

The people who have helped get out THE ISLAND CURRENT:

Robert Bruno	Maureen Sheridan
Gerald Clancy	Yevette Silverstein
Robert Oliver	Joseph Teti
Elizabeth Olive	er Barbara Towar
Marie Peterson	Maurice Whitman
Terri Sander	Julia Yurwitz
Photographs by	Barbara Towar

Flotographs by.	Dalbala lowal
Sketches by:	Terri Sander, Ellen Sonberg
	Maurice Whitman

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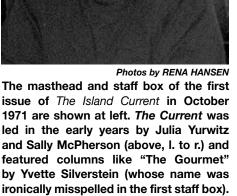
The Island Current begins its 50th year of publication in October 2020. The Current wasn't City Island's first newspaper, but it has definitely become its longest-lasting, and during the next 12 months the editorial board would like to recapture some of its brightest moments and wonderful contributors, now retired or passed away.

The paper was started by a group of enthusiastic members of the City Island community (Robert Bruno, Gerald Clancy, Robert Oliver, Elizabeth Oliver, Marie Peterson, Terri Sander, Maureen Sheridan, Yvette Silverstein, Joseph Teti, Barbara Towar, Maurice Whitman and Julia Yurwitz). Their opening statement was as follows:

"City Islanders: 'What this place needs is a newspaper.' Here it is, THE ISLAND CURRENT. This newspaper was started because it seemed to us that the windows of the various stores are no longer adequate for the news of City Island. The opportunity to present a problem, solution, opinion, or just local news has been left to the grapevine, which is often more colorful than accurate. . . . As this newspaper is not associated with any organization, we feel that we may fairly represent all of the people of the Island." The paper offered a gourmet column, a boating column ("At the Helm"), a column for kids, and a column for sports. All of these disappeared over time, but "Organizational News" and a gossip column called "The Talebearer" survive to this day. There were many advertisements in the first issue, and some of the advertisers are still with us-JJ Burck, Artie's and The Black Whale (then a coffee shop). Over the next few months, The Current will feature examples from some of the wonderful columns that have appeared over the years-"At the Helm" (by Henry Devereux); "As Time Goes By (by Debby Kall); "Bio Doc" (by Dr. Louise Squitieri), "City Island: An Informal History" (by Bernie Witlieb); "The Gourmet" (by Yvette Silverstein), "Current Close-Up'

(by Stu Hawkins); "Far Side of the Bridge" (by Michael Shanley); "Green Umbrella (a gardening column by Tom Ombrello); "A Healthy Attitude" (by Susan Schumann); "In An Emergency" (by Joanne Monti); "Kids Corner" (by Mary Lou Lachman) and "Just for Kids" (by Jane Rothman); "Scuttlebutt" (by Bruce Thaler); "Live-Aboard" (by Paul Pomerantz); "Sailing Life" (by Joyce Mulcahy); "Getting into Shape" (by Butch Nieves); "Nutri Tips" (by Patricia Johnson); "Parenting" (by Terri Sander); "Philosifizen" (by Ruth Cronk); and "What's Up Doc" (by Fred Hess).

City Island's artists have expressed themselves on Current covers from the beginning, first by providing small ads for various Island businesses, then with illustrations of City Island scenes by Maurice Whitman, Ellen Lebow, Mark Whitcombe, Celeste Conway, Theodore Mazaika (who designed the masthead we now use), Russell Schaller, Marguerite Chadwick, Peg Conway, Stephanie Ribaudo and Georgine Sheridan. Christmas covers have been a specialty of The Current from the 1970s, and in recent years have featured a montage of portraits of Islanders who appeared in the paper during the year. Features that began early still continue today: Classified Ads, a calendar of Island meetings, Library News, coverage of the Halloween and Memorial Day parades, Box 6 (letters), Local Views, and regular reports from Island organizations such as the Civic Association, the Community Center, the Nautical Museum, the Garden Club and more. In reviewing the past 50 years, we have come across a number of articles and columns that make us very sad because of the Current writers we have lost over the years - most prominently Catherine Scott, who served as a reporter for many years; Russell Schaller, our cartoonist and illustrator; and Fred Hess, our own astronomer. But, on the bright side, we are



amazed and delighted to have several on our staff today who have been with us for decades, especially Judy Rauh, who began working in 1976 doing various editorial jobs and still today is our business manager and proofreader.

Sally McPherson is alive and well (even though she is living in Wisconsin), her contributions to the paper—which included making it more professional as a community journal—are too many to recite here, but we will let her write in a forthcoming issue about her own experiences as editor from 1972 to 1997, when she passed the torch to Karen Nani.

Readers with long memories and affection for the paper are invited to send in anecdotes relating to *The Island Cur*-



rent or suggestions for favorite columns or articles. In the meantime, we will be running some of our own favorites over the next 10 issues, including editorials, cartoons, illustrations and news articles. Please send them to *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, Bronx NY 10464 10464 or e-mail to *info@theislandcurrent.com*.

WATER MAIN UPDATE



Photo by RICK DeWITT

As part of the NYC Department of Design and Construction water main project, a detour has been put in place to direct pedestrians and cyclists to the northbound bike lane on City Island Road between the City Island Bridge and the City Island circle.

The NYC Department of Design and Construction is currently installing two 20-inch subaqueous water mains, which will eventually serve as the sole water supply to City Island. The contractor has finished drilling through rock to create the first 2,000-foot tunnel that will later house one of the new water mains under Pelham Bay. While the second tunnel is under way, the casing pipes that will serve as an outer barrier to protect the water mains are being welded together. After the tunnels have

been completed, the casing pipes will be installed before the installation of the new water mains.

A detour has been put in place to direct pedestrians and cyclists to the northbound bike lane on City Island Road between the City Island Bridge and the City Island circle, because the contractor is using the southbound bike lane to weld the casing pipes. The 1,375-foot southbound bike lane will be restored in early spring with new asphalt and pavement markings.

BRIEFLY...

ANNUAL PUMPKIN & FLOWER SALE at the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156 at 550 City Island Avenue on the corner of Cross Street. The sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to the end. The sale will be held rain or shine, and free delivery will be available! There will be pumpkins, gourds, mums, kale, cornstalks, straw and more for sale. Call 718-885-0639 for more information. Please support the American Legion.

CITY ISLAND ART WALK will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Take a stroll down City Island Avenue (rain or shine) to experience art on the avenue featuring the following shops and galleries: 274 City Island Avenue, Clipper Coffee: Kathrine Narducci and Guest Artists showing "The Usual Suspects"; 276 City Island Avenue, Mary Colby Studio and Gallery, featuring "Selected Works by Mary Colby" and "Portraits of the Artists" by Kathrine Narducci and Mary Colby; 321 City Island Avenue, Focal Point Gallery, Selected Works; 280 City Island Avenue, Kaleidoscope Gallery; 278 City Island Avenue, Janos and Theresa Art Gallery; 239 City Island Avenue, 239 Play; 270 City Island Avenue, Rarities and Obscurities.

A WEBINAR ON CITY ISLAND HISTORY, which helps support the City Island Nautical Museum, will be held on Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at 8 p.m., by the New York Adventure Club. Admission to the webinar is \$10, half of which comes to the Nautical Museum, which will remain closed until next spring because of the pandemic. To register, visit *www.nyadventureclub.com* and type in City Island.



Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during August and September 2020. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 HARASSMENT
- 1 AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 GRAND LARCENY
- 1 RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 2-ASSAULT
- 1 LOST PROPERTY
- 1 THEFT OF SERVICES
- 1 PETIT LARCENY
- 1 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Aug. 4 through Sept. 20, 2020.

8/8 – On Pell Place at 11 p.m., an Island female was a victim of assault. She told police that several unknown females were walking on her property. When she told them to leave, they grabbed, punched and kicked her, then fled the scene of the incident.

8/9 – An employee at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue reported theft of services after a party of diners left without paying their bill at 7:22 p.m.

8/14 – At 2 p.m., an off-Island male told police that several items had been removed from his boat, which was docked in a marina on City Island Avenue, in an act of petit larceny. 8/15 – A female driver on Minneford Avenue and Bridge Street told police she was harassed by an unknown male bicyclist who was following her. At 3:05 p.m., she pulled over, and he proceeded to bang on her vehicle window, then argue and spit at her.

8/19 – On City Island Avenue at 2 p.m., an Island female realized her wallet was missing and reported an incident of grand larceny. Her credit card company alerted her to possible misuse of the card.

8/23 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 31, and charged him with reckless endangerment at 9:43 p.m. Officers responded to a multi-vehicle traffic accident with injuries on City Island Avenue. The defendant had fled the scene on foot and was apprehended by police following a search of the area.

9/6 – At 11:55 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault by an unknown male. During a dispute, the male threw the female on the ground and struck her with a closed fist.

9/9 – A female Islander told police that unknown persons threw a cherry bomb and other fireworks into her yard on Tier Street at 3 a.m. causing alarm.

9/17 – An act of grand larceny was reported on Tier Street at 5 p.m. An Island male left his unlocked vehicle in the driveway and when he returned, his wallet and credit cards had been removed by unknown persons.

