to find places to put them on City Island, and he himself put some of them behind his home on Minneford Avenue (and they are still there!). According to the residents of a 20-cottage cooperative on west Carroll Street, the colony began as a home for these former tents.

The building boom that took place between the two world wars slowed during World War II, but afterwards the GI Bill helped support the construction of new homes. However, the sale of kit houses diminished as tract housing and pre-fabricated buildings became more economical. Many contractors built houses on spec, often three at a time, and on City Island, there are many blocks that have such threesomes, although subsequent renovations have disguised their similarities.

The next significant change in City Island housing took place beginning in the 1970s, as boatyards went out of business, leaving large areas empty, and the construction of condominiums and cooperative housing increased here in spite of rumors that the Bronx was burning. Stay tuned for next month's *Current*, when I'll investigate yet another phase in City Island's housing history.

Much of the information in this essay was gathered from documents in the City Island Nautical Museum, but I was also fortunate to have learned a great deal from Islanders who have lived in or studied the houses discussed here, including the buildings that came from the Naval Training Station, Tent City and Sears Roebuck and other kit house companies: Ken Binder, Laury Hopkins, Dewi Koelzer, Jim Kortleven and Mary Lou Lachman.

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Organization News

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.), and our Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for all. Greater focus of the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) is on how 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.

Sunday School has started up again, as has the Budget Shop, which is open Tuesdays and Saturdays. Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 9, we will be offering a class on the Holy Spirit based on Max Lucado's book "Help is Here." The class will meet at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have a Fall Food Sale on Oct. 1 from 9:30 to noon. Food drop-off can take place between 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Pastor Dave Jolly

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, at noon. This will be both an in-person and a Zoom meeting. Please check your e-mail or the Post 156 website, Leonardhawkinspost156.com, for the link on the main page calendar.

Dues (\$55) are past due; they can be dropped off at the Post. Please put them in an envelope with your name on it so that we can properly process your membership. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

The weekend of Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2 will be the annual Post Pumpkin Sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please come out and support the Legion family.

We hosted a successful Bronx County Visitation of the Department of New York. David Riley is currently our Department Commander. Also joining the leadership are Department Auxiliary President Nancy Babis and Timothy Van Patten II, who is the state SAL Detachment Commander. We look forward to seeing them lead our conventions.

Please visit our website for the latest information and an ability to e-mail the Post directly. Our website is Leonardhawkinspost156.com, where you can find an e-mail link to reach us too!

Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all by ourselves anymore. We are always in need of new members. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post 156 Mission.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

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.

New to Grace: We have the pleasure of announcing that a new Priest, Father Kevin Moroney, is now presiding over our worship services. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m., and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

The Blessing of the Animals: We welcome you to bring your pets to Grace Church on Sunday, Oct. 2, starting at 11:15 a.m., when they will be blessed by Fr. Moroney. The blessing will take place outside on the lawn, weather permitting. If it rains, we will bring the event inside the

Parish Hall.

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 held on the second Sunday of the month, our next reading will take place on Sunday, Oct. 9, when we will begin the chapter of Judith. All are welcome.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School are preparing for special services, such as the Blessing of the Backpacks, which took place on Sunday, Sept. 11, and the Christmas Pageant to be held in December. 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 karenrnl@optonline.net.

The GraceTones are in rehearsal for upcoming shows at Cinema on the Sound and The Artist this fall. We are seeking male tenor and bass singers. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

City Island Civic Association

The meeting on Aug. 30 was held at Barbara Dolensek's home. Bill Stanton spoke about the safety committee and advised members to report any serious issues to 911.

There are more DOB complaints on members of the executive board. Bill is in touch with the commissioner of DOB regarding the high number of false complaints. He provided the office with a "chronic list," and our elected officials have been made aware and will continue to be kept in the loop.

Because of the increase in false accusations, a system is being worked on to identify callers.

Cathy Cebek of the Municipal Committee is working on these issues: DOT was informed of cars going the wrong way on the road leading from the Hutchinson River Parkway and there is now a work order to add "Keep Right" and "Do Not Enter" signs on the ramp. We encourage everyone to send letters to DOT to report issues or concerns. A request has been made to repair the speed bump on King Avenue. The flooded area in the road by the parking lot near the Pelham Golf Course has been fixed, and the catch basins on Park Drive have been cleaned. If residents notice additional catch basins in need of cleaning, report them to DOT or e-mail the Civic Association. The Department of Sanitation has provided garbage pails and Increased pick up, and street light repairs have been addressed.

The Fall Shipshape 2022 City Island Clean-up will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15. We will meet at Hawkins Park.

The American Legion Auxiliary collects new clothing and coats for children. If anyone would like to donate items, please bring them to the next Civic meeting.

Stu Sorrell of the Unity and Solutions Committee continues to work with the Trinity Church food pantry. Pantry items may be dropped off on the porch at 113 Bay Street, and items ordered from Amazon may also be delivered there. Checks payable to Trinity Church may be left in the mailbox on the porch.

Ricardo Garcia was nominated to the Civic executive committee, and he asked that the Civic show our appreciation and good will to the local fire department



Photo by MARK NANI

Back to school "Blessing of the Backpacks" was held at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Sept. 18. Members of the Church School are shown above with Fr. Kevin Moroney (back row, middle). The teenagers also read parts of the liturgy during this new tradition at Grace Church.

and the police precinct by bringing them lunch. Candy Mancuso, Stu Sorrell and Ricardo provided the lunch at the 45th Precinct.

We had a moment of silence to remember Richie DePierro, who passed away recently. A motion was made by Tom Smith that the Civic support a street sign on Hawkins Street honoring Richie, and the motion passed unanimously.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. And bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at 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 street light 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. Additionally, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our Community Police Officer can be reached at Neil.Anderson@nypd.org.

City Island Civic Association

Quilters by the Sea QOV

We have rescheduled the next Sew Saturday to Oct. 22. Please stop by if you are curious about the Quilt of Valor project. We welcome newcomers interested in making a Quilt of Valor for a City Island veteran. We will be at the Legion Post from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In September, QBTS-QOV awarded a Quilt of Valor to an off-Island Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. In October we will award QOVs to two off-Island veteran friends, one a 99-year-old Korean War veteran and the other a WWII veteran. Nationally, the Quilt of Valor Foundation has awarded over 321,000 quilts since 2003—every one made by volunteers just like our own QBTS-QOV members.

Harlan Sexton

City Island Nautical Museum

Islanders who want to view the oral history videos that we put up in the museum during September should plan to visit the museum soon, since we will probably end our public hours on weekends by the end of October. Our hours on Saturday and Sunday are 1 to 4 p.m.; the entrance fee is \$5 but members may enter free of charge. During the week, we are happy to welcome groups of five or more; call 718-885-0507 to make an appointment.

