

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York



Volume 44 Number 1

January-February 2015

One Dollar

City Island Wins Virtual “Curbed Cup” Competition

By KAREN NANI

CURBED CUP 2014

The Curbed Cup Neighborhood of the Year Is City Island!



City Island captured the 2014 “Curbed Cup,” a virtual competition sponsored by the real estate website *Curbed.com*. By the time the online voting through 16 rounds ended on Jan. 2, 2015, almost 1,000 clam diggers and mussel suckers voted to edge out Long Island City proponents (shown above).

It’s not exactly the sterling silver America’s Cup, which five sailboats built on City Island won seven times, but our Island home can now boast another top prize. Based on online votes, City Island captured the 2014 “Curbed Cup,” a competition sponsored by the real estate website *Curbed.com*.

According to the website, “the Curbed Cup, our annual award for the New York City neighborhood of the year, kicked off with 16 areas vying for the prestigious (fake) trophy.” The competition began early in December 2014 and had two matchups per day. The voting period for each pairing ended 24 hours after it began.

For the second year running, an underdog made it to the Curbed Cup finals. “City Island pushed its way into the Curbed Cup as the number 16 seed by welcoming its first new residential development in 15 years. Clearly, this win had little to do with City Island’s new condo development and a whole lot to do with an outpouring of community pride.” The development referred to are the new condominiums under construction on Fordham Street on the site of the former International Underwater Contractors.

City Island’s underdog status was evident early in the competition. “The biggest upset came in the very first Curbed Cup match-up of the year when number 16 seed City Island handily topped number 1 seed West Chelsea, even though the [Chelsea]

neighborhood saw a tremendous amount of action, including the completion of the High Line.” In one of the next rounds, City Island once again dominated. “Hot and gentrifying Crown Heights was no match for little ol’ City Island; the Bronx enclave crushed its Brooklyn competition by 246 votes.”

By the time the online voting through 16 rounds ended on Jan. 2, 2015, almost 1,000 clam diggers and mussel suckers voted to edge out Long Island City proponents. The website praised the victory: “The Bronx enclave bested the hot Queens neighborhood by 1,135 to 989 votes, which means that City Island is the 2014 Curbed Cup Neighborhood of the Year.”

Who are these Island supporters? Voting was driven by many younger Island residents, who shared the link for each round on their Facebook pages. The link was also posted on the City Island Civic Association Facebook page, which got the word out to Islanders and off-Islanders alike. Although the Civic Association played no official role in the contest, corresponding secretary John Doyle said: “If the end result is renewed interest and investment in the community that would be a very positive result.”

The Curbed’s city sites report on sales and rental prices, new developments, neighborhood trends and celebrity deals. Curbed websites cover New York, Boston, Cape Cod, the Hamptons, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

What to do with the prize? The commentators gave their recommendation. “It’s clear that City Island won because of a community campaign, not because of new real estate projects, making this the second year in a row that fierce neighborhood pride made the difference. Now that the fake gold trophy is in your hands, City Island, there’s only one thing left to do: throw a party.”

In fact, a clambake celebration is in the works for Feb. 7 (see Briefly on page 2).

Several commenters also praised the island and its inhabitants for rallying to the community and fighting for an appropriate new bridge design.

FIRING RANGE TO STAY AT RODMAN’S NECK

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

The police firing range will stay at Rodman’s Neck (shown above) rather than moving to Queens, according to Commissioner Bratton, who plans to spend millions to improve the site.

In mid-October 2014, the City Island Civic Association learned that the New York Police Department had changed its plans to move the firing range at Rodman’s Neck to the new police academy in College Point, Queens. Commissioner Bill Bratton confirmed this information at the meeting of the 45th Precinct Community Council in November, saying that the City Council had failed to allocate sufficient funds for the construction of an indoor range at College Point.

This news came as a shock to residents of City Island and nearby neighborhoods, who have been living with excessive noise from the firing range for many years. To date, no public announcement of the change in plans has been conveyed to the community, which was informed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a press conference on April 5, 2007, that the firing range would be moved. This change in plans also came as a surprise to Councilmember James Vacca, who was unaware of any failure of the City Council to provide funding.

Protests against the noise at Rodman’s Neck have been made since the 1970s, but the situation reached a crisis point in June

1993, when the NYPD alienated parkland for its range through the efforts of State Senator Guy Velella and Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman. An important aspect of that legislation was a contractual agreement signed by the NYPD that would require the department within a year to clean the lead out of the range and construct sound-abatement barriers.

Over two years later, on Jan. 22, 1996, when no action had been taken on the sound-abatement barriers, Mr. Kaufman filed a lawsuit against the city of New York on behalf of City Island residents claiming that the NYPD had “failed to comply with the terms, conditions, and obligations” of the original agreement.

Finally, in late 1996, one million tons of lead were finally removed from the firing range, but the prototype sound-abatement barrier was declared a failure and that project was dropped. The hours of operation at the range were reduced at the request of the community, but nothing further was done to minimize the noise—which is amplified as it crosses the water—and the numbers of of-

Continued on page 2



Photo by PAUL NANI

Electric power surges and gas leaks kept Con Edison crews busy on City Island so far this winter. On Dec. 12, 2014, a faulty transformer on Horton Street caused power surges that resulted in a small fire in one home and burned out heating systems in several other homes. In January 2015, a gas leak was detected on King Avenue at the northern end of the Island (photo above). The fire department responded to both emergencies along with Con Edison crews and heavy equipment sent to repair the gas mains.

Temporary Water Main Notice

The bridge contractor has begun construction of a temporary 12-inch water main near the Pelham Bay Park side of the City Island Bridge in the pedestrian walkway on the south side of City Island Road. All pedestrians and bicycles will use the north side of the road and a temporary crosswalk has been installed for access to the opposite side. This will be removed by mid-February. For up-to-the-minute bulletins, visit [Facebook.com/CityIslandBridge](https://www.facebook.com/CityIslandBridge).

BRIEFLY...

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

HELP SAVE STEPPING STONES LIGHTHOUSE: On Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m., the City Island Nautical Museum will host a reception for the Stepping Stones Lighthouse restoration fund. The lighthouse, which stands in Long Island Sound just south of City Island, was built in 1876 and is in desperate need of repair. In 2006 the Coast Guard deemed the lighthouse unnecessary and offered stewardship of the lighthouse to the Town of North Hempstead. The town has joined forces with the Great Neck Park District and the Great Neck Historical Society to help raise money for the restoration. The most urgent needs are roof repair to protect the structure from the elements and a floating pier is needed for transferring material and equipment for construction. The reception will include speakers, photographs and refreshments, and all Islanders are invited to attend. If you want to start the ball rolling now, however, please send a check to the Great Neck Historical Society, P.O. Box 234483, Great Neck, NY 11023; your donation will be fully tax deductible.

A CITY ISLAND CLAMBAKE to celebrate City Island's victory in the *Curbed.com* contest as NYC's neighborhood of the year (see article on page 1) will be held at the Alehouse at 288 City Island Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. with free food and beer samples, raffles and beer pong, live music from the Blue Collar Band. The event is sponsored by DJK Residential and Island resident and broker Teddy Montee.

PICTURE THE PARK! In February, the Friends of Pelham Bay Park will be launching a photo contest for the best photographs taken in the park. There will be five categories, which will run consecutively—Seasons, People in the Park, Wildlife, Infused by Bronx History, and Scenic Vistas. Photographers will be asked to submit their images digitally to the Friends' Facebook page and website, where Facebook users will be able to vote for their favorites in each category. Winners will be exhibited at the City Island Nautical Museum starting in June. For more information, visit www.pelhambaypark.org or www.facebook.com/friendsofpelhambaypark.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: On Tuesday, Feb. 17, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY'S "OUTSIDE MULLINGAR" will be the next production of the City Island Theater Group. The play will run two weekends at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, at 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 8, at 3 p.m. For reservations please call 718-885-3066 or email tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. To purchase tickets online, please visit www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

THE MANOR CLUB THEATER: Those who are not aware of the wonderful theater at the Manor Club in Pelham are invited to attend two events scheduled for February. The first is a presentation by the City Island Theater Group at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, of excerpts from the work of John Patrick Shanley, whose latest play, "Outside Mullingar," will be presented on City Island in February. The second will be a fundraiser to help support the Manor Club theater itself, entitled "Broadway on the Esplanade." This event will take place on Feb. 28, starting at 7 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by a show presented by experienced Broadway performers and a champagne toast to launch the theater's exciting series of productions for 2015. For more information about both events, call the Manor Club at 914-738-1528.

THEATER GROUP AUDITIONS for Reginald Rose's "Twelve Angry Men" will be held on Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:45 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at Grace Church Hall. Production dates are the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

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

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CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribauda, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464
Printed by JB Offset Printing Corp., 475 Walnut Street, Norwood, NJ 07648
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 2015 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.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2014 and January 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – ASSAULT*
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)*
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following arrests (*) and incidents for the period from Nov. 26, 2014, to Jan. 19, 2015.