9/19 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 4:50 p.m., an unknown male broke the lock on the door to a shop and tried to gain entry in an act of criminal mischief.

Photo by BOB CARMODY

On Aug. 21, 2020, a car jumped the curb on City Island Avenue near Fordham Street and caused damage to some storefronts. Fortunately no pedestrians were injured.



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An Unprecedented School Year Begins for Island **Students**

By KAREN NANI and VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Principal Julie Porras (shown above during a video call) will welcome students and teachers back to P.S. 175 on Sept. 29, 2020, for both in-person and remote learning.

The 2020 school year for the faculty and students of City Island's only elementary school, P.S. 175, begins on Sept. 29 like no other in history. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the traditional in-person school day will be replaced by a combination of remote teaching and blended classroom learning most likely for the rest of the year. The unprecedented task of continuing to provide quality education to City Island children under these conditions is being led by the school's new principal, Julie Porras, who was officially appointed last February, right before the lockdown.

Ms. Porras and the custodial staff worked throughout the summer to prepare the classrooms at 200 City Island Avenue for the arrival of the teachers and those students whose parents selected the hybrid option of both in-person and virtual learning. "This year especially 'takes a village' to continue to educate our students under Covid-19 protocols of social distancing, mask requirements and enhanced cleaning. And things are still changing by the minute!" she told The Current during a virtual interview on Sept. 18. "We couldn't do it at all without the flexibility and support of the parents and teachers."

She explained that the school day will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. for all 300 kindergarten to eighth-grade students enrolled at P.S. 175, but that may be the only resemblance to past years. All teachers will work in the building every day Monday through Friday, except for holidays including the December, February and Spring breaks, which are still planned. Students on the in-person schedule will attend classes at the school five days out of every three-week cycle on a rotating basis (such as two days for two weeks and one day for one week). Then they will receive at home instruction using Google Classroom and their teacher's "space" on the other days. Those learning remotely only will log into the Google Classroom platform every day.

How will this work exactly? "Sometimes there will be synchronous teaching during which both in-person and remote students are seeing the same lesson. Other times it will be asynchronous and students at home will be seeing something different. There will be one or two teachers in each classroom with the in-person students, and there will be designated spaces for both in-person and remote teaching."

One example of the asynchronous approach to teaching is a physical education period where the P.S. 175 PE teacher, Mike Sabatello, might work with the inperson students either in the gymnasium or outside in the schoolyard, while at-home students see a video of exercises, games and contests that has been pre-recorded. "We used this system during the shelter-inplace period last spring, and Mr. Sabatello did a great job keeping the kids moving," Ms. Porras explained.

So all students will need computers or tablets to receive remote teaching regardless of the option selected by their parents. According to the principal, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) is working to make sure that every student has the appropriate device and knows how to use it. "We have a Technology Team at the school that has been communicating with parents over the summer and training students during September how to access the remote learning. There is a website for parents and a DOE Help Desk set up to handle technical issues." As news reports around the country have chronicled coronavirus outbreaks at some schools that have reopened, safety is a major concern of every New York City parent and teacher. Ms. Porras explained the testing plan is still evolving but cur-

rently includes recommended Covid testing for teachers before the start of the school year and mandatory wearing of masks for all staff and students while they are in the building. Once classes resume, there will be random temperature checks and health screening questionnaires that need to be completed. "If anyone has symptoms of Covid-19, whether staff or students, they are expected to stay home and be tested," Ms. Porras noted.

Movement of both students and staff around the building will be kept to a minimum in order to maintain social distancing. Lunches will be delivered to students by the cafeteria staff, and the students will eat in their classrooms (the only time they are allowed to remove their masks). The P.S. 175 kitchen crew actually worked all summer providing meals to the entire City Island community which picked them up at the front door on the avenue. This valued program ended on Sept. 25, and now, for safety reasons, only breakfasts and lunches for students learning remotely can be picked up at the school.

Nurse Roberta Gjonaj will be onsite every day and monitoring the health status of students. The custodial staff, led by Kevin Burke, worked hard over the summer upgrading the ventilation, stocking the necessary protective equipment and supplies, and instituting the enhanced protocols. These include frequent cleaning of "high touch" points such as door knobs and other surfaces throughout the school. (Ms. Porras reported that custodians appeared in her office to clean during this interview.)

Although the percentages of students opting for blended versus remote-only learning continued to change as The Current went to press, there will still be school buses arriving in the morning as in the past, and special education services will continue to be offered at the school. However, there will be no snow days this year according to the principal. "If teachers and students cannot travel to the school due to snowstorms, they will revert to remote teaching and learning from home." So, announcements of school closings, going back to bed and later playing in the snow may become part of the "good old days" at P.S. 17 and 175.

Meanwhile, Island parents have been navigating the changes to the school year and expressing their support for the principal's efforts, according to P.S. 175 Parent Coordinator, Tina Gisante. "Julie has kept things moving throughout the entire summer. She is in constant communication with teachers and parents, and they appreciate her transparency."

Ms. Porras arrived on City Island in September 2019 as interim acting principal following the retirement of Amy Lipson. In spite of the highly unusual circumstances of her first full year as principal, she remains upbeat. "This is a great school and community. No matter what is thrown our way this year, we will work to keep it wonderful. The building is in good hands thanks to the entire staff."

U.S. Crane Complaints Voiced by Residents

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



U.S. Crane & Rigging trucks have parked in recent months in the fire lane on City Island Avenue or, in this case, along the sidewalk blocking a driveway and a bus stop.

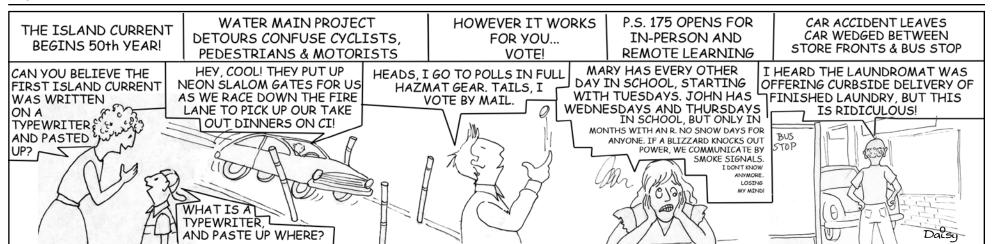
After hearing from several City Island residents with concerns about U.S. Crane & Rigging, which moved in April onto the property at 155-57 Pilot Street that was once owned by Consolidated Yachts, members of Community Board 10 voted at their full board meeting on Sept. 17 to table a vote on a resolution relating to a request made by U.S. Crane for a letter of no objection to begin working on the yard. Some of the issues raised by Island residents included complaints about very loud noises early in the morning or late at night and traffic problems caused by large trucks idling in the fire lane in front of the property. U.S. Crane has filed an application with the Department of Buildings (DOB) to modify the location of the perimeter fencing to alleviate the traffic problems and get approval for a change of use on the property to permit activities relating to their crane business. The delay of the Community Board's vote regarding the letter of no objection will enable a clarification of the issues involved. Before the vote, residents spoke up about how the presence of heavy industrial style cranes could affect their quality of life in a residential neighborhood and

asked that more research be done to determine whether this type of machinery is in line with City Island's Special District Zoning. Additional concerns arose when it was learned that U.S. Crane had not yet



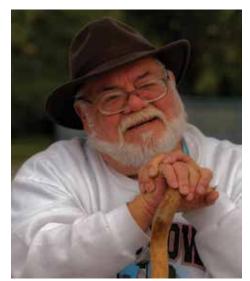
moved all of their equipment from their current location in Hunts Point, where they hold a lease through the end of 2020.

Local resident and Community Board 10 member Maria Caruso read a statement to the Board before asking that the Board delay their vote on the resolution. She stated that "if U.S. Crane only wanted to move a fence and add curb cuts to the property so trucks can enter and exit more easily, they did not need this letter of support from CB10." She also noted that it was likely U.S. Crane could submit a much simpler application to DOB if the company were interested in starting the work to improve the traffic problems immediately. In the end, Ms. Caruso persuaded a majority of the board to give their members and the community more time to learn more about U.S. Crane's operations and research the issues involved. Updates will be provided to the community as the investigation moves forward.





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



Joe Rodriguez

Thanks to the Community

To the Editor,

Thank you for including the obituary for my late husband, Jose Rodriguez, in the September issue. We have lived on City Island for 25 years, and he will truly be missed by our neighbors and furry friends. During this time of sorrow, I have learned how much my community means to me. Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy at a time it was much needed and appreciated.

Karolee Jarnecki

Garden of Delights

To the Editor:

As always, I love reading my Island Current. You are all doing an excellent job and I thank you.

This past weekend I stopped by Jill's Cottage, which just reopened. She and Maurice have redone the shop and it is a sight to behold. Magnificent! Jill, loving her plants as she does, is a wealth of information about anything that grows, and she willingly shares it with everyone that stops by. She is an asset to the community. **Yvette Shandel**

Surviving the Pandemic

To the Editor:

I read with great interest about all the essential service people on City Island in recent issues of The Current (see May, June and July/August 2020 issues). We've been living on King Avenue for three years, and I work as a conductor on the New York City subway system on the No. 5 train. The virus did get me, and I was out for 20 days, but I worked all the other days of the pandemic and continue to open and close the doors for subway riders.