We have been working on our library and giving duplicate copies to anyone who might be interested in spending the winter studying the finer details of sailing or seamanship. And we will also offer for a

modest price objects no longer in our collection that do not have any connection to City Island or its history. And don't forget our wonderful gift shop; if you can't come on a weekend, visit our website at www.cityislandmuseum.org and see what we have to offer. Lots of great holiday presents, including a Santa Claus made out of a monkey fist knot.

A reminder: if you want to renew your membership or make a year-end donation to the museum, please send a check made out to the City Island Historical Society for \$35 (family) or \$25 (individual) for dues, and any amount you like as a donation, and send it to City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464. We are a nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

As important as funding is the participation of City Islanders in the programs of the museum. Please let us know what subjects you would like to learn more about; now that Covid has diminished in strength, we can again sponsor talks in our library. Send proposed topics to info@cityislandmuseum.org.

In addition to ideas, we also need volunteers to share their knowledge of City Island or even just their enthusiasm by offering to put in a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday to help our admissions staff by serving as docents. If you don't have free hours on weekends but you enjoy writing, you could offer to help create a newsletter or create labels for objects on display or suggest exhibitions for our library and gallery. We also have a very large collection of photographs that need sorting, captioning, scanning and enjoying. If any of these activities appeal to you, please call 718-885-0507.

Remember, this is the only museum on City Island, and the only place where you can see at first hand the objects that played a significant role in our history and hear the stories told by Islanders who lived here during the last century.

Barbara Dolensek

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church at 113 Bay Street. We are back, and Elaine Waltz has been very busy. Our next meeting, Oct. 13, is our Pizza Bingo. Please remember to bring your \$10.

Will all of those who are going to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in November please bring your payment of \$75.50 to the Oct. 13 meeting.

We have lots of things planned for the upcoming year. Hope to see you soon.

Joyce Kennedy

Continued on page 11



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

Hello Islanders. We hope everyone has had a healthy back-to-school season. As autumn arrives, the City Island Community Center begins our annual membership drive. We are hopeful that our existing members will renew their membership, and we look forward to new individuals and families joining us for the year. Look out for membership forms coming your way.

Below please find our Fall 2022 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: Tues 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 & Meditation: Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Angela Taylor at 914-484-2527.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Troop leader is Melissa Rosado-Taveras; 347-739-2076.

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

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

Melissa Cebollero

Sons of the American Legion

The SAL is looking forward to another prosperous season. We had our opening meeting on Sept. 8 and made plans for the coming year. We are looking forward to the legion Pumpkin Sale from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2. Please come and support this annual event, which is one of the Legion's biggest fundraisers.

We will be hosting a football breakfast on Sunday morning, Oct. 9, when the Giants play the Packers in London in a game that starts at 9 a.m.

Our annual pig roast will be Oct. 22 in the Legion parking lot, an event that is always a great time for everyone.

We would like the community to keep in mind two of our members, Bob Lia and Kevin Ford, who are on our sick list. Both are doing better, but please keep them in your thoughts.

Dues for the 2023 season (\$30) can be dropped off at the Post or mailed to 550 City Island Avenue, attention SAL.

We are looking forward to another year of the Legion Band program. The Band had a great opening season last year and gave us an uplifting concert at the Memorial Day

Parade.

This year we will be working with the community and the Legion family to help those in need throughout our neighborhood. We ask that you always keep our veterans in mind and watch for events that will help support veterans and their families. Thank you and God bless America.

Tom Vivolo

City Island Oyster Reef

With the support of the Long Island Sound Study, Karen Heil and Noreen Lawless, science teachers at P.S. 175, will be hosting a workshop for teachers in public and private schools working with students grades 4 through 12 on Oct. 8 at P.S. 175. Presenters will focus on our local history, Long Island Sound estuary habitats, water quality and impacts caused by climate change. The teachers will learn how to engage students in hands-on, STEM-focused marine education, explore the local oyster research stations and receive materials to facilitate water studies in the classroom.

Four Viva la Sound workshops will be held over the weekend of Oct. 15 and 16, covering topics such as the monitoring of water quality and of oyster research stations, living shoreline design, and sewage in Long Island Sound. Contact cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com for more details.

Our seasonal shell collection from City Island restaurants will continue through November. We are always looking for volunteers to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) and deliver them to our curing site at the Pelham Bay landfill. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail Luna Placchi at cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com.

Sally Connolly

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, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is required. 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 can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for October 2022:

High holiday services with Rabbis David and Shohama and band (at Temple Beth-El and Zoom); reservations and proof of vaccination required):

Tuesday, Oct. 4, Kol Nidre 5783, 6 to 8:30 p.m. (member seating at 5:30)

Wednesday, Oct. 5, Yom Kippur 5783, 10 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. (member seating at 9:45)

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

Oct. 7, with Shari B and Monty R (online only through Zoom)

Oct. 14, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online) Sukkot Shabbat

Oct. 21, with Stu G and Leslie L-B. (online only)

Oct. 28, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

Saturday, Oct. 15, Shmini Atzeret and Yizkor 8 p.m. (online only)

Sunday, Oct. 16, Simchat Torah (at Temple Beth-El and online)

Saturday Morning: Torah Study, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, at 10 a.m. Chevruta Style (online only)

Beginning Oct. 29, Torah Study with Rabbi David

Tuesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, at 10 a.m. Meditation with Tenzin (online only)

Ongoing Activities:

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.

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.

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.

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

Rachel Stark and Shari Berkowitz

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are back and have lots of wonderful items. Watch for our sales: Halloween sale, half-price jewelry sale and much, much more. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island Center is fully open so stop by the Center and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Health Department which means that a face covering is encouraged, particularly during exercise and singing classes.

Good news! We have a new technology instructor—Julio Melo-Ramos. He will be at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and a formal tablet training class 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.

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 of the City Island community.

We offer in-person and remote classes, remote classes through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates.

The center is closed Monday, Oct. 10, for Columbus Day.

The Current Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.: Virtual program, Chat with the Expert Series: Adult Protective Services.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.: Virtual program, Chat with the Expert Series: Healthcare Navigation for Seniors.

Friday, Oct. 14, 12:30 p.m.: Representative from the NYC Dept. Of Consumer & Worker Protection will present on Consumer Scams.

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m.: Virtual nutrition program with registered dietitian, Pnina Mohr, on Sodium and Other Ways to Avoid High Blood Pressure.

Monday, Oct. 31: Wear your costumes for Halloween.