11/26 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating repeated incidents of aggravated harassment on Minneford Avenue. An Island female reported that her former boyfriend was continuously calling and texting her even after she changed her cell phone number. An order of protection was put in place.

12/4 – At 10:15 p.m., an Island male, 46, was arrested on King Avenue and charged with assault. The defendant allegedly entered an apartment without permission and struck a male victim in the face.

12/5 – On Fordham Street at 8 p.m., a resident reported that his parked vehicle had been struck by another car, which caused damage to the front bumper. The perpetrator had fled the scene.

12/6 – An off-Island male, 67, was arrested and charged with DWI on Bridge Street at 8:48 p.m. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident and observed that the defendant had slurred speech and the smell of alcohol on his breath.

12/20 – At 12 midnight on Fordham Street, an Island resident heard a disturbance and returned to find his car damaged by unknown perpetrators in an act of criminal mischief.

1/14 – An Island resident on Carroll Street reported damage to their vehicle at

9 a.m. Unknown persons had put screws in the front tires in an act of criminal mischief.

1/17 – Police are investigating a verbal argument between two off-Islanders that escalated into violence on City Island Avenue at 2:30 a.m. A perpetrator allegedly punched the victim in the face and head.

FIRING RANGE

Continued from page 1

Officers in training and the types of guns being used has increased the noise level over the years.

Officers of the Civic Association will be offered an opportunity to tour the site, and it is hoped that plans to improve the range—which Commissioner Bratton estimates will cost \$150 million—will be shared with the community. Those plans will reportedly include effective noise reduction.

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COMMUNITY BOARD 10 SUPPORTS THE HART ISLAND BILL

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Thursday, Jan. 15, board members of Community Board 10 voted unanimously, with one abstention, to support a bill introduced to the City Council by Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley that proposes transferring jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to the Department of Parks & Recreation. A second bill accompanied the first, requesting the Department of Transportation to amend the administrative code relating to the Hart Island ferry, and it too was approved.

Although the Hart Island bill had been the subject of discussion for well over a year at the Community Board's Parks Committee, chaired by Virginia Gallagher, it had never been brought to the full board for a vote. But at the Parks Committee meeting on Jan. 12, no quorum was present, so the issue was referred to the full board for a vote after a number of Islanders, including John Doyle and Tom Smith, explained some of the reasons why they supported the bill.

Several speakers in the public session of the board meeting on Jan. 15 also gave a number of reasons for their support of the bill, including increased access for visitors seeking closure by visiting the graves of their relatives or loved ones and more effective management of the island. Elaine Joseph, the mother of a baby who died shortly after being born, described how it took her 30 years to find her daughter's grave and how her visit was restricted because of DOC regulations.

The DOC spends a maximum of 16 hours per week on Hart Island when prisoners enter the indigent and unidentified dead, and this limits the time when visitors can be accommodated and leaves virtually no opportunity for management of the historic buildings or the landscape, all of which are in poor condition. It was suggested that the DOC work in partnership with Parks, retaining responsibility for active burials but allowing Parks to manage parts of the island that are no longer active burial sites.

Melinda Hunt, president and founder of the Hart Island Project, confirmed this approach and cited several documents in which the DOC over the years had expressed interest in getting assistance from the Parks De-

partment.

John Doyle and Stephen Swieciki of the Civic Association spoke of the city's historic efforts to bring prisons, a homeless shelter, a power plant and a prison barge, all of which were fought by City Island residents during the 1970s and '80s. Transferring the island to the Parks Department would add a measure of protection by requiring approval for the alienation of park land for other purposes.

Speakers against the bill cited lack of funds, saying that both the budget and the bureaucracy of the Parks Department made it incapable of taking on more responsibility.

The fact that all of the Bronx Councilmembers, including James Vacca, a co-sponsor of the bill, were in support, was a persuasive argument, but when Public Advocate Letitia James addressed the meeting and expressed her support and Tom Lucania reported that the Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. was also in support, a positive vote seemed inevitable.

The next step is for the bill to pass from the committees of Criminal Justice and Parks to the full Council after a public hearing is held, the date of which has yet to be announced.

Melinda Hunt told *The Current*: "I am really gratified to have the board support this bill, virtually unanimously, after all these years." For those interested in learning more about the issue, she recommends a visit to the project's website, which now features a fascinating program called the Traveling Cloud Museum, an interactive map documenting the burials and their locations on the island. She recognizes that it will be necessary to raise funds, perhaps to establish a conservancy as other city parks have done, to enable the Parks Department to take on responsibility for the island.

John Doyle believes that "by transferring Hart Island from the Department of Correction to the Parks Department, we not only provide dignity and respect to relatives of those interred on Hart Island but we begin a process to permanently protect our community from some of the battles of our past. This transfer hurts no one and provides meaningful relief for thousands."

REMEMBERING OPENING THE CITY ISLAND BRIDGE

By WILLIAM NEWMAN



Photos by WILLIAM NEWMAN

These photos taken around 1947 document how the City Island Bridge was opened to allow large boats to pass underneath. As shown above, 16 men exerted maximum force on four angled bars (top photo). The bars were placed in positions on the roadway linked to gears that would lower each end of the roadway connected to the land. After the ends were lowered one at a time, the bars were repositioned to rotate the bridge and uncouple the center span so that marine traffic could pass underneath (bottom photo).

Beginning this year, the existing City Island Bridge will be dismantled, and construction of the new causeway bridge will begin, with expected completion in 2017. The Current will report on the history of the bridge and the events leading up to the dismantling throughout the year. This is the first article by a former Islander who remembers when the bridge still opened to boat traffic.

I am 84 years old now and living in North Carolina, but I lived on City Island until I joined the armed services during the Korean War. My mother, Maude Newman, and my sister, Belle Newman, lived on the Island until their deaths.

I traversed the bridge many times and always liked the design of the bridge and how its structure, in its massiveness, convinces one that it is well designed and stable.

As my old Kodak photos show, it's also a historic example of human creativity in the age before the computer and modern hydraulics. It is hard to imagine that one can open a bridge of this size by hand. Luckily, I witnessed it both from land and from my friend Joe Chlupsa's rowboat. Here are my vivid memories of how that remarkable feat was accomplished.

The City Island Bridge was designed to provide safe transport over a navigable waterway. Evidently, the contractors (or perhaps the city's Department of Bridges and Tunnels) were required to prove that the span would open to allow large craft to pass as well. I heard about a planned demonstration in which the bridge would be opened on a warm sum-

mer morning about 1947.

Preparation for the opening of the bridge required that it be closed to vehicular traffic. A fire company from Westchester Square was dispatched to supplement City Island's fire company, presumably to cover the Island in case something went wrong. And according to my recollections, there were a couple of glitches!

There were 16 men in teams of four manning four angled bars. The bars were placed in positions on the roadway linked to gears that would lower each end of the roadway connected to the land. After the ends were lowered, one at a time, the bars were repositioned to rotate the bridge once the ends were free.

Then the 16 men exerted maximum force to rotate the gears sufficiently to uncouple the center span. One man with a tank was walking up and down the roadway as the others turned the bars, presumably applying oil to the gears. At that moment, City Island was truly an isolated island once again.

The center span was only rotated that day enough to uncouple it from the land sections, but not enough for an actual vessel to pass through. It was clear that repairs that were also going on at the time did not interfere with the opening of the bridge.

However, when the workers returned the center span to its original position, they began to raise the ends to realign the entire bridge and roadway. It was then that a coupling which transferred the rotation force to one end of the bridge broke, resulting in a gap of several inches between the road and the bridge.

It took considerable time to make a new coupling and replace the broken one. Wooden planks were placed over the gap to accommodate traffic across the bridge. Needless to say, traffic moved very slowly back and forth over the gap.

Eventually everything was fixed and the central swing section was later converted to a fixed span in 1963. But I often wondered after that day what would have happened if the bridge had gotten stuck in the open position. City Islanders would have been at risk, but as the 113-year history has shown, the old bridge never let us down after all.

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Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.

I have been in solo Internal Medicine practice in neighboring Co-Op City for over 35 years and have lived on City Island for twenty years. I am seven minutes away by bus and there is free parking available.

I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connelly's Book of "Top Doctors".

I am in the office 5 days a week and make rounds at Montefiore Hospital daily including weekends. I am also on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I provide a "Medical Home" for my patients (I am willing to help make all significant medical decisions). I have excellent consultants available whom I have vetted over the years and work well with them.