Thank you very much for your newspaper. Neighborhood papers are a great asset to any community. I know; I used to deliver the Norwood News for 13 years. Thank you also for highlighting some of the 2020 graduates in the July/August issue. I hope other families send in photos of their Island high school graduates so there could be a gallery of all those who didn't get proper graduations in 2020 because of the coronavirus.

Mickey Burke

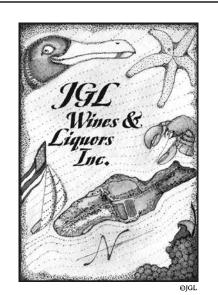
Back to School

To the Editor:

Thank you, John!

Grateful thanks to John Scardina for his "Back to School 2020" in the September issue of The Island Current. His 10 points for a "brave new world" are as applicable to our community and individual households as to families with students. His "practice appropriate rituals" jolted me out of my complacency.

Gail Hitt



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City Island Participates in Public Workshop on NYC Waterfront Plan

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of the DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Waterfront access throughout New York City is being evaluated in the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan being drafted by the Department of City Planning (DCP). An online discussion about the East Bronx waterfront was held by DCP on Sept. 15, 2020, and attended by several City Island residents, who expressed their views on the subject.

On Sept. 15, 2020, the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) held a virtual workshop on the subject of Vision 2030, New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. The workshop focused on the east Bronx, including Eastchester Bay, the East River and the Bronx River. More than 60 individuals attended, several of them from City Island, to learn about the plan and to contribute their ideas.

DEP is mandated by a law passed in 2008 to update the city's waterfront plan every 10 years in order to work toward making the city's 520 miles of waterfront more accessible, active and resilient. The new plan, which will be released within a year, will build on the work of the Vision 2020 plan to provide public access to the city's waterways, adapt densely populated coastal areas to the effects of climate change, and support economic activity along the waterfront, among other goals.

Michael Marrella, Director of Waterfront and Open Space Division at DCP, introduced the preliminary issues and goals that the next plan will address and then turned the meeting over to four small groups so that everyone could share thoughts about the goals of the plan, suggest improvements to the goals or introduce goals that had been overlooked. This part of the program was followed by a general session in which the highlights from each group were shared with the main group.

Each of the groups was attended by at least two City Island residents, who were mainly interested in speaking about public access to the waterfront, resiliency, water quality, ferry service and the significance of community involvement in the planning process. The importance of developing more resilient shorelines was stressed, not only to control rising waters but also to improve water quality. public access to the waterfront in places like Pelham Bay Park and City Island, especially for active uses like boat launches, and for more hiking, biking and fishing along the water. Several speakers focused on the need to balance community concerns about safety, maintenance and law enforcement with the desire to provide additional waterfront access. A proposed use of the city-owned property near the City Island Bridge, called the Gateway, for public access will be the subject of discussion by organizations throughout the community during the coming months as will other ideas for how best to preserve and use the waterfront in our area.

DCP provided a map identifying public parks near the water and private properties that have been mandated by zoning to provide public access to the waterfront (On the Sound, Seafood City and the new catering hall that will be built next to Seafood City). However, two well-known locations by the water that have been improved to allow the public to sit and enjoy views of the water on City Island were not identified on the map: Catherine Scott Promenade and Belden Point. The map also shows only one publicly accessible human-powered boat launch in the entire east Bronx.

It was suggested that ferry stops could connect neighborhoods to each other, as well as with other transportation modes such as bike-sharing programs, shuttles and parking availability. A ferry stop on City Island, for example, could increase visitors to the Island and improve business diversification without increasing automobile traffic.

Those who are interested in learning

Make a Plan: Vote Early, Vote by Mail or Vote on Election Day!

by JANE PROTZMAN

On Aug. 20, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed into law sweeping election reforms that will make it easier for New Yorkers to vote and be counted in November. The new measures allow absentee and mail-in ballot applications to be submitted to the Board of Elections and expand the necessary protections to allow a voter to get an absentee ballot due to risk or fear of illness including Covid-19. Ballots with a postmark demonstrating that they were mailed on or before Nov. 2 will be counted if received by Nov. 10. Anyone who has not yet registered to vote may do so through Oct. 9.

Acquiring Mail-in/Absentee Ballots

The election reform included the following reason for mail-in qualifications: "because there is a risk of contracting or spreading a disease that may cause illness to the voter or to other members of the public." New Yorkers who are requesting an absentee ballot due to concerns about Covid should select "temporary illness" as their reason for requesting to vote absentee.

You must apply online or e-mail or fax your completed application for the General Absentee ballot by Oct. 27.

The fastest way to get an absentee ballot application is to go online at *https:// vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting*. You can print the application and mail it in to the Bronx Board of Elections. The other alternatives are to e-mail *apply4absentee@ boe.nyc* or call 866.VOTENYC to request applications or to apply in person for a ballot at the Bronx Board of Elections, up to Nov. 2, the day before the election. The address is 1780 Grand Concourse, 5th floor, Bronx, NY 10457. If you have any questions, call 718-299-9017.

If you chose the online option you can also request a 6-digit tracking number that will later indicate date mailed, received and cast (or not). The site *www. nycabsentee.com* can be used to check the status of your absentee ballot application and to track your ballot, but only after you have submitted an application. Enter your information exactly as it appears in your voter registration card. Failure to do so may result in a "Record Not Found." This does not mean that your application was not received. For further assistance you can e-mail *AbsenteeHelp@boe.nyc*.

Voting by Absentee Ballot

Once you have received your ballot, fill it out. Be careful that your signature matches the one you have used for previous elections. Mail the ballot at your local post office before Nov. 3, Election Day. Common Cause suggests that adding a first-class stamp will insure that it goes by first-class mail. Be sure that you have the ballot postmarked at the counter. The New York State reform states that "any absentee ballot received by the Board of Elections by mail that does not bear or display a dated postmark shall be presumed to have been timely mailed or delivered if such ballot bears the time stamp of the receiving Board of Election."

designed drop-off ballot boxes where voters concerned about Covid-19 can safely deliver their mail-in ballots. The drop-off boxes will be placed at the Bronx Board of Elections, all early-voting site locations and 1,300 polling sites on Election Day. The drop-off box has red, white and blue colors. The top of the box is painted blue and contains slit opening with instructions in white that says: "Drop off your absentee ballot here." Governor Cuomo has signed an executive order ensuring that drop-off boxes will be available at more than 300 early voting sites statewide from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1, but ballots can be dropped off starting now at the Bronx Board of Elections office (1780 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor, between 174th and 175th Streets).

Voting in Person

The early voting site for City Island, at St. Frances de Chantal Church, 190 Hollywood Avenue, Bronx 10465, will be open from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1. Voting on Election Day will be at P.S. 175 as usual between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. If the front door is not open, use the side entrance to get to the back of the building. You will be required to wear a mask/face covering and maintain six feet of distance when entering any Board of Elections facility. Remember that if you vote in person and make a mistake on the ballot, you will be able to correct it on the premises.

For additional information, go to *https://www.voteearlyny.org/* and *www.vote.nyc.* Sincere thanks to Senator Alessandra Biaggi's office for facts and resources for this article.

KEY ELECTION DATES

Oct. 9: Last day to register in person or by mail postmark date. The application must arrive at Board of Elections by Oct. 14.

Oct. 14: Last postmark date for change of address to be registered.

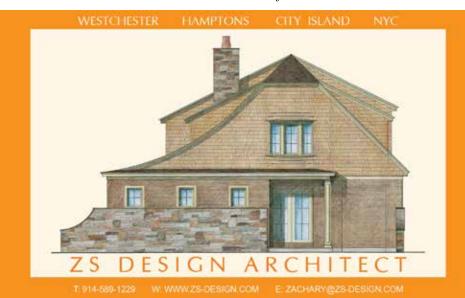
Oct. 24 to Nov. 1: Early voting. City Island's assigned location is St. Frances de Chantal Church, 190 Hollywood Avenue, Bronx 10465. On most days, the hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; some days have longer hours. Entrance located at the foot of the stairs on Msgr. Halpin Place.

Oct. 27: Last day to request an absentee ballot.

Nov. 2: Last in-person application for absentee ballot at the Board

Several participants called for more

more about Vision 2030 and contributing ideas to the program are invited to visit https://www.waterfrontplan.nyc/ or https://waterfrontalliance.org/2019/11/07/ help-shape-the-future-of-new-york-cityswaterfront/.



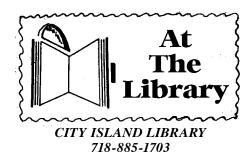
The New York City Board of Elections

of Elections.

Nov. 2: Last postmark date for absentee ballot; it must be in the Board of Elections office by Nov. 10.

Nov. 3: Election Day. Last day to drop off your completed absentee ballot to the Board of Elections or poll site. Vote in person at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.