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)

10:30 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 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)

11 a.m. Board Games

1:15 p.m. Bingo Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (virtual as of press time)

10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Fiftiesville Cars, Celebrities and their Cars or European Castles

1:15 p.m. Evelyn's Loving Needles Crochet and Knitting Class

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote)

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays & Music with Don

Friday

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

10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction with staff

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

Napat will be back in-person in November! The singing group will continue to meet on their own to prepare for the holiday concert.

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. Face masks are to be worn at all times and the windows will remain open to circulate air.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to extend their weeding and mulching of the tree pits along City Island Avenue. Take a look as you walk the Avenue between the Legion Triangle and Carroll Street. This work should give our "business district" a more tailored and well-kept look.

We hope that you stopped by our tent at the City Island Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 10 and 11. It was great talking with people and explaining what we do.

Our Sept. 12 meeting featured a presentation by New York Botanical Garden instructor Jennifer Cappello-Ruggerio. This was the first in her series of talks about highlights from the NYBG course "Fundamentals of Gardening." We were surprised to learn that new research has overturned many of our ideas about how to garden.

The presentation focused on soil as a key component in gardening, since healthy soils are the basis of a productive garden. They are dynamic, living systems, full of microorganisms that convert nutrients into a form that plants can use. Healthy soils are full of organic matter, which can reduce the amount of watering needed. Adding organic matter by composting and mulching once or twice a year are the most valuable things gardeners can do to improve the soil. (Use only natural mulch, not mulch that has artificial coloring.)

Letting fall leaves remain in our gardens through the winter is another way to add organic matter. Remove them only when you are ready to start planting in the spring. Other things we can do are: avoid over-tilling the soil (another surprise); use organic fertilizer and then only according to the directions; diversify plant choices; and don't leave the soil exposed. She recommended that we have our soil tested, since this dictates which plants will do best in our gardens.

Jennifer's next presentation will be at our meeting on Oct. 3. She will also be speaking in December and January. These presentations are open to the public. All are welcome!

We thank all of you who contribute to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464. 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 or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson



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Denzel's Best, Part 1 (1984-1999)

Born in Mount Vernon, NY, in 1954, Denzel Washington began his 40-year acting career off Broadway which eventually led to a big break with a leading role in the TV series *St. Elsewhere* (1982-88). He is one of only five male actors to be nominated for an Academy Award in five different decades, alongside Sir Laurence Olivier, Paul Newman, Sir Michael Caine and Jack Nicholson. His numerous awards include the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016; in 2020 he was named the greatest actor of the 21st century by *The New York Times*, and he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2022 presented by President Biden.

Denzel's first major screen role was as Private First Class Peterson in *A Soldier's Story* (1984), an American mystery drama adapted by Charles Fuller from his Pulitzer Prize-winning "A Soldier's Play," a loose adaptation of Herman Melville's novella "Billy Budd." At the end of World War II, a black Army investigator Captain Davenport (Howard E. Rollins Jr.) travels to a military base in the Louisiana backwoods to look into the mysterious murder of black Sgt. Waters (Adolph Caesar). His investigation is opposed by white Col. Nivens (Trey Wilson), as most people assume Waters was killed by the local Ku Klux Klan. In the course of his investigation, Davenport uncovers Waters's true tyrannical nature and his disgust with fellow Black soldiers, particularly those from the rural South. The sergeant's manipulations lead to the suicide of Pvt. CJ Memphis (Larry Riley) and the severe beating of PFC Peterson (Denzel). This is a complex drama with stellar acting.

Cry Freedom is an 1987 epic apartheid drama based on the true story of Steve Biko (Denzel in his first Oscar-nominated performance), the charismatic South African Black Consciousness Movement leader who attempts to bring awareness to the injustice of apartheid, and Donald Woods (Kevin Kline), the liberal white editor of the *Daily Dispatch* newspaper, who struggles to do the same after Biko is murdered. A long portion is devoted to Woods's attempt to escape South Africa with his family. The film was made before the end of apartheid in the early 1990s and influenced the world in its ultimate elimination.

Set on a small Caribbean island, *The Mighty Quinn* (1989) is the story of police chief Xavier Quinn (Denzel Washington), who must investigate a murder where the prime suspect is Maubee (Robert Townsend), a charming local troublemaker and Quinn's childhood friend. As Quinn investigates further, the case proves to be more complex than it appears in this often comic mystery loaded with local color. The film offers an early example of Denzel's onscreen magnetism.

Glory (1989) is an American historical war drama directed by Edward Zwick about the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, one of the Union Army's earliest African-American regiments in the American Civil War. It is led by the son of white abolitionists, Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick). The exceptional cast includes Denzel in his Oscar-winning Best Supporting Actor role as Trip, an escaped slave, and Andre Braugher as Searles, the black Boston-bred intellectual. The regiment's philosopher and conscience is Rawlins (Morgan Freeman). The one flaw in this moving film is that too much of it is seen through the eyes of the white commander rather than those of the black troops.

Mississippi Masala (1991) is the story of what happens after Black dictator Idi Amin enacted a policy of forceful expulsion of Asians from Uganda in 1972. Jay (Roshan Seth), his wife, Kinnu (Sharmila

Tagore), and their daughter, Mina (Sarita Choudhury), a family of Ugandan Indians residing in Kampala tearfully leave their home behind and ultimately wind up in Mississippi, where a community of Indians have settled and purchased a chain of motels so there would be room and work for their families. During a minor fender bender, Mina meets Demetrius Williams (Denzel), a local African-American self-employed carpet cleaner, whose company provides service for the motels. When the two fall in love with each other, both families are outraged. Throughout the film, Mina's father yearns for his African home, which had a view so stunning that the film's director, Mira Nair, purchased it and has lived there ever since. The movie is a stunning depiction of race relations among minorities in the Indian Diaspora.

With a running time of 3 hours and 22 minutes, *Malcolm X* (1992) is an epic biopic directed and co-written by Spike Lee based on the 1965 book by Alex Haley, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." The film stars Denzel in his Academy Award-nominated title role as the African-American activist depicting the evolution from his criminal career (replete with spectacular zoot suits), his incarceration along with best friend, Shorty (Spike Lee), his conversion to Islam under the tutelage of fellow inmate Baines (Albert Hall), his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam led by Elijah Muhammad (Al Freeman Jr.), his later falling out with the organization, his marriage to Betty X (Angela Bassett), his pilgrimage to Mecca, the reevaluation of his views concerning whites, and his assassination on Feb. 21, 1965. There are many cameos, including political activists Bobby Seale and Al Sharpton as a pair of street preachers, civil rights attorney William Kunstler as the judge who sentences Malcolm and Shorty to prison, and future South African President Nelson Mandela as a Soweto school teacher. Washington's then-eight-year-old son John David Washington appears as a Harlem elementary school student. (John David later went on to star as the lead of Lee's 2018 film "BlacKkKlansman.") Ossie Davis provides narration over the film's closing sequence, reading the eulogy he had originally performed at the real Malcolm's funeral. It was an uncomfortable experience for me when I saw this film by myself at the Whitestone Multiplex when it was playing back in 1992, as I was the only white person in the audience. Seeing it again 30 years later in a slightly different America, I can appreciate what a remarkable film it truly is.