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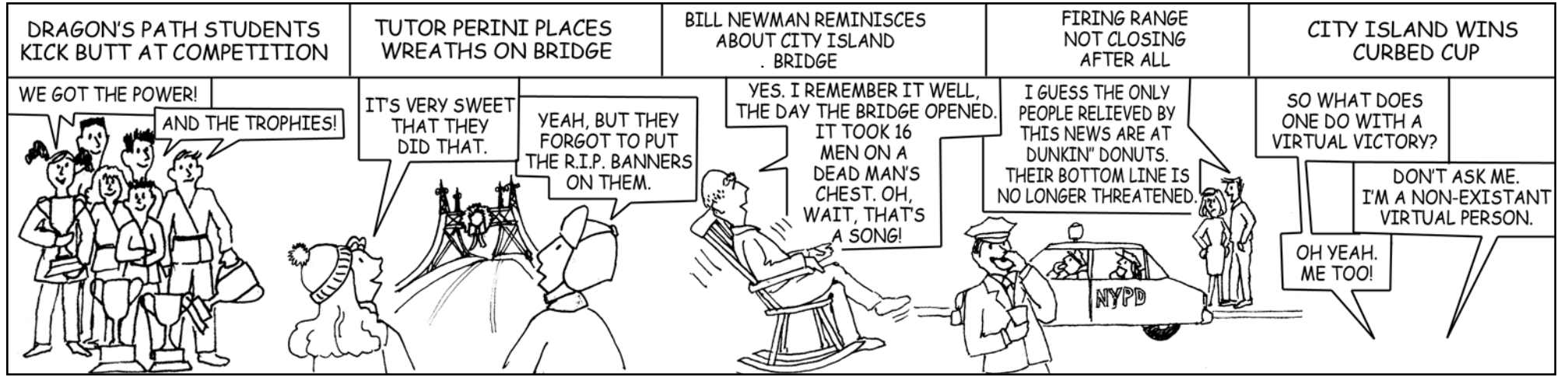
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Be Part of the Solution

To the Editor:

We are delighted that for the 17th year St. Mary, Star of the Sea has been able to successfully complete the holiday gifting needs for five families consisting of 23 individuals. In addition to new outfits, winter jackets, boots and shoes, there were amazing household items, including a microwave oven, electric griddle, coffee pots, a rice maker, blender, sets of pots and pans, cooking utensils, dish sets, flatware, iron, bath items, bedding with comforters, and more.

As in previous years, these items were purchased new, gift wrapped and tagged with the name of the recipients. In addition there were hundreds of new hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children, and some miscellaneous items, including underwear, socks, sweaters, small toys and shoes.

St. Mary's sponsors this gifting, but we have input from all of City Island and even a few off-Islanders. Thank you for once again providing us this opportunity to help others.

Please join us in our monthly cooking for POTS (Part of the Solution). Once a month, we cook a planned menu (posted in *The Island Current*) and have enough food to serve about 300 meals. Please call Rosetta Woods at 718-885-0926 or Jane La Scala at 718-885-2137 for a copy of the menu.

Jane La Scala

Firing Range Injustice

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To Commissioner Bill Bratton:

We of the City Island Civic Association are writing to you today on behalf of our community of 4,500 residents about a serious issue that has threatened our quality of life for decades. Until recently, City Islanders had been under the impression that most of the gunfire at Rodman's Neck would come to an end when the new NYPD facility opens at College Point. An

announcement was made by Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg on April 5, 2007, that the firing range would be moved to Queens. This promise was reiterated in numerous news reports since that time, including a NY1 segment that aired as late as July of this year.

We were therefore shocked when Bronx Borough Command advised us in mid-October 2014 that these plans had been changed, although no notification or consultation with the community had taken place. Even our Councilmember, James Vacca, was unaware that any plans had been changed.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the residents of City Island are very confused and disturbed about what is planned for the Rodman's Neck firing range, which has been the subject of protests and lawsuits since the 1970s. Beyond the proven noise pollution generated by this site, there have also been significant lead deposits on this site (a byproduct of the millions of rounds of ammunition fired annually). A lawsuit about the lead contamination led to clean-ups of the site; whether or not this clean-up project is continuing, however, is still in question. Another lawsuit was threatened in 1996, when you yourself were Commissioner, by Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman on behalf of City Island, because the NYPD had agreed in writing in 1993 to erect sound-abatement barriers but had not done so. In 1998, the sound-abatement project was begun, but it failed and was never attempted again. Therefore, when news of this facility's relocation reached our area in 2007, it was, so to speak, music to the ears of City Island residents.

Last week, when a Civic Association officer asked you about the NYPD's future plans for this facility, you answered that shooting operations would stay at Rodman's Neck uninterrupted. You added that millions of dollars would be spent modernizing the facility. He was also told that some of this funding would include the installation of semi-enclosures and other "noise canceling" mechanisms, although these have been tried in the past with no success. We are unaware of any breakthroughs in noise canceling equipment since the last time this effort was attempted about fifteen years ago. Can you reassure us that this has any likelihood of success? Let us be clear, this is not a "Not in my Back Yard" situation. The state-of-the-art facility at College Point was due to have entirely enclosed shooting ranges within their new structure so that the residents of Queens would not be subjected to what we Bronx residents have been forced to endure over the last 50 years.

As you can imagine, we are deeply frustrated by this news and by the fact that none of this information was communicated to the affected communities in the northeast Bronx or to our elected officials. The New York Police Department should be well aware of the strong feelings held by

the City Island community, which makes the lack of transparency on this issue all the worse.

With this in mind, we would appreciate your providing us with a detailed explanation as to what factors contributed to this change and what can be done to rectify this situation so that the Police Department can keep the promise they made to this community and fully enclose these ranges so that we will not have to endure this injustice.

Officers of the City Island Civic Association

Missing City Island

To the Editor:

Thank you very much for including George Haug's obituary in the October issue of *The Island Current* and for mailing me a copy.

When I visited George on City Island, I always got a kick out of catching up on the activities on the Island from *The Current*.

I will miss my visits there very much.
Ann Fitzgerald

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THE HIGHS AND (J)LOS OF 2014: A RECAP

By KAREN NANI



Photos by JAMES BREEN and RICK DeWITT

Highlights from year 2014 included the arrival of cranes to construct the temporary bridge (photo above), the Jennifer Lopez concert at Orchard Beach (top left photo), the fight to prevent the closing St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (photo, right) and the snowiest winter in decades (bottom left photo).



2014 was another year of ups and downs on City Island with residents once again rising to the many challenges and surprises confronting our Island home.

Following the closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in 2013, parishioners and supporters had to fight off the proposed closing of St. Mary's church in 2014. The archdiocese shocked the community with an announcement in May that St. Mary's could be merged with another parish leading to the eventual closure of the church on City Island.

After an intense letter-writing campaign and a presentation to the archdiocese on the importance of the church in the community, Fr. Michael Challinor announced in November that St. Mary, Star of the Sea would not be closing, as was feared, but will merge with Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Pelham Bay. The news came in a letter from Cardinal Timothy Dolan following the long-awaited review of all the parishes in the archdiocese. To the relief of Islanders, the Mass and sacraments will continue to be celebrated on City Island at the church.

The long and exhausting fight against the proposed 164-foot "Godzilla bridge" to replace the 113-year old City Island bridge came to an end in May 2014 when the new Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg unveiled a revised design hailed as more appropriate for our

nautical community. The Civic Association, with support from State Senator Jeff Klein, Councilman James Vacca, and other politicians proved that you can fight (or outlast) City Hall.

Construction on the temporary bridge, the first step in the replacement project, began in October by Tudor Perini with the arrival of several giant cranes on barges in Eastchester Bay. In preparation for the construction on both land and sea, two new traffic lights were installed at each end of the bridge, a first for Islanders and visitors, who were initially confused by the sequence and timing of the lights (translation: lots of squealing brakes).

Speaking of traffic, 2014 provided new challenges beyond the bridge construction and the resulting lane closures and reroutings. On June 4, the Parks Department sponsored a concert by Bronx-born singer Jennifer Lopez (aka JLo) at Orchard Beach. When 25,000 free tickets were given away for the evening concert, Islanders began dreading a traffic nightmare as they returned home after the workday.

As they have done in recent years, police and traffic agents from the 45th Precinct did an excellent job preventing jams around City Island during the concert and on subsequent summer weekends. Police also succeeded in reducing some of the most annoying traffic issues for Islanders: motorcycle speeding on City Island Avenue

and cars jumping the line at the circle by Rodman's Neck. In 2014, they placed additional orange cones and traffic agents to prevent cars in the middle and left lanes in the circle from cutting into the right lane approach to City Island Road.

The Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce expended a great deal of energy and funds to minimize plans for a four-story block-long apartment building proposed by the Italian Hospital Society to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). Happily, the BSA agreed with the case presented by Islanders for the preservation of City Island's historic low-rise character and reduced the project to an acceptable size.

Island sports teams continued to play on, including the 80-year old SMSS basketball program, which continued in St. Mary's gym despite the closing of the school.

Islanders bid tearful farewells to many longtime residents who passed in 2014, including Lucy Pontecorvo, Bob White, Marie Livingston and young Keith Manfredonia, while cheering the efforts of other residents, including MaryAnne Emerick, who gained national attention as an activist against Huntington's disease, and Anita La Scala, who was instrumental in the design of the 2014 Winter Olympics opening ceremony on Feb. 7. Applause also rained down on the

City Island Theater Group, whose last show of 2014, "Evita," played to a record number of sold-out performances at Grace Church.