As of Aug. 3, the City Island branch has offered a grab-and-go service, which allows patrons to access a limited area of these branches to return materials and pick up holds. Reserve your items online or by phone, and you will receive an e-mail when your items are ready, at which point your items will be automatically checked out to your account. You can then head to your selected branch for contactless pickup. Simply grab your items from the holds shelf-then go! There will be no need to stop by the circulation desk for checkout. The same goes for returns-rather than visiting the desk, there will be a designated bin where you can return any items you currently have.

The process of reserving an item is the same as always. You can place a hold on an item online into a queue until a copy becomes available. The wait time will vary depending on how many others have reserved the item and how many copies we have

During this time, patrons are encouraged to explore the online resources available on NYPL. org. Both SimplyE and Overdrive can be accessed from any smartphone, tablet or e-reader. Once either app is downloaded, use your NYPL library card number (found on the back of your card) and 4-digit PIN to log in. Once you are logged in, you will have access to an extensive collection of electronic materials that can be downloaded onto your device free of charge! If certain items are unavailable, you can place a hold on them so that they appear on your device once they become available.

Additionally, you can still call our helpline at 917-ASK-NYPL (917-275-6975) or contact the City Island Library staff directly on our Facebook page. Not only will we do our best to answer any questions that you may have, but we will be posting information about some of the NYPL's remotely accessible databases for you to check out while you are at home.



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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 20, the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Temple Beth-El congregants, led by Rabbi David Evan Markus, performed the traditional Tashlich ceremony on Eastchester Bay. This ritual not only expresses the desire to be free from sin but also a hope for the forgiveness of past misdeeds by reciting prayers and by casting sins and anything that no longer serves us, such as anger, ill health, etc. (represented by bread crumbs) into a flowing body of water.



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

A Quilt of Valor was presented on Sept. 19, 2020, in memoriam to the family of Tommy Tomsen, U.S. Army. Displaying the quilt (I. to r.): Judy McCormick, Maryann Occhicone, Sandra Panzarella and Ethel Lott, members of Quilters by the Sea QOV.

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CI GATEWAY EFFORTS STALLED BY COVID CRISIS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by LINDA BALDWIN

The land on which these trucks are parked belongs to the city of New York, not to the private lot at the far left, which is being leased by the owner to a construction firm.

Many City Island residents have been waiting for years for the abandoned property located on the Island just north of the City Island Bridge to be cleaned up. The biggest eyesore is a three-story abandoned building that everyone must pass on the way to Bridge Street whether to return home, purchase marine supplies or go out to eat or work at Lobster House or JP's.

The vacant building and most of the land is owned by the City of New York and includes a boat launch. A small portion of that property, which contains a long pier, a large empty metal container and an abandoned shack on a platform attached to the pier, is privately owned and has no access to the street. The entire property was used for over 100 years as a fishing supply and boat rental establishment called Rosenberger's, which during the 1970s housed a business known as the "Worm Bar." Over the years, that business closed, the property fell into disrepair and the owner stopped paying property taxes. The City eventually reclaimed ownership and sold the privately owned portion, lot 149, at an auction.

In 2019, a group of individuals on City Island who are interested in having a say over the future use of the highly visible property-including representatives from the City Island Civic Association, the Garden Club, the Historical Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Center, the PTA of P.S. 175, the American Legion Post 156 and the City Island Theater Group-came together to form the City Island Gateway, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization formed exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Gateway activities are limited to celebrating and honoring the unique nautical heritage of City Island; informing the public about the ecology and environment of the Long Island Sound; connecting the community with active water-related uses in and around City Island; transforming a decrepit property into an attractive and useful asset for the use of the community;

and incorporating environmental, recreational, cultural and economic aspects into the development of a sustainable public community resource.

In November 2019, the Gateway's Board of Directors decided to submit an application to the City of New York for a license to use the property. A license would grant Gateway, on a month-to-month basis, permission to enter the City property and beautify it, which Gateway had hoped to do in time for the 2020 summer season. Once the Gateway is granted the license, it plans to reach out to and work with the community to get ideas and feedback about how the site could be improved to meet the needs of all island residents.

Unfortunately, the business of government does not move as quickly as we all would expect, and, once the coronavirus hit, an otherwise slow process slowed even further. Gateway has been in contact with DOT, the agency that must sign off on a license for the property, which it controls. DOT has previously stated that once the construction of the new City Island Bridge is complete it would have no further use for the property and would be willing to issue a license for community use, so Gateway is hopeful that DOT will honor its prior commitment and approve the license.

Recently a construction business, with approval from the owner of the private lot, expanded onto the City-owned property. The business's use of the City-owned property was not approved by DOT and does not conform to the C3 zoning for the lot, which only allows for low density residential, community facility and maritime uses. As a result, we expect DOT to investigate and remedy the current situation shortly. Residents of City Island and local organizations that would like to support Gateway's efforts or get involved in turning this publicly owned land into an asset for the community, please contact city. island.gateway@gmail.com.

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Organization News

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 thar 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.

American Legion Post 156

The next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 4, at noon. Dues are past due; they are \$55 and can be dropped off at the Post. Please put them in an envelope with your name on it for us to properly process your membership.

We are unable to provide hall rental until the Covid19 restrictions are lifted.

The weekend of Oct. 2, 3 and 4 will be the annual Post Pumpkin Sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Legion Auxiliary will also be hosting a bake sale (on Saturday only) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please come out and support the Legion Family.

Through an abundance of safety for our members, 1st District members have elected to cancel this year's Department 1st District Visitation. Michael McDermott is currently our Department Commander; statewide Auxiliary President Linda Tome and Dennis George, who is state SAL Detachment Commander, would also have joined the visitation. We look forward to seeing them in Albany for our Mid-Winter Convention, if we are allowed to gather.

Please visit our website for the latest information and an ability to email the Post directly. Our website is www.Leonardhhawkinspost156.com, where you will find an e-mail link to reach us too!

We give thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all ourselves anymore.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. 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.



City Island Civic Association

The Civic Association executive board met on Sept. 14 and voted to hold a full membership meeting at the Morris Yacht Club on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Because of the pandemic, it was agreed by the executive committee to postpone officer elections until January 2021.

Several CICA members attended a virtual meeting with the Department of City Planning on Sept. 15 to discuss Vision 2030, The New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, as it relates to the east Bronx. Refer to article on page 5.

placed a patrol car outside the marina. Members attended a 45th Precinct meeting on City Island and expressed the community's concerns regarding traffic control and lawlessness. They put a DWI check on City Island and seemed to listen to residents.

We need to be positive and to support residents in dealing with quality-of-life and safety issues. For example, if you see something, say something: call 311, help your neighbors, and adhere to Covid-19 regulations set by NYC and NYS: wear a mask in public and observe social distancing

The Civic Association was founded in November 1950, and this 70th anniversary will be celebrated in the November issue of The Island Current. To become a member of the Civic, send your annual dues (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership) to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx 10464, or pay online at paypal.com to city.island.civic@ gmail.com, the "friends and family" option. Please note that joining the Civic Facebook page does not represent membership in the association.

Jane Protzman

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Children from the OLA/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program will receive First Holy Communion on Saturday, Oct. 3.

OLA/St. Mary, Star of the Sea new Archdiocese's "Family Based Parish Religious Education" Program will begin this month. If you have not yet registered your child/children, there is still time. Please don't hesitate to contact Teri Kurtz at the Religious Education office, 718-885-1440, or by e-mail at *smssreled@yahoo.com*.

The Blessing of the Animals will take place in St. Mary's Schoolyard on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Rose Dietz and Teri Kurtz

AARP 318

Our chapter has been notified by the National AARP that all chapter meetings must be discontinued for the remainder of 2020 as a necessary precaution against Covid-19. Although we are disappointed, we look forward hopefully to 2021. Until then, stay well and be safe.

Carroll A. Reid

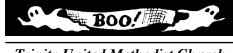
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156



Kayakers celebrated the Waterfront Alliance's City of Water Day on Sept. 12, 2020, an event organized by City Island Rising.

the Sea QOV. Other Auxiliary and QBTS-QOV members attended the presentation outdoors at the Morris Yacht Club.

Harlan Sexton



Trinity United Methodist Church

As of Sunday, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m., Trinity United Methodist Church resumed inperson worship in the Sanctuary. All persons wishing to attend must wear masks and enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance on Bay Street. Attendance is recorded and temperatures are taken. While maintaining social distance, attendees then enter the Sanctuary, where seating is staggered. At this time, there is no singing, but hymns are played by the extraordinary organist Joy Kim. For the foreseeable future, this is how we will worship in person. Every effort is being made to thoroughly clean the facility after the service, and at this time no groups are using the property. Trinity understands that these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will be live-streamed, and recorded for You-Tube. To request information about the live stream, e-mail Pastor Dave at david.jolly@ nyac-ucm.com.

The new hours for the Food Pantry are Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Rick DeWitt

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Senior Days (60+) **Tuesday and Thursday.** Pick up and drop off 15 percent off.

PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. to distribute meals, masks, sanitizers and more as we receive them. Please be sure to listen to the One Call Now message sent to members to update them on meal pickups, new groups and the steps we will take when we reopen (hopefully soon!).

Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also gives instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote balance class, arthritis class and our singing group. Our staff regularly calls our members individually to check on their well-being. If you are not on our calling list, please e-mail pattis@pssusa.org with your name and phone number; or you can reach the center at 718-885-0727. Until we're together again, stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop's temporary home will be the St. Mary's School Gymnasium, open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



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Several members attended virtual meetings of the Community Board #10 in regard to a request by U.S. Crane & Rigging to have the board approve a "letter of no objection" to their application for a new entrance and a related zoning adjustment. The board's resolution was postponed to the October meeting in order to give the community time to research the .US. Crane request. Stay tuned.

Gratitude continues to be expressed to those who have participated in keeping the Island clean-specifically the Wildcats provided by Councilmember Mark Gjonajand to City Island Strong for continuing to serve residents who need assistance, Cityislandstrong@gmail.com.

The Municipal Services Committee contacted Councilman Gjonaj regarding the boats going out of North Minneford. He met with the owner and the owner established new policies. The NYPD 45th Precinct

Unit 156 will sponsor a bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the Legion's Pumpkin Sale. You may drop off individually wrapped items for sale that morning. All are welcome to come out to buy to support the Auxiliary's community services.

We are again holding a children's clothing drive for the Fort Drum military families. Please drop off new clothes (from infant to teenager sizes) during the Oct. 3 bake sale or on Oct. 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion post.

The October meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 6. It will be brief but will cover all necessary business, particularly the clothing drive. Expect to meet outside in the Legion parking lot.

On Sept. 19, a Quilt of Valor was presented in memoriam for Tommy Tomsen to his family. The quilt was presented by Doreen Gallagher, Auxiliary President, and displayed by Judy McCormick and Maryann Occhicone, sisters of Mr. Tomsen and members of both the Auxiliary and Quilters by

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

Happy Fall. The City Island Community Center remains closed, but the board continues to work for the City Island community. On Saturday, Sept. 12, board members ran the second fundraising street sale raising \$864. The 50/50 raffle pot also increased to \$655 with additional raffle sales. The board decided to hold off on drawing a winner to allow the pot to grow, so the drawing will now take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the next outdoor City Island Community Center Street sale.

Please join us from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 190 Fordham Place to shop for housewares, cooking items, seasonal decor, hobby goods, toys, books and much more. Special thanks to all those that donated items for all of our sales.

As we enter the fall flu season, we want to encourage everyone to get a flu shot. Protecting yourself against seasonal flu is the best way to build a stronger immune system. It also protects all your loved ones and those you come into contact with. Finally, getting your shot raises your chances of not getting flu at all or of experiencing fewer symptoms if you do get the flu. Remember, there are many strains of seasonal flu. The flu vaccine does not protect against every strain, so you may still get sick even after getting the flu shot, but your symptoms should be much less severe with your shot!

Melissa Cebollero

Grace Episcopal Church

The coronavirus has altered many aspects of our lives. People are confused and frightened and dealing with almost unprecedented uncertainty. As we explore new and different ways of living together, many of us find comfort in those things that are constant: family, dear friends, worship (in whatever form) and our congregation at Grace Church.

Our sincere thanks to Kevin Boyle and John Skinner, who are making it possible for us to connect and worship together on a regular basis. On Sundays at 10 a.m. we have our online church service. Please join our 10 a.m. Sunday service from your computer, tablet or smart phone via *https:// www.gotomeet.me/JohnSkinner1*. You can also dial in using your phone: United States: +1 (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 386-753-157. Are you new to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: *https://global. gotomeeting.com/install/386753157*.

New to Grace: Grace Church is now open for prayer between 2 and 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Grace Church is located at 116 City Island Avenue at the corner of Pilot Street. Those who are not able to attend in person are invited to pray at home. Feel free to visit at any time during the hour. Please enter by the main entrance, where a church member will seat you, and observe social distancing. The use of a mask is required; hand sanitizer will be available at the door. Please join us for a time of prayer, with masks on, sitting socially and safely distanced in the pews. We pray for each other, for ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers. And as Father John Covington suggests, "find a moment to be thankful for our lives and those things that bring us

comfort and joy."

Our congregation will endure. The vestry is continuing to hold monthly online meetings coordinated by Senior Warden Bruce Weis. A vestry committee is also planning to live-stream our Sunday service, along with making plans for our eventual return to public worship. Paul Nani reports that Cuba, our sexton, checks on the building daily; our treasurer, Kathy Lonergan, sorts the mail and visits the office during the week; and Evyonne Baker, our volunteer office assistant, is continually updating our website, which now has Father Covington's sermons posted.

Sunday School: Mrs. Nani looks forward to meeting again in person with her Sunday School when Grace Church reopens its doors later this year. The group, which ranges in age from 2 to 14, will participate in a Youth Service shortly after reopening. Meanwhile, members of the Sunday School have been attending the virtual online services led by Father Covington throughout the summer. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

New to the Grace Music Ministry: Our music ministry is introducing a new opportunity for all to participate in music during our worship services. No prior musical experience is necessary. Contact Caroline Coppola, Minister of Music, for more information and a demonstration of our hand chimes (geccimusic@gmail.com). The GraceTones are eager to return to singing for residents at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, as well as supporting local businesses with shows featuring hymns about the power of God's eternal grace, love and joy, when it is safe to do so. Sandy Dunn

City Island Rising

Our community, like the country at large, has been grappling with issues involving race and equity. We were pleased to host an interactive dialogue with Rev. Deborah Jenkins, a neighbor from Co-Op City and a chaplain for the 45th Precinct, on "Justice and Equity," where many questions were answered and where many Islanders were able to hear a different perspective and gain a greater understanding of these issues.

We joined the Waterfront Alliance's "City of Water Day" on Sept. 12 for a kayak event around City Island. The event was enjoyable for everyone who participated, and we plan to host another event next year. We are also hosting two events during the last week of September—a "Clean Sweep" on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and another "Census Phonebank" on Sept. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. State Senator Biaggi will be a cosponsor of the phonebank.

Events are currently being planned for October, and more information will be forthcoming. Our next meeting will be on Oct. 8 via Zoom.

Those interested in signing up can e-mail us at *CityIslandRising@gmail.com*, calling 917-765-7968 or checking our Facebook page or Twitter handle (CI_Rising).

John Doyle



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Missing Team Sports

With the Fall/Winter sport seasons in doubt at the time of this writing, I thought perhaps viewers could get a taste of their favorites on film from the plethora of choices available.

Basketball

The family comedy *Teen Wolf* (1984) stars Michael J. Fox as Scott Howard, a high school student who has a slight problem: he's turning into a werewolf. Fortunately, he has a loving father (James Hampton) and a sweet best friend (Susan Ursitti) to help him cope. No one dies in this film because the problem is just hereditary. This is a movie everyone can enjoy.

Hoosiers (1986) is a triumphant tale of a high school basketball team's long-shot attempt to win the state championship. Failed college coach Norman Dale (Gene Hackman) gets a chance at redemption when he is hired to direct the basketball program at a high school in a small Indiana town. Dale must struggle to develop a winning team in the face of community criticism for his temper and his unconventional choice of assistant coach: Shooter (Dennis Hopper), a notorious alcoholic. The film is filled with edge-of-your-seat suspense and breathless excitement. It was nominated for two Oscars and considered by Sports Illustrated and ESPN as one of the best sports movies of all time.

Timely because of the current unrest in our country, Amazing Grace and Chuck (1987) is the story of Chuck Murdock (Joshua Zuehlke), the star pitcher of his Little League baseball team in a small town in Montana. When he gets to visit a missile silo, he begins to worry about nuclear war and decides to give up his "best thing," playing baseball, until the world disarms. When a newspaper article about Chuck's idea comes to the attention of the star of the Boston Celtics basketball team, Amazing Grace Smith (Alex English), he decides to join Chuck in his quest for nuclear disarmament and starts a protest heard round the world.

White Men Can't Jump (1992) is unique in its non-formulaic plot of hustling on the basketball courts of L.A. It stars Wesley Snipes as Sidney Deane, a man trying to make enough money to move his family out of the ghetto. He teams up with Billy Hoyle (Woody Harrelson), who needs enough money to pay off the Stucci Brothers, who lost a lot of money when Billy refused to throw a game. Billy lives with Gloria (Rosie Perez), who steals each scene as a woman whose aim in life is to be a contestant on the game show "Jeopardy." This is an original, vulgar, unpredictable movie filled with basketball. The Dream Team (2012) is a documentary about the 1992 United States men's Olympic basketball team, nicknamed the "Dream Team" because it was the first American Olympic team to feature active professional players from the National Basketball Association. It included such greats as Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Scottie Pippen, Charles Barkley, Larry Bird and Patrick Ewing. It was described by journalists worldwide as the greatest sports team ever assembled. Hoop Dreams (1996) is a documentary about the aspirations of high-school basketball players from inner-city Chicago. Two young men are followed by the filmmaker during their entire high-school career, beginning with their participation in playground games and ending with their being recruited by colleges. The obstacles these young men face include parental drug addiction, family poverty, inner-city violence and physical injuries. Although each aspires to leave the ghetto, there are

many reasons why they may not be able to do so, despite the fact that each one beats the odds by winning college scholarships. The film won awards from the Sundance Film Festival and the New York Film Critics Circle and received an Oscar for best editing.