I must admit that in spite of my degree in English, Shakespeare has often put me to sleep. That said, the film version of *Much Ado About Nothing* (1993) works better than most of his plays because of the stellar cast assembled by director Kenneth Branagh, who also appears as Benedict a member of the court of Don Pedro, Prince of Aragon (Denzel). The court also includes Benedict's love interest, Beatrice (Emma Thompson); Count Claudio (Robert Sean Leonard), the best friend of Don Pedro and Benedict and fiancé to Hero (Kate Beckinsale); and Don John (Keanu Reeves), Don Pedro's evil half-brother who after leading a failed rebellion against Don Pedro, conspires to prevent Hero and Claudio's wedding. Michael Keaton even appears as Dogberry, the incompetent local constable who solves crimes accidentally. This comedy certainly is filled with a lot of eye candy.

Philadelphia (1993) was the first big-budget Hollywood film to tackle the medical, political and social issues of AIDS. Tom Hanks, in his first Academy Award-winning performance, plays Andrew Beckett, a rising gay lawyer at a law firm in Philadelphia. When Andrew is diagnosed with AIDS, he tries to hide it, especially from the firm's senior partner, Charles Wheeler (Jason Robards). Though trusted with the firm's most important client, Andrew is fired when lesions appear on his face, ostensibly because his work has been "inadequate." Because no reputable lawyer will go up against the firm, Andrew, who is desperate to be reinstated, hires Joe Miller (Denzel), a black lawyer who advertises on television, mainly handling personal injury cases. Joe is uncomfortable around homosexuals, but at first he agrees to take the case for the money and exposure. He soon realizes the discrimi-

nation practiced against Andrew is no different from the discrimination Joe himself has suffered. The supporting cast includes Mary Steenburgen as the opposing attorney, Antonio Banderas as Andrew's partner, Joanne Woodward as Andrew's mother and Stephanie Roth as Joe's wife.

Based on the John Grisham novel, *The Pelican Brief* (1993) stars Julia Roberts as Darby Shaw, a Tulane University law student who has developed a theory about why two Supreme Court Judges have been murdered. When her lover, law professor Thomas Callahan (Sam Shepard), shares her thesis with his best friend, Gavin Verheek (John Heard), in Washington DC, murder ensues. Eventually Darby agrees to work with reporter Gray Grantham (Denzel) in an attempt to survive and expose the conspiracy. Stanley Tucci is excellent as the assassin Khamel, who has a different persona in every scene.

Crimson Tide (1995) is an action thriller that takes place during a period of political turmoil in Russia, when ultranationalists threaten to launch nuclear missiles at the United States and Japan. The film focuses on a clash of wills between Captain Frank Ramsey (Gene Hackman), the seasoned commanding officer of a U.S. nuclear missile submarine, and his new executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hunter (Denzel). The two have a major conflict arising from different interpretations of an order to launch their missiles that results in a mutiny attempt. The story parallels a real incident during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In Courage Under Fire (1996) Denzel appears in another military role, as Army Lt. Col. Nathaniel Serling who is investigating the background of Capt. Karen Walden (Meg Ryan), a Gulf War Medevac Pilot, who died shortly before the crew of her crashed Desert Storm helicopter was rescued. While struggling with his own demons from the same war, Serling is assigned to determine if Walden deserves to be the first woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor. He finds that Walden's men present conflicting testimony. Medic Ilario (Matt Damon) characterizes her as a brave self-sacrificing leader, while Gunner Monfriez (Lou Diamond Phillips) says she was a coward. Following Serling's quest for the truth is Washington Post

reporter Tony Gartner (Scott Glenn), who suspects a cover-up.

Fallen (1998) is a horror story about two detectives, John Hobbes (Denzel) and Jonesy (John Goodman), who worked a serial murder case together and captured Edgar Reese (Elias Koteas), who was put to death. However, it seems that he can't be killed so easily, and his spirit passes eerily from person to person as they come into physical contact with one another. The question to be solved is how to kill that which is already dead?

Based on a true story, *The Hurricane* (1999) is an American biographical sports drama with Denzel starring in the title role in his Best Actor-nominated performance as Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter, a former middleweight boxer who was wrongly convicted for a triple murder. The film depicts Carter's arrest, his life in prison and how he was freed by the compassion and persistence of a black teenager from Brooklyn named Lesra Martin (Vicellous Reon Shannon) and his white Canadian foster family Lisa Peters (Deborah Kara Unger), Sam Chaiton (Liev Schreiber) and Terry Swinton (John Hannah).

Next month we'll look at Denzel's more recent films, beginning with the year 2000. And until next time, stay well and happy viewing...

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

Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2022 Part 2

The Internal Revenue Service recently released its list of common tax scams that target taxpayers. The IRS compiles this list and issues it annually, including of aggressive and evolving schemes that taxpayers should avoid. Let's take a look at this year's Dirty Dozen 7-12:

7. Scams to Steal Your Identity, Personal Financial Information and Money

Criminals have used bogus calls, texts, e-mails, and posts online for years. Victims are tricked into providing sensitive personal financial information, money or other information that can be used to file false tax returns and tap into financial accounts, among other schemes. The IRS continues to see common scams such as text messages, e-mail phishing and phone messages. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes. All tax payments should only be made payable to the U.S. Treasury and never be made payable to third parties. Anyone who doesn't owe taxes and has no reason to think they do should never give out any information. Hang up immediately and do NOT click links or open attachments in unsolicited, suspicious, or unexpected text messages, whether from the IRS, state tax agencies or others in the tax community.

8. Spear Phishing

Spear phishing is an e-mail scam that attempts to steal a tax professional's software preparation credentials. These thieves try to steal client data and tax preparers' identities to file fraudulent tax returns for refunds. Spear phishing can be tailored to attack any type of business or organization. It is a serious problem because it can be tailored to attack and steal the computer system credentials of any small business with a client database, such as tax professionals' firms. The latest phishing e-mail uses the IRS logo and a variety of subject lines such as "Action Required: Your account has now been put on hold." These e-mails are scams that send users to a website that shows the logos of several popular tax software preparation providers. Clicking on one of these logos will prompt a request for tax preparer account credentials.