July saw another successful City Island reunion in August, with many former residents joining current residents to celebrate the good old days. The good old days of yacht-building and great marine photography were celebrated with an exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum of the photographs of Morris Rosenfeld and his sons, who lived and worked on the island for many years.

The Island Current was there to cover all these events and more, including the 2014 winter, one of the snowiest in years. We continue to be grateful to you, our readers, and our advertisers, whose support will carry this newspaper into 2015, our 44th year!



Bartow-Pell Events

Movies at the Mansion: Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. Celebrate romance in February with the screening of a bittersweet movie in the double parlors. Set before World War II, "Brief Encounter" (1945) stars Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson as married Brits who fall in love after a chance encounter but opt not to be together out of consideration for their families. Directed by David Lean and based on Noel Coward's play "Still Life." Free popcorn and tissues. Registration requested. Call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org; cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members.

Victorian Valentine Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 7, 1-3 p.m. Show that you care—not with a boring, store-bought card, but with a handmade, full-of-charm, sure-to-woo original creation. Learn about the history of valentines and the printed "scraps" used to make them in the 19th century while you craft your own memorable card. A fun workshop for the whole family! Registration

required. Call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org; cost \$10; \$8 students, seniors, and members.

Winter Chamber Music Valentine's Day Concert: Saturday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. The Musicians of the Crimson Menagerie, an ensemble specializing in 19th-century salon music, present an evening of romantic pieces by Mozart, Haydn, Boccherini and Beethoven in honor of St. Valentine's Day. Cost \$20. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at www.bpmm.org or at the door. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org.

Local Author Spotlight: Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Emita Brady Hill and Janet Butler Munch, editors of "Bronx Faces and Voices: Sixteen Stories of Courage and Community," discuss the men and women who tell their personal, uncensored stories of life in the Bronx before, during and after the troubled years of arson, crime, abandonment and flight in the 1970s and '80s. The voices are as eclectic as the borough itself, but all were determined to preserve their communities and combat the notion of the Bronx as an international symbol of urban disaster. Ms. Hill spent 20 years at Lehman College, CUNY, as chair of romance languages, associate provost, and vice president of institutional advancement before becoming chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo. Ms. Munch is an associate professor and special collections librarian at Lehman College. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org; cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

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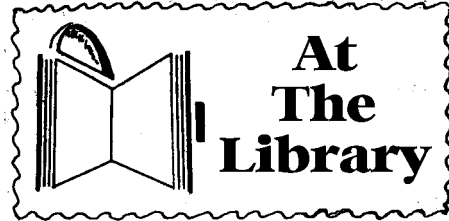


PARKING AVAILABLE



Is your goal to lose weight in the New Year? Do you need help to meet those goals? If so, let **City Island Physical Therapy** (464 City Island Avenue) help you, using Isagenix (for which we are now authorized dealers) and exercise. Isagenix products help cleanse the body of toxins, burn fat, increase muscle and balance appetite. For more information about Isagenix or to set up an appointment, call 917-577-1752. More information on Isagenix products can be found online at Isagenix.com. Continued services include therapeutic massage, fitness training, trigger-point injections, iridology, holistic nutritional assessments, facials and micro-dermabrasion (by a licensed aesthetician). Our hours and availability for therapeutic massage have now expanded to Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and occasionally from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sessions are available by appointment and are highly recommended, although walk-ins may be available within these time-frames. Prices are: 15-minute chair massage for neck and back \$25; 30-minute table massage for \$45 to target your problem areas (i.e., neck/back, neck/shoulders/arms, back/legs). Call for an appointment at 718-885-1079.

Come sign up for one or more of the martial-arts classes at **Dragon's Path Academy** (229 City Island Avenue; 347-945-3172). Be sure to register before March 1. The first student pays full price, but the second sibling is free. If you sign up three, the third is free also if you are a first-time member. There is a new class called Body Blast Cardio Kickboxing (\$10 per class). Come and join the fun and enjoy our New Year's special.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY- FEBRUARY 2015
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Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

We would like to welcome Theresa Panza, City Island's new Children's Librarian, to the library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Petunia the Penguin Goes to School: Children discover the adaptations penguins need to survive their harsh polar habitat by transforming into a team of Arctic Scientists. Friday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m.

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

Circle Time: Interactive stories, action, songs, crafts and interaction with other toddlers in the neighborhood. First come first served. A limit of 15 children and caregivers per session. 18 months to 3 years. Every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Read and Play: Children from birth to 3 years old with their caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun informal program. First come first served. A limit of 15 children and caregivers each session. Every Friday at 11 a.m.

Valentine Day Arts & Crafts: Friday, Feb. 13, all day.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Green Comics Workshop: Learn the basics of character design and world

building while focusing on green issues, what pollutes our world, and the little steps we can all do to help. Create your own heroes to fight monsters and villainous polluters. Presented by Ivan Velez. For ages 12 to 18 years old. Monday, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.

ONGOING PROGRAM

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying, relaxing, doing and homework with Wii and movies on Friday. Every weekday after school Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Art Exhibition and Opening by Robert Cox: Saturday Feb. 7, at 1 p.m.

Healthcare and Taxes: Drop by this informative workshop to explore your Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Part D Coverage Choices. We will be available to answer your tax questions and provide insights into tax preparation, amended returns and tax planning considerations. Saturday, Feb. 14, at 3 p.m.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Computer Q & A: Ask questions about how to use computers. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I set up my own email account and e-mail family and friends?" "How do I copy and paste text and pictures?" How can I sign in to use a computer at the library with my library card?" Every Monday afternoon from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Also, one-on-one training by appointment.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resumé into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended that you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

Tablet Group: Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about

how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: "The Good Lie," Saturday Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. and "Jersey Boys," Saturday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m.

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at www.nypl.org.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
94 Centre Street	10/2/14	\$389,021	one-family
101 City Island Ave.	10/8/14	\$1,029,220	commerc.
100 Fordham Street	10/21/14	\$433,000	multi-family
65 Centre Street	10/23/14	\$365,970	one-family
105 Rochelle Street	10/29/14	\$340,000	one-family
165 Tier Street	11/20/14	\$545,000	one-family
487 Minneford Ave.	11/20/14	\$323,500	one-family
456 City Island Ave.	12/3/14	\$765,000	commerc.
173 Tier Street	12/3/14	\$265,000	one-family

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2014 HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS: PRAYERS FOR PEACE



Photos by BOB BERENT, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

Still have a wreath hanging on your door? You share the lingering holiday spirit with the City Island Bridge whose lovely wreaths were hung by workers from Tutor Perini in December (top photo). Light snow on Jan. 6, 2015, provided a perfect backdrop for the Christmas tree and menorah in Hawkins Park, reminding us of the religious freedom we celebrate as Americans (middle photo). Those who fought for our freedom were remembered in the rain in December 2014 at the annual Pearl Harbor ceremony at the bridge led by members of the American Legion Post 156 on City Island (bottom photo).



Led by Rabbi Shohama Wiener, members and friends of Your Shul by the Sea gathered at Hawkins Park to light the Community Menorah on the first night of Hanukkah 5775 (Dec. 16, 2014). Both New York State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein and Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto offered greetings and encouraged efforts in support of personal and religious freedom.



The 2014 Trinity Christmas Pageant was presented by the Sunday school on Dec. 14, including Nicholas, Anthony and Vienna Zeppieri; Lacy and Robert Howard; Ronan and Oisin Daly; Sharon and Melody Kim; Ben and Olivia Chadwick; Ryan, Tyler and Marie Gustas; and George and Jessica Melicharek.



TEMPLE BETH-EL'S DAVID MARKUS ORDAINED



David Evan Markus

Longtime government attorney David Evan Markus is accustomed to competing demands in New York's judicial and legislative branches of government. After six years of study, on January 11, 2015, Markus was ordained as a rabbi by ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. With his ordination, Mr. Markus joins Rabbi Shohama Harris Wiener (ALEPH Head of Spiritual Direction) as co-rabbi of Temple Beth-El of City Island, where he has served as associate spiritual leader since 2012.

With his ordination, David Markus becomes one of the few public officers in the United States to simultaneously perform public duties and serve as an active congregational rabbi.

Mr. Markus earned his rabbinical ordination in Jewish Renewal's ALEPH seminary, a 180-credit program combining live semester courses, tutorials and intensives, while working full-time for the State of New York. His six years of rabbinical study began while he served as senior counsel to the New York Senate (2009-10), continued when he served as Special Counsel under the Chief Judge of New York (2011-13), and concluded during his present service as Court Attorney-Referee presiding in New York Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District (2011-present).

David Markus earned his Juris Doctor magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and his Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, which bestowed on him the alumni designation of global Innovator in Public Service. He earned his Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude from Williams College.

Mr. Markus said, "I feel a profound mix of humility and gratitude. . . . My years as legislative counsel, policy manager, judicial officer and now clergy all reflect my commitment to civic pluralism. Each of these is another form of *tikkun olam*—the ancient Jewish value of helping to repair the world. . . . My ordination confirms two parallel and separate commitments—one to our justice system, and the other to the realm of emotional and spiritual community. Our Constitution and enduring values require that these commitments be parallel yet separate. My various forms of public service will help fulfill that intention."