Love & Basketball (2000) is an American romantic sports drama that tells the story of a young African-American couple, Quincy McCall (Omar Epps) and Monica Wright (Sanaa Lathan), two next-door neighbors in Los Angeles who are pursuing their respective basketball careers before eventually falling for each other. As these very talented individuals struggle to make their relationship work, they follow separate career paths through high school and college basketball and aspire to stardom in big-league professional ball.

The Other Dream Team (2012) is a documentary that covers the inspirational story of the 1992 Lithuanian national basketball team and their journey to the bronze medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. The film not only follows the team, but also sees it in the context of broader historical events. The fall of the Soviet Union allowed Lithuania to reestablish its independence and enter the Olympics as an independent country.

The Way Back (2020) stars Ben Affleck as Jack Cunningham, a former high school basketball superstar who suddenly walked away from the game for unknown reasons. Years later, he is a construction worker struggling with alcoholism—the very thing that ruined his marriage and his hope for a better life. When asked to become the basketball coach for his alma mater, Jack gets a shot at redemption. As the drama unfolds, we discover events in Jack's life that greatly contributed to his problems. Ben Affleck's performance is quite poignant as he uses his own real-life struggles with alcoholism to define the character.

Football

The classic film *Knute Rockne–All American* (1940) stars Pat O'Brien in the title role as the great Notre Dame football coach. Under his tutelage, the game is forever changed with his invention of the forward pass. This film features Ronald Reagan as Rockne's most famous player, George Gipp, who inspired him to give the famous "Win one for the Gipper" speech.

Garnering nine Academy Award nominations, *Heaven Can Wait* (1978) is the story of Joe Pendleton (Warren Beatty), an L.A. Rams quarterback who is accidently taken to heaven by an overly eager escort (Buck Henry). Trying to put things right, Mr. Jordan (James Mason), the man in charge, places him in the body of a rich man whom Joe tries to get in shape to play football again, with the help of his former coach, Max (Jack Warden). Julie Christie is on hand as the romantic interest in this wonderful comedy/fantasy, co-written by Beatty and Elaine May.

Wildcats (1986) stars Goldie Hawn as Molly, a high school physical education instructor who is tired of coaching girls track. When she requests the position of JV coach for her school's football team, she is transferred to Central High, the toughest school in the city. Both Woody Harrelson and Wesley Snipes are featured as members of Central High's varsity team to which she is assigned to coach. Of course she wins the team's respect, and her efforts to create a winning team are successful. Hawn is charming enough to make up for the formulaic plot of this very watchable film. *Rudy* (1993) is based on a true story set in the 1960s. Sean Astin stars in the title role as a physically small and mediocre student whose dream in life is to play football for Notre Dame, much to the dismay of his steelworker dad (Ned Beatty). He is befriended in his quest by the Notre Dame groundskeeper (Charles S. Dutton) and a helpful priest (Robert Prosky). This is an inspirational tale of a relentless determination for the impossible. Jerry Maguire (1996) received five Oscar nominations and a win for Cuba Gooding Jr. as Rod Tidwell, a cocky Arizona receiver. Rod's agent is Jerry (Tom Cruise), whose fit of integrity gets him

fired from his firm, but he is followed to create a new company by Dorothy Boyd (Renee Zellweger). Scene stealers include Bonnie Hunt as Dorothy's sister, Laurel, and Jonathan Lipnicki as Dorothy's scrumptious little boy, Ray. This film is about friendship, integrity and loyalty.

Perhaps the most serious film for football fans is *Any Given Sunday* (1999), Oliver Stone's three hour epic about the reality and grit of the game. Al Pacino is terrific and convincing as Tony D'Amato, the Miami Sharks coach, whose nemesis is the late owner's ambitious daughter, Christina (Cameron Diaz), who tries to take control. This large and excellent cast includes Dennis Quaid as a veteran quarterback with Lauren Holly as his wife, and James Woods and Matthew Modine as team doctors with different priorities. This is purely about football.

In 1971 Alexandria, VA, a high school is integrated, including the football team, as depicted in *Remember the Titans* (2000). Both Coach Boone (Denzel Washington) and Coach Yoast (Will Patton) are challenged to get the white and black players to work together. A young Ryan Gosling appears as one of the players on the team. The acting is outstanding in this exhilarating and moving film.

Sandra Bullock won a very well deserved Academy Award for her performance in *The Blind Side* (2009). She stars as Leigh Anne Tuohy, a white Memphis decorator who takes pity on homeless black high school student Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) and welcomes him into her home, with the support of her husband, Sean (Tim McGraw); their daughter, Collins (Lily Collins); and scene-stealing son, S. J. (Jae Head). They hire a tutor, Miss Sue (Kathy Bates), and put Michael on a path to football stardom. Seeing a TV interview with the real Tuohy family confirms what a spectacular job Bullock does with this role.

If I had seen the film *Concussion* (2015) first, I never would have permitted my sons to play football. While conducting an autopsy on former NFL football player Mike Webster (David Morse), forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu (Will Smith)

discovers neurological deterioration that is similar to Alzheimer's disease. Omalu names the disorder chronic traumatic encephalopathy and publishes his findings in a medical journal. As other athletes face the same diagnosis, the crusading doctor embarks on a mission to raise public awareness about the dangers of football-related head trauma.

Hockey

Slap Shot (1977) is a very raucous film starring Paul Newman as the player/coach of the Charlestown Chiefs, a losing minor league hockey team. When three "dumb" brothers are recruited, violence becomes the name of the game. But one of the players, Ned Braden (Mike Ontkean), only wants to win fairly—and teaches everyone a lesson in the team's grand finale. The best part of the film is Paul's outrageous 1960s clothing.

Hockey is the name of the game in *Mystery Alaska* (1999). When sports writer Charles Danner (Hank Azaria) writes a piece on his hometown team for Sports Illustrated, a sports network promotes a game between the local team and the NY Rangers. The cast includes Russell Crowe as an aging hockey star who is the town sheriff with Mary McCormack as his wife. The local attorney is Maury Chaykin. Colm Meaney is the mayor married to the beautiful Lolita Davidovitch. Ron Eldard is a ladies man, and Burt Reynolds is a judge in this fun film.

When Minnesota veteran hockey coach Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell) is recruited to put together the American hockey team for the 1980 Winter Olympics, he is challenged to bring about a *Miracle* (2004). The Americans haven't won in 20 years. In 1960, Brooks (a real person who consulted on the film) suffered a disappointment of his own, which gives him a special perspective on his team. His leadership style is fascinating to watch. The film has some truly searing as well as thrilling moments.

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





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Episcopal

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Sending prayers, and blessings to our community, and the world.



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.



Charles Walter Tillinghast

Charles Tillinghast, who was born and grew up on City Island, passed away on March 31, 2020, in Gaffney, SC, at the age of 78.

He was born on July 20, 1941, to Joseph J. Tillinghast and Hilda Thompson Tillinghast, and he lived on City Island until the 1960s. He graduated from P.S. 17 in 1955 and from Christopher Columbus High School in 1959. He enlisted in the Army in the 1960s and was stationed at Ford Sill in Oklahoma.

Charles was married to Shirley Ann Kress Tillinghast, and they raised two children. He worked until his retirement as an engineer at Proctor & Gamble, 3M and Hoechst Fibers. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving as an expert M-14 Rifleman in the U.S. Army. He loved being with his family and friends, as well as animals, sailing, traveling, reading and cooking.

He is survived by his wife; his son,





Charles Jordan Tillinghast of Gaffney, SC; his daughter, Jordanna Tillinghast and her fiancé, Charlie Gray; his sisters, Charlotte Bernard of New York and Nathalie Avery of Florida; a granddaughter, Chloe Tillinghast; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Thomas R. Tomsen

of 78.

his death.

Thomas Tomsen, who was born and

He was born on July 5, 1941, to Tom

lived on City Island from 1941 to 1972

and lived here again from 2009 to 2020,

passed away on March 8, 2020, at the age

and Marie (Leupp) Tomsen of 157 Tier

Street, and attended P.S. 17. He served

in the U.S. Army and later worked in a

number of fields, including architecture

and construction. He also worked for

American Express, for which he traveled

extensively. He was retired at the time of

Mason and a member of the American

Legion Post 156. He was also an avid

his brother Philip Tomsen and his sister

Tina Schaeffer. He is survived by his

model boat builder and photographer.

On City Island, Mr. Tomsen was a

He was predeceased by his parents,

sisters Maryann Occhicone, Judy McCormick and Karen Fighera and his grandsons John and Christopher Tomsen.

A funeral Mass was held on Sept. 19 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.



Heike Neumeister

Island resident Heike Neumeister passed away peacefully at her home on City Island on Aug. 31, 2020.