9. Concealing Assets in Offshore Accounts and Improper Reporting of Digital Assets

Offshore accounts. As international tax and money laundering crimes have increased, numerous individuals have been identified as evading U.S. taxes by attempting to hide income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts, or nominee entities. They then access the funds using debit cards, credit cards, wire transfers or other arrangements. Some individuals have used foreign trusts, employee leasing schemes, private annuities and structured transactions, attempting to conceal the true owner of accounts or insurance plans.

U.S. persons are taxed on worldwide income. The mere fact that money is placed in an offshore account does not put it out of reach of the U.S. tax system. U.S. persons are required to report income from offshore funds and other foreign holdings under penalty of perjury. The IRS uses a variety of sources to identify promoters who encourage others to hide their assets overseas.

Digital assets. The proliferation of digital assets across the world in the last decade has created tax administration challenges regarding digital assets, partly because there is an incorrect perception that digital asset accounts are undetectable by tax authorities. Unscrupulous promoters continue to perpetuate this myth and make assertions that taxpayers can easily

conceal their digital asset holdings. Taxpayers should not be misled into believing this, because they risk the possibility of exposing themselves to civil fraud penalties and criminal charges that could result from failure to report transactions involving digital assets.

10. High-income Individuals Who Don't File Tax Returns

Most people file on time and pay their fair share of tax; however, those who choose not to file a return represent a compliance problem that continues to be a top priority of the IRS. Taxpayers (especially those earning more than \$100,000 per year who have a legal filing requirement) may be wrongly persuaded that not filing their return is a smart move. They should remember, however, that the Failure to File Penalty is initially much higher than the Failure to Pay Penalty. As such, it is more advantageous to file an accurate return on time and set up a payment plan if needed than to not file. If a person's failure to file is deemed fraudulent, the penalty generally increases from 5 percent per month to 15 percent for each month or part of a month the return is late, with the maximum penalty generally increasing from 25 percent to 75 percent.

11. Abusive Syndicated Conservation Easements

In syndicated conservation easements, promoters take a provision of the tax law allowing for conservation easements and twist it by using inflated appraisals of undeveloped land (or, for a few specialized ones, the facades of historic buildings). They may also use partnership arrangements devoid of a legitimate business purpose. These abusive arrangements do nothing more than game the tax system with grossly inflated tax deductions and generate high fees for promoters. The IRS examines 100 percent of these deals, and hundreds of these deals have gone to court.

12. Abusive Micro-Captive Insurance Arrangements

In abusive "micro-captive" structures, promoters, accountants or wealth planners persuade owners of closely-held entities to participate in schemes that lack many insurance attributes. For example, coverages may "ensure" implausible risks, fail to match genuine business needs or duplicate the taxpayer's commercial coverages. The "premiums" paid under these arrangements are often excessive and are used to skirt the tax law. Recently, the IRS has stepped up enforcement against a variation using potentially abusive offshore captive insurance companies. Abusive micro-captive transactions continue to be a high-priority area of focus.

While this list is not an all-inclusive list of transactions the IRS is scrutinizing, it represents some of the more common trends and transactions that may peak as returns are prepared and filed. Taxpayers and practitioners should always be wary of participating in transactions that seem "too good to be true."

Organization News

Continued from page 8

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.

Religious Education Program: Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program has begun. If you have not yet registered your child or children and wish to do so, please call 718-885-1440 or e-mail smsrled@yahoo.com.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come take a look around.

Our monthly Holy Hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 7, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. in St. Mary's School yard or in the school gym in case of rain.

Rosette Dietz



Photos by TOMMY BREEN

For several months beginning early in 2022, the section of Shore Road that runs past the parking lot of the Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Course was seriously flooded because of eroded asphalt, forcing cars to drive into the south lane to avoid holes in the road and deep puddles. After numerous complaints filed by the City Island Civic Association to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), the roadway was repaired during the last week in June. DOT recently installed flood-warning signs at both ends of Shore Road to alert drivers to the dangerous conditions that result after heavy rains.

Do You Want Your Children to be Smart? Think EQ as Well as IQ!

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) tests have been around for more than a century, and there remain many questions about their validity for predicting success in life (as well as questions of cultural bias and a limited view of what "intelligence" really means). We are easily impressed by numbers and IQ scores, but who doesn't know a bright high-IQ person who can't seem to get his or her life together?

Ever since Dan Goleman published his book "Emotional Intelligence" in 1995, we educators have been looking at social and emotional learning as a vital part of school curricula. The term Emotional Quotient (EQ)—as opposed to IQ—has been a shorthand for the set of skills that make up emotional intelligence.

So what are the EQ skills?

• **The ability to name and manage feelings:** As we psychologists say, "If you can name it, you can tame it." Help your child to be able to name basic emotions—happy, angry, sad, scared, worried, excited—and then brainstorm on appropriate ways to deal with each of those feelings. This works for parents, too!

• **The ability to manage conflicts and solve interpersonal problems:** Conflict resolution is such an important skill, and few of us are really good at it! Here is a little script for addressing an issue with a family member (complete with an example that might resonate for you):

When I see . . . (dirty clothes on the

floor)

I feel . . . (discouraged)

Because . . . (we have talked about this many times)

I would like . . . (to see the clothes picked up)

Notice these are "I" messages. The word "you" does not appear!

• **The ability to form and maintain friendships:** The give-and-take of being a friend requires flexibility and humility, and the rewards of long-term friendship are priceless. Be a good listener when your child has friendship issues, and try not to micro-manage their challenges. Look at your own friendships: Can you be a good role model for your child as to what makes a good friend?

• **The ability to be optimistic and resilient:** Optimism can be learned and has many benefits for our daily happiness. Resilience is what got us through this pandemic thus far and is needed for all of the upcoming life challenges.

So how is your EQ? How is your child's EQ? Does your child have opportunities at school to learn these skills? Social and emotional learning is now a mandated part of the NYS curriculum guidelines for all grades. Be sure to check in with school for a better sense of how your child's EQ is being nurtured.

Also, take a good look at your own life: we can all use these skills every day!

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.



Richard DePierro

Richard DePierro, known affectionately on City Island as Richie, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022.

He was born in the Bronx in 1937 and spent his early years there. His parents, George and Isabella DePierro, moved to City Island in the 1940s and lived in the garage for the summer house of their employer, who lived at 2 Bay Street. Richie worked as a gardener on the estate and spent his winters working in Manhattan on indoor gardens, but he loved City Island, where he quickly made close personal friends he kept for life.

Eventually, Richie went to work for the prominent sail-making firm Ratsey & Laphorn (in the building where the Sailmaker condominium is now located). He admits he knew nothing about sailing or sails, but he made himself useful as a spinnaker cutter for three or four years, and he spent a year or so working at Nevins Yacht Yard steaming wood to make hulls for the yachts built there.