The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program presented a Christmas pageant in the church on Dec. 10. More than 100 children in grades 1 through 8 participated, and it was enjoyed by almost 400 parents and friends. The pageant was organized by Sr. Bernadette Hannaway with the help of the program's faculty. On Dec. 21, the annual Christmas Lessons and Carols concert under the direction of Ken Farnum, music director for St. Mary's, was held in the church (top inset). It too was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

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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.

Current Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 7, 21 and 28, **City Island Little League Registration**, Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

Tues., Feb. 17, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 19, **Community Board meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Preston High School, 2870 Schurz Avenue.

Tues., Feb. 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Feb. 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken with peppers, onions and potatoes.

Rotary Club of the Bronx

It is with great sadness that the Rotary Club of the Bronx announces the passing of 30-year member, Dr. Arthur Wolstein.

Arthur passed peacefully on Sunday, January 18, 2015. He just celebrated his 100th birthday in November and was always proud to say that he was the oldest member of the Club. He was also the Past President in 2003-04.

Arthur was very proud of a letter from President Obama congratulating him on his 100th birthday and commending him for his service in WWII. The Yankees also honored Arthur this past year as one of, if not the oldest surviving fan. A special section was set aside for his family and friends and a congratulatory message on his 100th birthday was posted on the Jumbotron screen.

Members were also stunned to learn of the passing of another beloved member, Rev. Bill Kalaidjian on January 16, 2015 at the age of 90. He was a member of the Club for 55 years and a Past President in 1987-88.

He had a remarkable career spanning 61 years as a pastor, chaplain, police officer and Navy veteran, serving God, his country and his fellow man in times of war and times of peace. He served as Pastor of the Bedford Park Congregational Church, Bronx, NY for over 43 years (1953-1996), and as Chaplain of the New York City Police Department for over 41 years (1957-1998).

His loss will be felt deeply not only by Rotarians, but by the great many veterans and police officers that he has championed over the years.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. It is unaffiliated and all-inclusive. Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:15, so that you can enjoy welcoming music as well as an opportunity to meet and greet. The spirited congregation is led by our clergy, Rabbi Shohama Wiener, Rabbi David Evan Markus and rabbinic intern Reb Eva Sax-Bolder. Your Shul by the Sea Band provides a delightful quality to our services, inspiring some of us to dance as we welcome the Sabbath. After services there is an oneg consisting of wine, challah and delicious refreshments. Reminders: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain

from wearing perfume or cologne.

Services and Celebrations:

Feb. 6 and 20: Congregant-led Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 8: Tu B'shevat Seder at 2 p.m., led by Reb Eva.

Feb. 13 and 27: Clergy Shabbat services at 7:15 p.m.

New Course Offerings:

"The Spirit of the Story: Jewish History in Film" is a monthly film series exploring Jewish history from antiquity to today. Using the five-part PBS documentary "The Story of the Jews," we will survey events in Jewish history with emphasis on Jewish spirituality. Class participants may wish to buy Simon Schama's book "The Story of the Jews." Sessions will be 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sundays Feb. 8, March 22, April 12, May 17 and June 14. The series is free for members, \$18 per session for non-members. Facilitated by Rabbi David.

"Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit" sessions will address many of the opportunities and challenges we are facing in our 50s, 60s, 70s and onward. Participants will explore these issues in the context of contemporary and core Jewish texts as well as contemplative practices. There will be minimal outside reading and some writing involved, as most of our "work" will be done in our group. The group will meet on these Sunday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m.: Feb. 15, March 1 and 29, April 19 and May 3. Facilitated by Reb Eva. R.S.V.P. to evasxbolder@gmail.com Series free for members and \$90 for non-members.

Purim-palooza: March 8, 5 p.m.

Shabbaton: Friday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at 10 p.m. with Haskamat Smicha (community ordination) for Rabbi David, followed by lunch.

March 28 at 6 p.m.: Gala Dinner Dance honoring Rabbi David and congregant Michael Eiron at Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses.

All TBE members and friends interested in praying for and supporting others who are ill or need home contact, please join our Chessed Committee. We look forward to your ideas for expanding our activities as a healing, prayer and support group for our community. Please send questions and comments to chessedhealingcircle@gmail.com facilitated by our Chair, Steven Gottlieb.

Oneg sponsorship: Sponsoring an oneg for a Shabbat or holiday service is a wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life-cycle event) and give back to the community. To sponsor a *oneg* or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978.

Ellen Ruth Topol

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, there will be an important meeting of all parents whose children are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist this year. The meeting will be held in St. Mary's School gym at 7 p.m.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Sunday, Feb. 8, is Scout Sunday. St. Mary's will recognize the scouts at a liturgy at 10 a.m. that morning. All scouts should see their scout leaders for more details. A reception will take place in the school gym after Mass.

All are welcome to attend our monthly coffee hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass on Feb. 8.

Because of the mid-winter recess for our schools, there will be no religious education classes on Wednesday, Feb. 18.



Sing We Enchanted returned to Grace on Jan. 4 for the Fourth Annual Epiphany Concert. The program featured English Renaissance madrigals and motets. SWE, founded by Nell Macdonald (far right) celebrated its 20th anniversary performing a cappella music last year.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. This will begin on Friday, Feb. 20.

Sr. Bernadette, OSU

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28. Come browse our winter clothing, shoes, boots, hats, gloves, scarves and bags, as well as linens, household appliances, CDs, tapes, records, books and bric-a-brac. Be sure to look for Valentine's Day items on Feb. 5, 7 and 12. Watch out for "End of Season Sales and Specials" during the remainder of February. Enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee while shopping for end-of-season bargains. And remember, donations are always gratefully accepted.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Republicans

Every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. is the Republican County meeting that is open to the public. Our next City Island meeting will be held in April.

The annual Lincoln Dinner will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. at the Villa Barone. Tickets are \$150.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule

Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Holy Communion Rite I will commence on February 22, the first Sunday in Lent.

Grace Church invites you to join us for a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, which precedes Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Traditionally, pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday since they contain fat, butter and eggs, ingredients not allowed during

Lent. The supper will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under.

Eileen Marcus

AARP Chapter 318

The AARP will not meet during the month of February. We will resume our meetings in March, on the 4th and the 18th, at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. We hope to see all members after our February winter break.

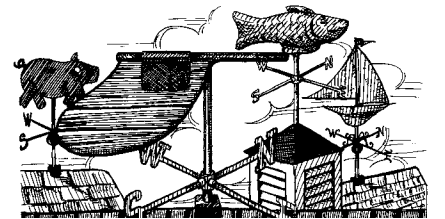
Rosetta Woods

Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held at the post on Feb. 4 at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you all there.

On Feb 7, Dianne O'Sullivan is having a fundraiser at the Post. Please contact the Post for more details.

Laura Booth



REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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

Happy New Year! The winter is a great time to join classes offered at the Center. Take a look at the activities below! Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We need your help and support. To join the Center, to request our new brochure and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors that meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center's main room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weight Watchers Open House: Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 5:30 p.m. Come to the open house to learn about the program, the new sessions on City Island, and new features that WW offers. Make 2015 the year to clear some time for yourself.

City Island Film Club: Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. The February date will be announced. The movie will be "Sabrina" with Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. Contact: cifilmsociety@gmail.com for more information and to find out about other films coming up.

Family Bingo Night: Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games and outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

Teen Dance: Friday, at 7:30 p.m. date to be announced. Dances for sixth, seventh and eighth grades who live on City Island or attend P.S. 175. Come join your friends for a night of fun and music.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Art of Cursive Writing: Grades 3-6. Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m. Elementary-school teacher Alaura Imperioli will instruct children in the art of cursive writing. For information, call Alaura at 347-755-3610.

Art Classes for Children: Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo daVinci. For ages 7 to 12 with Lorraine Cantori. Call 914-552-5268 to register for the new series.

Jill's Playgroup: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun with other children. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Irish step dancing for all ages at all levels taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information or to enroll, call Kim at 718-885-3501.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

AA Orchard Beach Group: Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. Open meeting. All are welcome.

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

Belly Dance / Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves: Sundays, 4 p.m. Fee is \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Note new day. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

Chess Club: Every Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

City Island CSA: Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m. Join the Community Supported Agriculture Group now for delivery of the freshest most delicious organic fruits and vegetables in the late spring. For information, contact lauren-briggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Have fun with other people who love to cook and Chef Michael Proietti. Asian Cuisine: Feb. 11 and 25. Try something new! Learn to make spring rolls and dim sum! Foods of Ireland: March 11 and 25. Coming up in March is a community dinner hosted by CI Culinary Club. For information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

City Island Drawing Society: Sundays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner Rembrandt and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call Josh at 917-721-1419.

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual will take you to a place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Rev. RPP. CRE, Board Certified Polarity/CS, is a Shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Please bring a yoga mat to the sessions on the second and last Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. To register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or www.TheVitalForcefoundation.org.