Heike was born in 1963 and raised in Stuttgart, Germany. She earned a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Tübingen, Germany, and her lifelong passions were centered on the sciences and the arts. She moved to the United States in 1990 with her neuroscientist husband, Thomas Preuss, Ph.D., and they became City Island residents in 2003. She worked as a research associate at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later at Hunter College.

While she was working on her doctorate, Heike studied the chambered nautilus, and her postdoctoral research focused on behavioral neuroscience in various aquatic species on which she authored numerous scientific publications. Throughout her professional life, she was involved in animal conservation and in 2016 was instrumental in the protection of the endangered nautilus by the Endangered Species Act.

Recently Heike served as the leading scientist for the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) project, for which she developed the basic scientific concept for analyzing local waters for oyster deployment, which established the groundwork on which the CIOR can build.

In addition to her scientific achievements, Heike Neumeister was also a talented artist, having studied with various individual artists and art schools, including the Art Students League in New York City. She exhibited her work internationally, including the Galerie Artlantis in Stuttgart, the Galerieverein Leonberg and the historic castle Gallery Schrade in the foothills of the Alps. Most recently, her work was shown at Clipper Coffee and Janos & Theresa Fine Art on City Island. While living on City Island, she developed a deep passion for sailing and sailing races, which in turn influenced her art. Inspired by her sailing experiences on Long Island Sound, she named a series of her recent paintings after the wind gods "Anemoi."



John Joseph Hartigan

John Joseph (Jack) Hartigan passed away peacefully at home in Rye, NY, on Sept. 19, 2020, at the age of 86.

Jack was born on Nov. 8, 1933, to Elizabeth (Bessie) and Stephen Hartigan and was raised on City Island with his sister, Catherine. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and served as an altar boy at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, as well as at the chapel on Hart Island. Jack attended Fordham Preparatory School, where he was on the swim team, and after graduating he entered the U.S. Coast Guard, where he served for four years from 1952 to 1956. He met his wife, Irene, at the Jersey shore, and they married in 1959.

After four years in the Coast Guard, Jack joined the NYC Police Department, serving for 36 years and achieving the rank of Deputy Chief. While on the force, he received a degree in criminal justice from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He served in commanding officer roles in four of the five boroughs, and he became one of the highest-ranking officers in the Narcotics Joint Task Force. In his retirement, Jack was an active member of the Captain Endowment Association and the Emerald Society of the NYPD. He was instrumental in forming the New York City Police Department's Emerald Society Bagpipe Band.

Jack was an active member of Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post 156, where he participated in many community events and enjoyed the camaraderie of the members. He was the Judge Advocate at the Legion for many years, and in 2019 the members of the American Legion named him Judge Advocate Emeritus.

Beginning in 1973, he was a member of the Coveleigh Club in Rye, NY, and a former member of the Rye Golf Club. He enjoyed traveling, listening to Irish music, attending or watching the games of the Yankees and the New York Giants, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, his wife of 56 years, and his sister, Catherine Walsh. He is survived by his three children, Patricia Malmquist (Derek) of Edina, MN; Stephen Hartigan (Carmen) of Pelham Manor, NY; and Lisa Ashton (Pete) of Piedmont, CA; 10 grandchildren, and his brother-in-law Bob Walsh, his sister-in-law Norma Minicus and his brother-in-law Bob Minicus, as well as his niece and nephews and many cousins. A funeral Mass was held on Sept. 26 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and he was buried at Pelham Cemetery on City Island.

Clive Anderson Owner /Funeral Director Caregiver

Heike Neumeister is survived by her beloved husband and by her family members, as well as her close network of friends on City Island and all across the world.

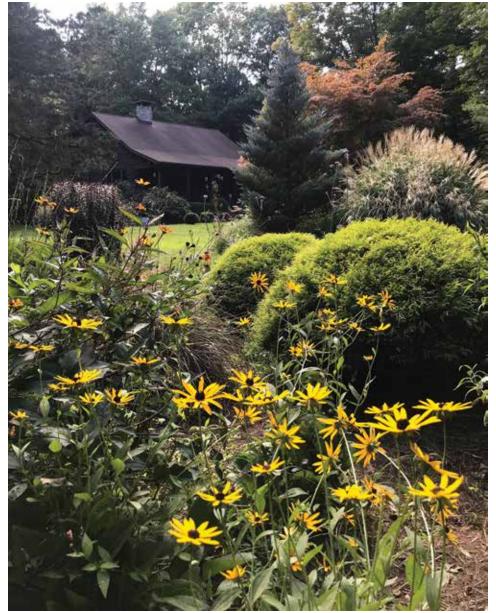
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By MARY COLBY



Mary's cabin garden in upstate NY.

Acorns and Critters

Once again it is raining acorns. The manufacturing of acorns begins when a tree's canopy gets large and there is no cold snap to kill its flowers. Some oaks produce heavy crops every two to three years, and this is a particularly big year. Aside from wearing a hard hat and raking up the acorns, you can have your gardener use a lawn vacuum. I would not throw all of them away. Pile them in a corner, and let the squirrels have at them. This might prevent the rascals from digging up your newly planted bulbs.

A house in the country, while relaxing, has its fair share of foibles, oftentimes besieged by critters. I have been battling the moles that have made rivulets of tunnels all through my lawn. The first time I saw one was 10 years ago. As I was prying up an old clump of grass, there beneath my feet lay a furry creature with claws and a star for a nose. I looked at it perplexed, not realizing what it was. So instead of stabbing it with my shovel, I stayed my hand out of pity, and the little thing escaped. Escaped to breed an army of children, and now it is too late. I have tried smoke bombs, guillotine traps and garlic to no avail. All I can do now is cohabit and flatten out their subterranean roads with my feet. On the subject of feet, remember to shake your rubber boots out briskly before putting them on barefoot. Mine were a size too small, so after I thrust my foot in with one good shove I felt the sickening squelch of a toad who had found a home for the winter. I had a devil of a time breaking free toad and all. Yes, and the field mice are finding every tiny opening to enter the house. Last fall I had company coming, so we trapped them with butterfly nets just before the dinner bell. Of course my guest found one atop the stove later in the evening.

Photo by MARY COLBY

When living among animals, one finds compassion. My husband took hours to disentangle a snake from bird netting I had wrapped around an Alaskan cedar to deter the deer. My gardener, Scotty, rescued another snake from the rafters after it had devoured an egg. Gleefully he put it in a sack and asked if he could keep it. "I could use a good ratter," he said, as I shuddered with relief.

Finding one bear in the shed and a few more shaking peaches from my neighbor's tree makes me explore my property with a certain amount of trepidation. I am a city girl, after all, and I am still not used to complete and utter darkness. I try every year to walk down the long driveway in a new moon. As I hit the halfway point, I remember that native American children can do this in the forest at the age of seven and that's when I turn and make for the porch dodging the bats.

But the moments I cherish are ones of



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

Preparing for a Successful Retirement

As you approach retirement, it's vital that you pay attention to several important financial matters to ensure a smooth transition. Here are five of them:

1. Health Insurance

Are you among the lucky few who will continue to be covered after retirement? If not, then you will need to replace your health coverage. If you will be eligible for Medicare at the time of your retirement, then you may want to start checking into "Medigap" coverage. Original Medicare pays for much, but not all, of the cost for covered health care services and supplies. Medigap is Medicare Supplement Insurance that helps fill in the "gaps" and is sold by private companies to individuals age 65 and older to cover medical expenses not covered or only partially covered by Medicare. If your employee plan coverage is broader than Medicare, then take care of any non-emergency medical, dental or optical needs before you retire.

2. Other Insurance

Once you retire, and depending on individual circumstances, you may need to replace employer-provided life insurance with extra coverage. You should also consider purchasing long-term health care insurance in case of a lengthy nursing home stay in the future. Premiums for qualified long-term care insurance policies are tax deductible to the extent that they, along with other unreimbursed medical expenses (including Medicare premiums), exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income in 2020.

3. Social Security

Decide whether you want to take early Social Security benefits if you're retiring before your full retirement age, which is currently 66 years of age for people born between 1943 and 1954 and age 67 for those born after 1960. The years in between are prorated accordingly. If you choose to retire as early as age 62, doing so may result in a reduction of as much as 30 percent of your full benefits. Conversely, starting to receive benefits after normal retirement age may result in larger benefits. Taking Social Security benefits at full retirement age makes financial sense for most people, but if you think you might need to take early benefits, please call and speak to a tax professional first.

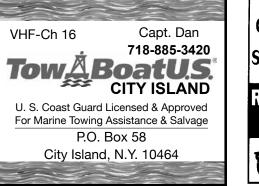
4. Pension Plan or 401(k) Retirement **Plan Payout**

You should plan well in advance how you will take the payout from your pension plan or 401(k) plan. For example, will you transfer the funds to a conventional or Roth IRA? How will the funds be invested?

5. Relocation

If you are planning a move to another state or country, make sure that you fully explore the financial ramifications of living there before you move. Cost of living as well as rates of taxation can vary significantly from one region of the country to another.