With the help of artists Mark Whitcombe and Richard Benezio, Richie opened an antique store on the corner of Hawkins Street, which he rented for \$60 a month, although it had no heat and no running water. The owner, Mrs. Turner, eventually sold him the building, which officially opened as The Black Whale in 1961. At first Richard offered tea and then coffee, later adding ice cream dishes and eventually full dinners to the menu.

The Black Whale quickly became known as a place for free thinkers, where all people were welcomed. Above the restaurant are several apartments, and Richie was one of the first landlords to rent to a person of color. He remembers that when his windows were broken, he thought: "It costs \$140 to replace the windows. I'll just pay it. But no one is telling me who to rent to." The word quickly got out, and the Black Whale became a space where the LGBTQ+ community and people of color felt welcome. It may even have been the first business in the Bronx to welcome them with open arms.

On Wednesday nights the restaurant would host an open forum that would bring progressives from all over New York to discuss a better world. Through the years the Black Whale has become a symbol of equality and love in the Bronx, and Richie brought that all together. In 2013, Richie and his longtime partner, the late Stanley Passo, sponsored the production of "The Laramie Project" at the City Island Theater Group.

Many Islanders are not aware that Richie DePierro was responsible for saving two important Island businesses a number of years ago. When some off-Islanders expressed interest in buying the Donut Shop on the corner of Fordham Street and turning it into something quite different, he bought the shop and renovated it as the City Island Diner. He also managed to buy the Village Inn at 288 City Island Avenue and make significant improvements to the building, which housed a series of Island restaurants, although it is now, sadly, vacant. And he gave generous support to Trinity United Methodist Church on the corner of Bay Street.

Over the years, he owned many other

properties, including antique shops, in Sag Harbor, Fire Island, and Key West, but his heart remained here on City Island. He refurbished the building between Hawkins and Carroll Street on the east side of City Island Avenue and a waterfront house on the east end of Rochelle Street, across from his home.

Richie told *The Current* that he learned what he knew by picking the brains of smart older people and learning from their mistakes. He developed a keen eye for valuable property and objects, which he would purchase at low prices and sell at a profit—a talent that enabled him to buy, improve and sell an amazing number of antiques and buildings over the years. If he can be said to have had a philosophy, it was "Just do it!" This is what he told friends who were reluctant to move ahead with projects. "Don't be frightened. Don't worry about the money. Just do it!"

A memorial service was held at Trinity Church on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2022.



Stanley Passo

Stanley Passo, who lived for many years on City Island, passed away at the age of 82, at the Bayberry Care Center in New Rochelle on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

Stanley was born in the Bronx on April 3, 1940, and attended James Monroe High School. He earned a bachelor of science in biology at City College and went on to obtain his Ph.D. in physiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He spent two years at the San Francisco Medical Center, University of California, for a post-doctoral fellowship and an added year of research that spanned 1968 and 1969 and then joined New York Medical College, where he remained a faculty member in the Department of Physiology for his entire career, which spanned more than four decades. His students named him to their list of outstanding teachers every year (except one, for a reason he could not recall) beginning in 1985, and where he gathered every day for lunch with his colleagues in the Department of Physiology.

When he joined the college as a research associate in 1969, Stanley was given a laboratory of his own to investigate the control of blood volume by the central nervous system, and two graduate students earned their doctoral degrees under his supervision. "I only did research for 10 years after my post-doc, and that was 30 years ago," he told an interviewer in 2010 when he retired from the college. "But there came a point when I started to find teaching more satisfying. Independent research can be lonely. I liked interacting with the students. It just seemed like it was an appropriate end to the journey, and I finally acknowledged to myself that I was always destined to teach."

After his retirement from the New York Medical College, Stanley expressed a wish to go back to school and study art and literature and to collect art, reflecting his interest when he owned an antique shop on City Island and in Sag Harbor, NY, with the late Richie DePierro, who passed away only a few days before Stanley.

Stanley was an urbane, caring individual with impeccable taste and a dry wit. His softer side was evidenced by his adoption of numerous rescue dogs over the years, including a three-legged pit bull named Ruby, a mutt named One-Eyed Jack and a ferocious chihuahua named Annie. Stanley loved travel, the arts and his family.

A graveside service was held on Sept. 19 at Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, NY.



Phillip Silverio Mazzella

Phillip Mazzella, who grew up on City Island, passed away on July 24, 2022, at the age of 55. He was born on Jan. 19, 1967, the eldest son of Diane Mazzella and Silverio (Sam) Mazzella, of City Island and was raised with his two siblings, Paul Mazzella and Danielle Mazzella-D'Ambrosio. As a family, they enjoyed the City Island life and all it had to offer. From a young age, Phil could always be found with a fishing rod in his hand, strategically planning his catch of the day.

He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School from kindergarten through eighth grade and graduated from Fordham Preparatory School in 1985. He enrolled in Manhattan College for Engineering, but he knew that his true calling was serving his community. In 1993, he joined the New York Police Department and served for five years at the 49th Precinct in the Bronx. In February 1998, he was appointed to the Fire Department (FDNY), where he served in various houses but finally made Ladder 128 his home.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Phil was a first responder during the devastating attack on our country. He worked tirelessly at Ground Zero for several months with his fellow first responders to bring peace and humanity to the victims. Eventually, he worked a detail in the Marine 4 Division and was back doing what he loved, being on the water. People would catch him on the fireboat with a fishing pole in his hand.

His proudest accomplishment was being a loving and devoted father to Jonathan and Gerard Mazzella, who were born on April 18, 2002, and, as with most fathers, his world revolved around them. From coaching his sons' baseball games to becoming a Boy Scout leader, he never passed up an opportunity to spend more time with his boys. Whether it was fishing on his boat, *Double Trouble*, or spending family vacations at Lake George, one of their favorite places, he continued to make lasting memories with his family.

Phil knew that his time at Ground Zero would eventually catch up to him. For years, he buried friends and fellow first responders who suffered from the devastating effects from that day. Eventually he too suffered from symptoms directly related to the effects of being a 9/11 first responder. His bravery, courage and service will never be forgotten.

Phil was a wonderful and loving brother, uncle, father and son. His vibrant personality, humor and contagious laugh were what he will be most remembered for. His hilarious stories and outgoing personality would light up any room. Phil's family will always be thankful for the time they had together and the lasting memories they



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made. He embraced the laid-back City Island life where the smell of salt water was in the air. He was a true clam digger.

"If success attends my steps, honor and glory await my name—if defeat, still shall it be said we died like brave men, and conferred honor, even in death, on the American Name." Brigadier General Zebulon Pike.



Eddie Ocasio

Eddie Ocasio, who grew up on City Island, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, at the age of 23, at Delaware Valley Hospital in Walton, NY of natural causes due to an acute asthma attack.