Parenting Group: Last Tuesday at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood. For information call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. It is time to get healthy and to trim down. A new series begins mid-January. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesdays, to 8:30 p.m. \$10 per session. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, contact Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or joannngny@aol.com.

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturdays at 10 a.m. \$10 per class. For questions, call 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Letti: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Lettie at 917-292-4228 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran according to the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals. Come and dance on the new floor!

The annual pig's-knuckle party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Stop by the Post for more details and to sign up.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Dues are now due. They are \$50.



Photo by FRANCINE ALHEID

One of the many beautiful planters installed, planted and maintained by the Garden Club of City Island along City Island Avenue.

We are now on the web. Our new website is Post156.com.

Thanks to the Garden Club of City Island for the two wonderful Christmas wreaths they donated to the Legion. One was placed by the monuments at the bridge and the other on the Legion's front door.

The Veterans Administration accepts only clothing donations for our veterans. No books, please. Clothing can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed. Thanks to Mike McKenna for taking the clothing donations over to the VA Hospital.

Thanks to associate member Kenny Madden for the donation of the beautiful buffet dishes.

The bar now opens at 2 p.m. from Monday through Thursday.

We will have our annual Super Bowl Party on Feb. 1. The price is \$20 and includes the usual football appetizers, along with dinner, including our world-famous roast pork and desserts. Bar specials include \$2 shots and \$2 buckets.

Save the date! The annual St. Patrick's dinner will be on Sunday, March 15. Details will follow in next issue.

We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Currently, the Post is waiting for more information on the next meeting regarding the triangle during and after bridge construction. The Post was not informed about the last meeting with the NYC Department of Transportation, but we have since been in contact with Roland Rigos, the project liaison, about what is happening. The next meeting may be held the end of January to bring all parties up to date.

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post should contact John Muhlfeld at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

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.

Member and World War II veteran Ray Rodriguez died recently. His grandson is currently on active duty and is interested in joining our Post. We also regret to inform everyone that associate members Kenny Michaels and Jack Grogan also passed away. Our condolences are with their families.

The Post would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy new year!

John Muhlfeld

Garden Club of City Island

It certainly has been gray and cold this winter, but it won't be long before you can enjoy the beautiful Garden Club planters on the east and west sides of City Island Ave-

nue. They are colorful, refreshing, uplifting and something to look forward to after the warm hats, wool gloves and snow boots get put away.

It may be February, but the Garden Club is still very active. We had a plant exchange among our members at the January meeting, as well as a delightful presentation by Carol Wilkinson of photographs taken by Francine Alheid during their November visit to the Steinhardt Gardens in Mount Kisco. We discussed upcoming meetings and events, including presentations on beekeeping and Easter flower arranging. Also coming up are new Garden Club t-shirts, both for members and for sale at the spring Craft Fair on City Island. Be sure to save the date for the Garden Club's annual luncheon, with the theme of irises, to be held on Thursday, May 21; more details in March.

If gardening, gardens and a beautiful City Island are among your interests, you're welcome to attend one of our meetings held at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month at the City Island Yacht Club (except February, when we are at the Harlem Yacht Club).

Most importantly, at our January meeting, we set in place our annual Beautification Fund Drive for 2015. As you know, this is our big drive to support the work we do keeping the Island's parks and public spaces planted and maintained; the funds also enable us to tend to the lovely planter boxes and keep them seasonally beautiful for all to enjoy. When your letter arrives in the spring, we hope we can count on you to be as generous as you've been in the past, or even more so. The Garden Club of City Island receives no state or city funds in doing our various projects and programs, and we rely solely on the support of Islanders.

So we close this update with wishes for a Happy New Year, for beautiful and bountiful gardens and an avenue that's clean and green with bursts of color in our planters.

Barbara Harrison

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Lenten Bible study will begin Feb. 22 and run for five consecutive Sundays to March 22. We will meet in Fellowship Hall from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30. The study is of the Apostle Paul's New Testament letters to Titus and 2 Timothy. The theme is "Doing the work of an evangelist."

The Budget Corner is open, and a staff of

Continued on page 12



Classic Romances of the 1900s

To set the mood for Valentine's Day, there are a host of classic romantic films that have held up over time. We begin with the best picture of 1939, the epic **Gone with the Wind**. It's hard to imagine anyone who has not seen Vivian Leigh's Oscar-winning performance in the much coveted role of Scarlett O'Hara, a flighty but determined young woman who grows up in the South during the years leading up to the American Civil War. She is obsessed with Ashley Wilkes (Leslie Howard), who is married to Melanie (Olivia DeHaviland), but she meets her match in the scoundrel Rhett Butler (Clark Gable).

The 1939 version of **Wuthering Heights** was the first definitive screen adaptation of this Emily Brontë novel of passion, hatred and revenge. When the original owner of Wuthering Heights, Mr. Earnshaw (Leo G. Carroll), brings home an orphan from Liverpool named Heathcliff, Earnshaw's son Hindley (Hugh Williams) despises him. When Mr. Earnshaw dies, Cathy (Merle Oberon) and Heathcliff (Laurence Olivier) happily grow up together on the moors, even though Hindley forces Heathcliff to work as a stable boy. When Cathy meets wealthy neighbor Edgar Linton (David Niven), Heathcliff's jealousy is intolerable, so he runs away to make his fortune. When he returns as a wealthy man, he finds that Cathy has married Edgar. He buys Wuthering Heights from the alcoholic Hindley (Hugh Williams) and out of spite marries Edgar's sister, Isabella Linton (Geraldine Fitzgerald), in this tragic romance.

1940 brought us the original and best version of **Pride and Prejudice**, starring Greer Garson as Elizabeth Bennet, one of five sisters of marriageable age in the 1800s. When her older sister, Jane (Maureen O'Sullivan), is smitten with the wealthy Mr. Bingley (Bruce Lester), Elizabeth catches the eye of his friend, the arrogant and snobby Mr. Darcy (Laurence Olivier), who is actually a true gentleman of high integrity. Mary Boland and Edmund Gwenn are absolutely delightful as the parents of these somewhat troublesome young women in this wonderful and witty satire of 19th-century mores.

Perhaps the most famous romantic film of all time, heading many critics' top-10 list, is **Casablanca** (1942), which stars Humphrey Bogart as expatriate Rick, who runs a nightclub in Casablanca during World War II. When his former lover, Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), shows up with her husband, resistance leader Victor Laslo (Paul Henreid), sparks fly as the Nazis are on their trail. This film combines romance with nostalgia and harrowing intrigue. It features the song "As Time Goes By."

That same year also brought us my favorite Bette Davis film, **Now Voyager**. She stars as Charlotte Vale of Boston, whose proper and overbearing mother (Gladys Cooper) has almost driven her to a nervous breakdown. Charlotte is placed under the care of Dr. Jaquith (Claude Rains), who helps her get well enough to take a cruise to South America, where she falls in love with a married man, Jerry Durrance (Paul Henreid). This is a serious, inspiring story of the flowering of a fragile, verbally abused young woman into a confident and altruistic philanthropist.

We move into the 1950s with **Three Coins in a Fountain** (1954), which stars an outstanding ensemble cast. Set in Rome (with a wonderful side trip to Venice), the movie is about three American women who work in Rome (Dorothy McGuire, Jean Peters and Maggie McNamara) and who fall in love with an American expatriate writer (Clifton Webb), an Italian prince (Louis Jourdan) and a poor but ambitious and sexy Italian (Rossano Brazzi). It has the requisite happy endings, with glorious sights to see as well.

In **An Affair to Remember** (1957) Cary Grant shines as Nicky Ferrante, an interna-

tional playboy on a cruise ship bound for New York City, where he will be reunited with his wealthy fiancée (Neva Patterson). While on board, he falls in love with night-club singer Terry McKay (Deborah Kerr), who also has a very wealthy suitor waiting in New York (Richard Denning). The loveliest scene in the film is when Nicky takes Terry to meet his grandmother (Cathleen Nesbitt) while they are in Italy. The repartee between the two stars is fabulous, and the ending certainly requires having a box of tissues on hand.

The year 1965 brought us the other major epic romance classic **Dr. Zhivago**. Omar Sharif plays the title role of Yuri Zhivago, a doctor and poet who, with his wife, Tonya (Geraldine Chaplin), is caught up in the turmoil of the Russian revolution. More than once, in the course of his medical duties, Yuri meets Lara (Julie Christie), who has been under the influence of the powerful Komarovskiy (Rod Steiger). Yuri falls under Lara's spell, and their great love is immortalized in his poetry.

No classic romance recitation would be complete without **The Way We Were** (1973), starring Barbra Streisand as Katie Morosky, a very outspoken Jewish political activist who falls in love with all-American writer Hubbell Gardiner (Robert Redford). In college, Hubbell's friends make fun of Katie's politics, but he is rather intrigued by her. They meet again during World War II, eventually marry and move to Hollywood where Hubbell tries to maintain his integrity as a screenwriter. Their marriage is put to the test as they struggle to make it through the Blacklist period of the 1950s.