October 2020

quiet awe. Like an old wood turtle marching across the lawn, and wild turkeys foraging the forest floor in the low light. Ribbons of red-winged blackbirds endlessly departing the woods give me pause. All these images mingle with the blue smoke of the fire pit amidst the brown and violet woods. If man remembers to be in nature more often, does he reconcile his loneliness better when it is upon him? Thoreau, Muir, Audubon and Attenborough would agree.

"Keep close to Nature's heart .

. . and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

- John Muir

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			осто	BER 2020				
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02 Fri 0	043 7.81	0655	0.51	1252	7.94	1913	0.27	Fri 02
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04 Sun 0	128 7.37	0715	0.78	1320	7.76	1943	0.50	Sun 04
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	337 6.87	0945	1.38	1549	7.53	2221	1.14	Thu 08
	428 6.77	1037	1.58	1642	7.41	2318	1.28	Fri 09
10 Sat 0	526 6.75	1136	1.67	1742	7.34			Sat 10
11 Sun 0	022 1.28	0631	6.89	1243	1.56	1848	7.38	Sun 11
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LOOK UP IN THE SKY (AND ON THE TELEPHONE POLE!)

While air traffic in and out of area airports remains noticeably light, activity involving helicopters in the skies over City Island may be on the uptick. There have been a number of sea rescue operations this summer, including one involving a small boatload of young people in the water off Belden Point. Many City Islanders not only heard of this incident from neighbors, they actually heard it. Reports were that the helicopter involved was very loud and low to the scene.

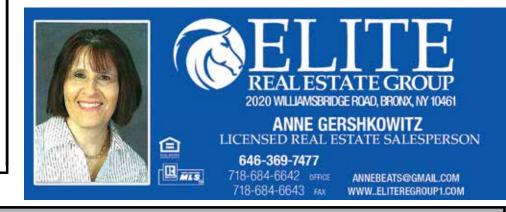
We have also observed other very low flying NYPD helicopters in the Rodman's Neck area. One especially daring pilot disappeared behind the trees as he or she flew through the training facility, east to west, and reappeared out over the Hutchinson River. Then there have been the usual incidents at night, where an NYPD chopper is part of an operation requiring an overhead spotlight on land or water. The most interesting helicopter siting, however, was the military transport aircraft on the ballfield adjacent to City Island Road on Sept. 18. We were not close enough to be able to identify who was coming and/or going, but there were military personnel involved, for sure, as well as a small number of very

well-dressed individuals and children.

Not too far from this helicopter's landing area is the new crosswalk for pedestrians. Its construction was necessitated by the ongoing water-main project, which gives us reason to believe that the crosswalk may be temporary. We sincerely hope that this is so, since it seems only a matter of time before the confusion there about who has right of way will lead to some sort of unpleasantness. The nearby ghost bike would seem to affirm this concern.

On a cheerier, avian note, migrating bald eagles have been observed over the Orchard Beach woods, the killdeer population in our area seems to be on the upswing, and, perhaps most importantly, Sadie the sea gull is back! After a nearly three-month absence, Sadie returned to Winter Street and her friend John's companionship-and treats!

Another hopeful sign in the air are the yard sales. Spring and fall are traditional times for thinning out those basements and attics, and judging by the signage on telephone poles, City Islanders have been taking advantage. Don't misunderstand us: 2020 will definitely NOT go down as the year of the yard sale, but we-and we speak for many of us here-will take anything we can get so far as a return to normal living goes.





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COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE BY OWNER: 104 Hawkins Street. Call 914-760-1106.

JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED: Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com. AVON REPRESENTATIVE: Full line of cosmetics, jewelry, clothes and much more. Call Emily Leni at 718-885 -2430 for a catalog, or view my website on avon.com/eleni. (my Rep. name is Erminia Leni).

BOAT WINTERIZING HEADQUARTERS: Winterizing supplies. Burck's Boat Store. 526 City Island Avenue Bronx, New York 718885-1559. Customer Parking.



Photo courtesy of MIKE CAREW

The City Island Oyster Reef held a waterfront event on Saturday, Sept. 26, to raise funds that will enable the organization to purchase this skiff for use in monitoring oyster cages around City Island.

PLAYING IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

By JOHN SCARDINA

Can you remember a day when you played so intently with a friend that you forgot about the time? A game or a fantasy re-enactment without electronics or fancy toys, perhaps just a few sticks or some chalk or a beach full of shells and stormtossed treasures?

The pandemic and quarantine have left many of us in a state of grief: we are mourning the loss of "normal" life and still struggling with the "new normal" of masked/socially distanced existence (with hands red from so much washing to boot!). Play can be an antidote to that grief when it engages our bodies and minds and souls in creative activity.

Losing track of time while engrossed in an activity—a phenomenon called "flow" by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi—is a treasured happening in my life. For me it usually happens when playing music with friends, sailing or sitting in my backyard reading. For some it happens when meditating, or building a model, or working on an art project. When was the last time you experienced "flow"?

The art of playing may be endangered in our culture. The rise of electronic games, social media and pre-packaged "play events" has left little time for just "going outside to play." Maria Montessori said play was "the work of childhood." For all of us it is the activity we do with our friends, the laboratory for social learning that is lifelong and ever evolving.

Do you play with your children? Have you used "family game nights" or "mother/ daughter bike rides" as a way to alleviate the tensions of isolation? Do you play with your friends? Do you miss that opportunity for sharing and laughing and joyful banter?

Creativity is a tool that greatly helps us during the pandemic. Try thinking "outside the box" when planning safe ways to be with others. Here is one thought: have your family write a humorous play about the pandemic and then put on a performance you can share electronically with family members at a distance. Possible?

Take some time to just "play," with a child, a friend, a group of friends. You do not need many props—perhaps a kite to fly, or a Zoom call, or a bag for treasures or a guitar to accompany your singing (while masked and distanced in person). The medical research is clear: losing oneself in playful/artistic/social activities leads to longer lives and healthier lifestyles, even in the midst of this worldwide health crisis. What are you waiting for?





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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



Islander Keri Campbell graduated from St. Barnabas High School last June and now attends SUNY Maritime.

Congratulations to Anthony Orzo for earning his Master's Degree from Sacred Heart University. Good luck in your new permanent teaching position at Westhill High School in Stamford, CT. Mom and Dad are very proud of you!

Happy anniversary to Amanda and Mike Libretto on Oct. 1. Enjoy!

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

It's a boy! Welcome to the world, Hudson William Bruce Burnett, born in Scotland on Sept. 2, 2020. Thrilled parents are former Islander Bruce (Skip) and Lynsey Burnett. A first grandson to Debbie and Bruce Burnett of Florida and a first grandchild to Christine and William Barnes of Scotland. Proud aunt and uncle are Islanders Kara and Griffin Burnett.

The Nani clan has even more birthdays to celebrate in October! Happy Oct. 2 birthday to Mark's fiancé Lorena Nogueira followed by his own birthday on Oct. 22 (his last as a single guy!). In between, a joyous first birthday to Luke Mace Nani on Oct. 17 with a party at Grandma and Grandpa's house on King Avenue thrown by proud parents Roger and Leah.

A big, happy 14th birthday shout-out to Olivia Calbo on Oct. 17! We love you so much and wish you a great year ahead. Love, Mom, Dad and Nicholas. XO

Birthday wishes across the miles on Oct. 29 to former Islander Sunjay Sebastian.

Good luck to King Avenue's Keri Camp



James Russell Kearns married Mallory Byrnes on Sept.11, 2020.

bell, who graduated from St. Barnabas High School in June and begins college at SUNY Maritime in Throggs Neck this fall. Keri's proud mom is Islander Mickey Burke, who is a New York Subway conductor on the Number 5 train. She is an essential worker who contracted Covid-19 but recovered and returned to work to help keep the city moving during the pandemic. Kudos to both Keri and Mickey.

Happy 35th wedding anniversary wishes on Oct. 12 to our parents, Maria and Bob Swieciki. Love, Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness





Neighborhood Coordination Officers from the 45th Precinct visited with Max Malenfant and Goldendoodle Bocce in August on Fordham Street.

to Islander Stephen Lott Jr. and Kelsey McMorrow, who were married on Sept. 6 at their home in Wappinger Falls, NY. Family and friends shared in the perfect day!

Happy October anniversary wishes to Judy and Mike Rauh, Linda and John Wright and Mike and Roseann Bunyan.

A very warm welcome to the Neighborhood Coordination Officers who stopped by "On the Sound" condos to visit their buddy Max, who turns three-years-old this month, and his new, furry friend, Bocce!

Happy birthday wishes on October 27 to our sister, Marcy Brennen, with love from Amanda and Brenda.

Birthday greetings on October 13 to Michael Proietti with love from Benny, Van and Simon.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Islander James Russell Kearns and clam digger Mallory Byrnes, who tied the knot on Sept. 11, 2020, at Camp Hero near the bluffs of the Montauk Lighthouse. A reception at the Montauk home of Cathy and Vinny Mazzaro followed.



Islander Stephen Lott wed Kelsey McMorrow on Sept. 6.

Maria Swieciki

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