Eddie was born in Brooklyn on Nov. 7, 1998, to Joyce (Guzman) and Eddie Ocasio. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and attended Cardinal Spellman High School with his sister, Lucinda Ocasio.

He was very family-oriented and loved spending as much time as he could with the people who mattered the most to him, whether it involved helping out with yardwork or building fires at his family's vacation home in the Catskill Mountains with his mother and his loving step-family. Eddie was a son, a brother, a self-taught photographer, a foodie from birth, a lover and most of all a fighter for his happiness and well-being.

Eddie loved playing video games with his younger brother, Jacob; walking down Flatbush Ave and talking with his Grammy; spending coffee time with his father; or having long talks about any and everything with his sister and best friend. He loved the quality time he got with each and every member of his family. He found peace within the walls of Fountain House in the Bronx, where he became an advocate for mental health and wellness, and he enjoyed the bonds he had began to build there.

He is survived by his loving family: his father, Eddie Ocasio; his mother, Joyce, and his stepfather, Donnie Hostomsky; his siblings Lucinda Ocasio, Jacob Ocasio and Gloria Guzman and a plethora of aunts, uncles, and cousins who will also miss him dearly.

Memorial contributions in Eddie's memory may be made to give.fountainhouse.org Condolences to the family may be made online by visiting www.courtneymfh.com.



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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight 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

OCTOBER 2022									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0318	7.23	0928	0.75	1535	8.10	2219	0.60	Sat 01
02 Sun	0417	6.87	1026	1.17	1635	7.71	2340	0.95	Sun 02
03 Mon	0529	6.62	1140	1.50	1749	7.38			Mon 03
04 Tue	0129	0.97	0720	6.68	1342	1.46	1941	7.32	Tue 04
05 Wed	0242	0.68	0841	7.10	1502	0.98	2105	7.61	Wed 05
06 Thu	0341	0.30	0940	7.61	1604	0.37	2205	7.93	Thu 06
07 Fri	0434	-0.06	1031	8.06	1657	-0.19	2257	8.15	Fri 07
08 Sat	0522	-0.30	1118	8.38	1746	-0.59	2344	8.22	Sat 08
09 Sun	0607	-0.40	1201	8.54	1833	-0.78			Sun 09
10 Mon	0029	8.14	0649	-0.32	1242	8.52	1917	-0.75	Mon 10
11 Tue	0111	7.93	0727	-0.09	1320	8.37	1959	-0.52	Tue 11
12 Wed	0152	7.63	0801	0.25	1356	8.11	2040	-0.14	Wed 12
13 Thu	0232	7.29	0829	0.65	1431	7.80	2120	0.32	Thu 13
14 Fri	0313	6.96	0852	1.05	1506	7.47	2159	0.81	Fri 14
15 Sat	0359	6.69	0925	1.43	1547	7.15	2244	1.24	Sat 15
16 Sun	0457	6.50	1010	1.79	1639	6.88	2343	1.57	Sun 16
17 Mon	0606	6.45	1106	2.06	1802	6.71			Mon 17
18 Tue	0049	1.72	0710	6.56	1227	2.16	1924	6.74	Tue 18
19 Wed	0147	1.69	0805	6.80	1357	1.99	2021	6.89	Wed 19
20 Thu	0237	1.51	0853	7.08	1453	1.63	2109	7.08	Thu 20
21 Fri	0319	1.24	0932	7.37	1538	1.18	2147	7.27	Fri 21
22 Sat	0353	0.93	1002	7.66	1617	0.68	2217	7.45	Sat 22
23 Sun	0423	0.60	1025	7.97	1653	0.20	2245	7.61	Sun 23
24 Mon	0454	0.28	1053	8.29	1728	-0.21	2319	7.74	Mon 24
25 Tue	0528	0.03	1127	8.57	1806	-0.51	2357	7.80	Tue 25
26 Wed	0606	-0.10	1206	8.75	1847	-0.64			Wed 26
27 Thu	0039	7.76	0648	-0.09	1249	8.79	1931	-0.58	Thu 27
28 Fri	0124	7.62	0733	0.09	1336	8.65	2020	-0.35	Fri 28
29 Sat	0213	7.38	0822	0.41	1426	8.34	2116	0.02	Sat 29
30 Sun	0309	7.09	0918	0.81	1522	7.90	2227	0.43	Sun 30
31 Mon	0415	6.81	1028	1.21	1629	7.43			Mon 31
NOVEMBER 2022									
01 Tue	0001	0.67	0552	6.72	1220	1.34	1809	7.11	Tue 01
02 Wed	0119	0.64	0723	6.98	1346	1.03	1950	7.20	Wed 02
03 Thu	0224	0.43	0828	7.40	1453	0.51	2056	7.43	Thu 03
04 Fri	0321	0.17	0923	7.81	1550	-0.04	2152	7.63	Fri 04
05 Sat	0413	-0.07	1013	8.14	1642	-0.49	2242	7.75	Sat 05
06 Sun	0400	-0.20	0959	8.34	1630	-0.78	2228	7.74	Sun 06

All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 6



THE SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

For this month's column, we return to the topic of trees. We do this to once again shine a light on a threatened natural resource that not only provides food, shelter and shade but also gives a handsome, often stately appearance to the environs of City Island, something in which we can all take pride. It goes without saying that trees are an important resource well worth preserving and protecting, especially when it comes to the scourge of the dreaded spotted lantern fly. First encountered in Pennsylvania in 2014, it would appear that these invasive pests have found their way to our Island.

Don't be fooled by this insect's good looks, either. They are real wolves in sheep's clothing.



Native to China, the spotted lantern fly sucks the very life from trees by boring holes through bark to feed on tree sap. And as if that weren't enough, females lay eggs before they die with the change of weather so that there will always be more havoc-wreakers the following spring. While some would say that there are as yet no natural predators of the spotted lantern fly, we beg to differ. The preying mantis has been used to combat the pest. Additionally, we have personally witnessed yellow jackets feed-

ing on the "little buggers."

While the pesticide industry works on a safe antidote, government officials have enlisted the hands-on help of a concerned citizenry. Here is what CNN has reported on the subject: "State agricultural departments across the United States are asking you to commit murder—bug murder, that is." Our preferred method has been a good old, old-fashioned fly swatter, although sandals and shoes are as good a tool as any. We were up to about 70 murdered bugs before this paper went to press.



Be on the lookout for the spotted lantern fly's egg masses, too. They tend to be secured to the undersides of tree limbs, although they may be found about anywhere, even rocks and your patio furniture. Here is an image of what to look for (and to scrape and/or smear out of existence, too, if you find one!)