Out of Africa (1985) won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. It stars Meryl Streep as Danish author Isak Dinesen, who in 1914 married Baron Bor Blixen-Flecke (Klaus Maria Brandauer) and moved to a plantation in Nairobi. When her husband leaves to drink and be with other women, Karen falls passionately in love with a free-spirited big-game hunter, Denys Finch-Hatton (Robert Redford). She beguiles Denys and his friend Berkley Cole (Michael Kitchen) with her wonderful knack for storytelling. Although the acting is terrific, the real stars of the film are the sumptuous cinematography and John Barry score.

A wonderful family film is the delightful comedy-fantasy-adventure **The Princess Bride** (1987). When a grandfather (Peter Falk) reads a book to his sick grandson (Fred Savage), the characters come to life. The beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright) falls in love with a peasant boy named Westley (Cary Elwes), who goes away to make his fortune. Several years later, when he is reported as dead, Buttercup agrees to marry the evil Prince Humperdink (Chris Sarandon). The story features Christopher Guest as the evil Count Rugen; Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya, sworn to avenge his father's death; Andre the Giant as Fessik, Montoya's companion; Wallace Shawn as Vizzini, hired by Humperdink to kidnap Princess Buttercup; and Billy Crystal and Carol Kane, as Miracle Max and his wife who agree to help humiliate the prince. Perhaps the funniest scene in the movie is when Buttercup and Humperdink are being married by the inimitable Peter Cook as the Impressive Clergyman. This is a perfect family film.

A film chock-full of outstanding performances is the romantic comedy **Moonstruck** (1988). Cher won an Oscar as Loretta, a young widowed accountant who is engaged to Johnny (Danny Aiello), a man she doesn't love. She winds up falling for Johnny's brother Ronny (Nicholas Cage). Loretta is outraged when she discovers that her father (Vincent Gardenia) is cheating on her mother (Olympia Dukakis), while her mother resists the advances of a college professor (Jon Mahoney). The script by John Patrick Shanley is exceptional.

Working Girl (1988) stars Melanie Griffith as Tess McGill, an ambitious lower-class Wall Street secretary. When her boss, Katherine (Sigourney Weaver), is out of town, she discovers that Katherine has stolen an idea she had pitched. Tess transforms herself into a professional businesswoman and hooks up with investment broker Jack Trainer (Harrison Ford) in an attempt to make a deal that will hurl her into success.

Ghost (1990) is the story of Sam Wheat (Patrick Swayze) and Molly Jensen (Demi

Moore), a yuppie couple who have just moved into a fabulous loft when tragedy befalls Sam. Because he was murdered, his spirit stays on earth to protect Molly. Sam finds he can communicate with a fake psychic, Oda Mae Brown (Whoopi Goldberg), who to her dismay discovers she really does have the gift in some hilarious scenes. This is part romantic drama, comedy and thriller.

Sleepless in Seattle (1993) stars Tom Hanks as widower Sam Baldwin, an architect who lives in Seattle with his son, Jonah (Ross Malinger). On Christmas Eve, Jonah calls a radio talk show psychologist explaining that his dad needs a new wife. When Sam is reluctantly interviewed on the show, Annie Reed (Meg Ryan) is listening on her car radio. Encouraged by her boss/friend Becky (Rosie O'Donnell), Annie writes Sam a letter and pursues what feels like her destiny, even though she is engaged to Walter (Bill Pullman). This film is especially enjoyable for those who have already seen **An Affair to Remember** because of the many references to that film.

The Bridges of Madison County (1995) is the story of a romance that takes place between Francesca Johnson (Meryl Streep), an Iowa housewife brought to the United States from Italy after World War II by her husband, and free-lance photographer Robert Kincaid (Clint Eastwood). When Francesca's family goes off to the county fair for four days and Robert comes to town to photograph the covered bridges, the two meet, fall in love and experience a life-changing connection. The story is told in flashback as Francesca's grown children, Carolyn (Annie Corley) and

Michael (Victor Slezak), read the diary she has left behind.

The film that set Leonardo DiCaprio on the road to super-stardom is **Titanic** (1997). Inspired by the 1985 discovery of the *Titanic* in the North Atlantic, the story begins with modern-day treasure seeker Brock Lovett (Bill Paxton) scavenging articles from the ship, including the portrait of a nude young woman. Lovett is joined by 102-year-old Rose (Gloria Stuart), the woman in the portrait, who proceeds to tell her story. Reflecting back on 1912, she recounts life as society girl Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) and her relationship with pauper Jack Dawson (DiCaprio). Rose is engaged to the wealthy, arrogant Cal Hockley (Billy Zane), who is enraged by her attachment to the penniless artist. The film won eleven Academy awards including Best Picture and Best Director.

Please note that I didn't include **Dirty Dancing** (1987) and **Pretty Woman** (1990), because they were reviewed in the previous issue which focused on hotels. So, until next time, happy viewing. . .

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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

December was a month filled with exciting educational activities. Our kindergarten and first-grade students attended a performance by Earth Science New York about recycling. Second-graders, as part of their work in social studies, went to the Bronx Zoo to visit the NYC exhibit. Third-graders attended a performance at Queensboro College of "Holidays Around the World." The fifth grade also visited Queensboro, where they saw a performance of "Arithmetickles" by Arts on Stage. Seventh-graders visited St. Paul's Church as part of their study of the Revolutionary War and the American Museum of Natural History to view the Planet Earth and Dinosaur exhibits.

The "Hollyrock Game Show" returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Finally, on Dec. 20, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with the annual holiday sing. Children in grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our

rich tradition at the school. This ended our year on a high note!

January has been just as exciting. Our fifth-graders continue to prepare for their spring performance of "Aladdin," and by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production! The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program has resumed for sixth- through eighth-graders. Students are participating in a variety of activities, including art, athletics, games and homework help. Teaching Artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble have been working with our school chorus composed of the third through eighth grades for their spring performance. They sound great!

Our Character Education program continues to thrive. Community service projects are geared toward teaching students that we can all contribute in positive ways to our small City Island community and to the world as a whole. These projects will take place in all grades with eighth-graders once again doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-grade Rewards Trips program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits!

Important Kindergarten Registration News: Kindergarten registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun. This process is done only online. Please see the Department of Education website for more information: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/Kindergarten>. Should further assistance be needed, P. S. 175's school secretary, Mrs. Magneri, can be reached at 718-885-1093.

December Citizens-of-the-Month are Hana Berisha and Will McGonegal (kindergarten); Michael Burton (first grade); Dana Moynihan and Joshua Soto (second grade); Alex Persteins (third grade); Fiorela Miria and Kimberly Ventura (fourth grade); Joseph Peloso and Demetria Mantzaris (fifth grade); Robert Samboy and Tristen Boga-Torres (sixth grade); Jayline Diaz and Jessica Lachman (seventh grade); Jake Garforth and James McGaughan (eighth grade).

BRONX RESIDENTS

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



GREEN THOUGHTS

Adorning my terrace all the year long are large pots of boxwood. I wanted to make an attractive arrangement that would last the winter, so I added to this the common purple cabbage and a few white hellebore "Jacob" that I picked up at Fairway market in November. The cabbages are as beautiful if not more so than in high summer. Their waxy, vellum-like leaves gleam iridescent amidst the white sturdy blooms of the hellebores. I can tell if it is very cold out because when the temps dip below 32 degrees, the flowers shelter themselves by curling up.

On the table aside these pots rest two shallow large terracotta bowls of sempervivum, and certainly their Latin name meaning "always living" or "live forever" is true. They have thrived for over 20 years now with only one or two repottings. Another common European name is "house leek," because you can cover a small roof with them, a shed for example. I have seen this done beautifully in England at the Chelsea Flower Show. Covering a roof with living plants is not as hard as it may seem, and once established the roof will be virtually maintenance free with no need of water.

1. Nail 3 or more battens of wood, cut to the length of the roof to the roof.
2. Cover the wood with fine gauge chicken wire.
3. Place damp sphagnum moss all around the bottom of the roof and around the edges.
4. Cover the roof with a 2 1/2 inch layer of free draining soil made up of one-third pulverized bark, one-third light damp soil and one-third gravel.
5. Plant the surface with small plants or plugs for immediate coverage and tease the roots through the chicken wire.
6. Top up the soil once a year and give the roof a little slow-release fertilizer.
7. Violets and tiny sedum make good companions with sempervivums, and of course a sunny location is essential.
8. If you really decide to take this on, please consult a more detailed description

or instructional video on the internet.

Another lovely garden feature and one that would aid the ecology is a permanent home for insects. This can be made from a wood pile or a stack of bricks. Pipe of different diameters can be inserted strategically to make homes for our busy, beneficial neighbors, thereby lessening the need to use chemical insecticides.

Would you like to bring butterflies to your garden? They need a good source of nectar, so if you plant the right perennials they will come. Purple coneflower, asters, phlox, butterfly weed, goldenrod and sedum "autumn joy" will attract their ephemeral loveliness.