In closing, we have heard from readers that we may have been too harsh on the tree trimmers that we wrote about last month. It would seem that we allowed our zeal to get in the way of our focus and for that we apologize. We had hoped to convey our genuine concern for City Island's trees and the need for unsightly power lines to be moved underground once and for all—a hope that we will try harder to remember for the next time.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Grasses for landscape: (top) calamagrotis Karl foerster; (left) Mexican feather grass

Autumnal October

We need no calendar; the trees know the date. Soon the leaves will crisp and make a carpet on the lawn. The poet John Donne said, "No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace / as I have seen in one Autumn face."

The scarlet rose hips against a blue sky are a beautiful sight, yet the real majesty of autumn is in its Gothic decay when all the leaves are burning orange, when the bees sip nectar from ivy flowers, and the mushrooms tan and black push through the sodden debris of the woods. In what seems like an instant, fruits go from ripe to rotten.

As the weather cools, mist is heavy in the morning. Fog rolls in over the marshes of Pelham Bay Park, and the low slant of the light illuminates the trusses of phragmites, that invasive gorgeous reed grass that calls our area home.

Grasses are essential in a coastal area garden and they come into their full beauty in the fall. Purple moor grass, cespitosa, little bunny and dropseed are all small grasses that can enhance the front and mid sections of a perennial border. Pennisetums, calamagrotis (feather reed) and switch grasses all are mid-size plants that need to be in the background, or if your beds are large they can march along the center serpentine style. Far into winter these grasses hold on to their blond luxury and make musical movement as they sway in the wind among the evergreens. I would not be without them. Stay away from miscanthus and pampas grass unless you are sure of its location forever. They become quite large, and digging them out would take machinery or two men with strong backs. Never cut ornamental grasses until early spring; they are winter essentials in the garden.

Plant bulbs, and concentrate on one or two varieties. Having more of one thing makes the garden seem natural. This year I am envisioning a sumptuous display of alliums which bloom in May at iris time. I like the variety "sensation," which is three feet high, very purple and inexpensive. Fifty sounds about right, and they bloom just as the tufts of grasses begin to green.

A single blue jay can bury thousands of acorns in a month, and like the jay we also store autumn's kitchen. Apple chutney, pickled onions, blackberry jam. Bonfire nights, candlelit suppers, apple picking—all as we wind down the clocks. For those with chimneys, the first fire curls up into a still sky, and the last apple drops, looking suspiciously like a Christmas ornament.

You can visit Mary in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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



L'Amoreaux Lawrence-Keegan at Orchard Beach.

Happy 2nd birthday on Oct. 16 to clam digger L'Amoreaux! Love, Mommy, Dad, Scritch & Scratch.

Congratulations to proud parents Aidan and Kelsey Byrne on the July birth of baby Ruby Welsh Byrne. Thrilled grandparents are Mick and Mary Jo Byrne and Jimmy and Libby Welsh of Rye Brook, and first-time uncles are Cian Byrne, Charlie and Mike Welsh, and aunt Maggie Welsh.

Belated happy first birthday wishes to Ditmars Street's Sydney Wren Pollack. We love you to the moon and back. With all our hearts, Grammie, B Pa, Titi Jill and Aunt Bri.

Happy October 12 anniversary wishes



Serena Grace Butterworth was born on June 14, 2022.

to our mom and dad—Bay Street's Maria and Bob Swieciki. With love from your kids.

Linda and John Ulmer send birthday wishes to their grandson Luke Williams, who celebrates on Oct. 11. Enjoy your special day!

Happy 14th birthday wishes go out to my grandson Joseph on Oct. 24. Have a successful first year at Fordham Prep. With lots of love, Grandma Penny.

Lots of October birthday celebrations in the Nani family. First, Horton Street resident Lorena Nogueira Nani celebrates on Oct. 2, followed by her husband, Mark, on Oct. 22. In between, Luke Nani, son of clam digger Roger Nani and his wife, Leah, will turn three on Oct. 17. Lots of cupcakes will be made by Islander Karen Nani to celebrate the special family birthdays.

The Calbo Family is thrilled to announce that our daughter Olivia Calbo made the City Island Rowing Team. We are so very proud of her and look forward to cheering on all the girls at the Fall Regatta. Woohoo! Go, City Island Rowing!

It's a girl! Congratulations to proud

parents David and Alessia Butterworth on the June 14 birth of their daughter, Serena Grace! Thrilled grandparents are Dominic and Maria Cacciante and Chuck and Ann Butterworth.

Happy Oct. 7 anniversary to Cait and Richie O'Dwyer, with love from your family and friends.

Long-distance happy birthday wishes to Chelsea Rodstrom on Oct. 1.

Happy retirement to King Avenue resident and clam digger Warren Phillips, who retired in July from New York City

Health and Hospitals after many years as a carpenter at Jacobi Hospital. Warren and his wife, Carol, celebrated his retirement with a trip to England to visit their daughter Julia. Enjoy the free time!

Happy October 15 birthday to our amazing daughter Tabitha. We are so proud of the woman you are becoming. All our love, Mom and Dad.

And a very HAPPY HALLOWEEN to all our neighbors, friends and readers! Hope to see you at the parade!

Maria Swieciki



Olivia Calbo (third row, far right) is a new member of the City Island Rowing Team.



Luke Nani turns 3 on Oct. 17.



Ruby Welsh Byrne was born in July to Aidan and Kelsey Byrne.



Photo by SUSAN RAUH

It was a gorgeous wedding in Montauk on Sept. 10, 2022, for Daniel Wright and Melissa Sotelo, pictured with Dan's parents, John and Linda Wright, and sister Leigh Anne Wilkey. Family and friends from across the country joined in the celebration.

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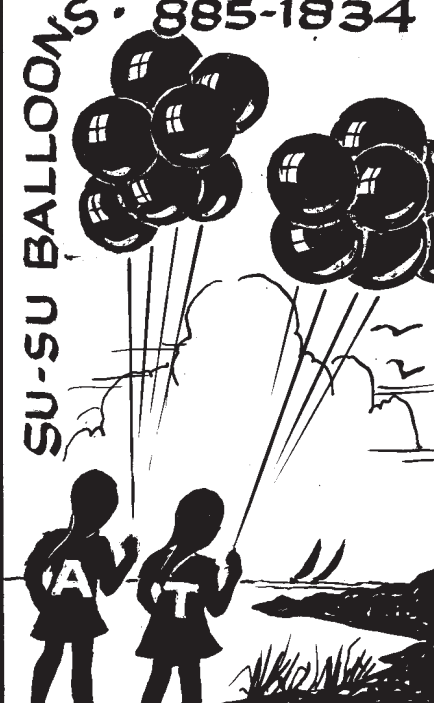
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Sydney Wren Pollack celebrated her first birthday in September.

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