It's winter, and the seed catalogs are arriving. This is the perfect time to choose and plan for the coming garden year. Growing from seed allows you to select rare and choice plants that you don't normally find at the garden center, and it also allows you to plant in mass to the best effect while keeping to a very small budget.

You might try these annuals this year: orlaya grandiflora, helianthus "velvet queen" and nigella. The opium poppies are legal here and stunning, so try some papaver somniferum; they mix well with other perennials as they are on wiry stems and don't take up much room with their single taproot. Cobea scandens, the cup-and-saucer vine, likes to climb up a fence or an arbor, but set seeds early in April, for they flower late.

Biennials, which bloom the second year and then die, are the real stars of the garden. Consider teasel or eryngium wilmots ghost, wonderful thistles. I try to include in many plantings verbasum or delphiniums, whose spires will mark the garden with exclamation points! The verbasum's felted grey rosettes are an attraction even in the first year. I am flipping through Chiltern seed catalog and Thompson and Morgan as I write this. My mind reels with all the choices, so I limit myself, and if I am in excess, I will be happy to give seedlings away as gifts. If you sow directly into the ground remember to stagger your sowings time wise, it will keep the momentum going.

Once again we are dreaming of spring, but the growing season isn't very far off. Already tiny seedlings are peeking through the soil on my windowsill, filled with promise, a beacon in the slanting light of winter.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.

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Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.

Madeline Provenzano

Former Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano passed away on Dec. 7, 2014, at Calvary Hospital, surrounded by her family.

She was born Madeline Camarano on April 23, 1936, in Staten Island; she attended St. Joseph Hill Academy, a boarding school run by the Daughters of Divine Charity. Her first job after graduating from high school was at Metropolitan Insurance on 23rd Street in Manhattan, where she met Vincent Provenzano, whom she married in 1957. They moved to the Bronx and were raising three young children when Vincent died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 31. Her children were ages 10, 5 and 2 months, but through the help of family and community she gained strength.

In 1970 Madeline began working for HIP Medical Center, then located on Frisby Avenue in the Bronx. During this time she went back to school at night and eventually graduated from Hunter College. In 1972 she met Nathan Simmons when both of them were involved in community advocacy, and they married in 1974. She remained at the HIP for 10 years until Councilman Michael DeMarco asked her to work as his chief of staff. She held that position for 19 years, until Councilman DeMarco stepped down to take a seat on the NYS Supreme Court.

She served as the Democratic district leader in the 80th Assembly District from 1992 to 1998 and the Bronx Democratic Party nominated Madeline to replace Mr. DeMarco. After the election, she became the first woman to represent the 13th district of the City Council, which includes City Island. She served in the Council from 1997 until 2005, when term limits forced her retirement.

In March 2003, the City Island Chamber of Commerce honored her with the Special Recognition of Exemplary Community Service Award. She was very active in providing updated computer facilities and funds to schools and libraries in her district. One of the projects that Madeline championed was the golf course in Ferry Point Park, which will serve as a tribute to her tireless advocacy when it opens in the spring of this year.

Madeline Provenzano was widely respected for being a fearless leader and for standing up courageously to support what she knew was best for her constituency. She was only 5 feet tall, but she towered over many as she consistently maintained



Howard Pooler

her principles. Although she was a lifelong Democrat, she supported Mayor Bloomberg on the Republican ticket in 2001 and 2005, drawing some ire from fellow Democrats but sticking to her convictions.

Madeline was a longtime supporter of City Island. She contributed funding to the City Island Theater Group and regularly attended the group's productions. After her retirement, she visited City Island weekly to get her nails done, visit her daughter, Maria, a longtime Island resident, and to dine at a local restaurant. She also loved visiting "her dolphin" in the Hawkins Park.

The only thing Madeline loved more than public service was her family, which always came first. "I am so very proud of her; she is my hero, I will miss her beyond words," her daughter, Maria, told *The Current*. Madeline's son Christopher passed away in 2013; she is survived by her husband, Nathan; her son Anthony, her daughter and seven grandchildren.

Howard Pooler

Howard E. Pooler Jr., 83, for many years a resident of City Island, died on Dec. 12, 2014, at his home in Stroudsburg, PA.

He was born in Bangor, Maine, the son of the late Howard and Dorothy (Fahey) Pooler. He met his wife, Rose (Ferrara) on City Island, where they were married and lived for over 30 years. He moved to the Stroudsburg area 13 years ago.

He worked for 30 years at the Hudson Pulp & Paper Co. in New York City and then at the Continental Grain Co. for 10 years, retiring in 1986. He was a U.S. Marine veteran of the Korean War and a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church of Stroudsburg.

He was predeceased by his wife, Rose (Ferrara) Pooler, and is survived by a daughter, Rose Walsh, and her husband, Anthony, of Marshalls Creek; two sons, Howard Pooler and his wife, Lisa, of East Stroudsburg, and Joseph Pooler and his wife, Vicki, of Stroudsburg; as well as nine grandchildren.

sale of investment property, although you cannot deduct losses on the sale of personal-use property.

5. Capital gains and losses are either long-term or short-term. If you held the property for more than one year, your gain or loss is long-term. If you held it one year or less, the gain or loss is short-term.

6. If your long-term gains are more than your long-term losses, the difference between the two is a net long-term capital gain. If your net long-term capital gain is more than your net short-term capital loss, you have a net capital gain.

7. The tax rates that apply to net capital gains will usually depend on your income. For lower-income individuals, the rate may be zero percent on some or all of their net capital gains. In 2013 the maximum net capital gain tax rate increased from 15 to 20 percent. A 25 or 28 percent tax rate can also apply to special types of net capital gains.

8. If your capital losses are more than your capital gains, you can deduct the difference as a loss on your tax return. This loss is limited to \$3,000 per year, or \$1,500 if you are married and file a separate return.

9. If your total net capital loss is more than the limit you can deduct, you can carry over the losses you are not able to deduct to next year's tax return. You will treat those losses as if they happened that year.

10. You must file Form 8949, Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets, with your federal tax return to report your gains and losses. You also need to file Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses with your return.



Photos by EDWIN CASTRO



City Island rocked at the World Cup Martial Arts Tournament in Virginia held in December, led by Master Edwin Castro of Dragon's Path Academy. First-place winners were Ezra Oquendo, Krishn Maystray, Antalya Rodriguez, George Melicharek, Manuel Oquendo, Filomena Baker (photo far left) and Edwin Castro. Second-place winners were Isabella Quiles and Isabella Famous. Third-place winners were Samantha Hernandez, Arjun Maystray and Addie Maystray. George Melicharek (photo left) had no one to fight in the intermediate division, so he competed in the advanced black belt division and won. Isabella Quiles also had no opponent in her division so

she fought in the advance division and won a brown belt. Congratulations to the City Island tae kwon do warriors!!!

Organization News

Continued from page 9

volunteers has been busy gleaning donated items, so it is full of great bargains. The open dates are Jan. 10, 13, 24, 27, 31 and Feb. 7, 10, 21, 24, 28, and March 7, 10, 21, 24 and 28. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

PSS City Island Senior Center

The PSS City Island Senior Center provides programs, classes and services to those 60 and over to enable them to live life to their fullest. Our goal is to promote independence by remaining healthy, engaged and connected, encouraging everyone to "live life and forget your age!" We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., catered by Scavello's (IGA). Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Highlights this month include: Friday, Feb. 13: A Valentine's Day Party; Tuesday, Feb. 17, Nutrition Talk with Greta Breslin of Shop Rite; Tuesday, Feb. 24: Elder Abuse Presentation by R.A.I.N.

Please note that the center will be closing at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, and will be closed Feb. 16 in observance of President's Day.

February Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various lev-

els of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Yoga DVD series at 9:15, Rhythm and Drums at 10:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 12:30 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15, Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Yoga DVD at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. The Yoga Stretch, Yoga DVD and Arthritis workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

February Programs: Mondays: 1 p.m. Individualized Computer Instruction; Tuesdays: 10:15 a.m. Conversational Spanish; Wednesdays, Feb. 11 and 25: \$10 Haircuts by Brenda; Thursdays: 10:15 Acrylic Painting with Lois; 12:30; Feb. 5: Bingo, Feb. 19, Birthday Party; Fridays: 12:30 p.m. Learn to play Mah Jongg.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

Regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we are more than happy to provide information, referrals and assistance in filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Caregivers Support

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

Transportation Services

Off-Island shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis



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

Ten Facts about Capital Gains and Losses


When you sell what is called a "capital asset," the sale usually results in a capital gain or loss. A capital asset includes most property you own and use for personal or investment purposes. Here are 10 facts you should know about capital gains and losses:

1. Capital assets include property such as a home or car and investment property such as stocks and bonds.

2. A capital gain or loss is the difference between your basis (usually what you paid for the asset) and the amount you get when you sell it.

3. You must include all capital gains in your income. You may be subject to the Net Investment Income Tax, which went into effect in 2013. The NIIT applies at a rate of 3.8 percent to certain net investment income of individuals, estates and trusts that have income above statutory threshold amounts.

4. You can deduct capital losses on the



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

FEBRUARY 2015									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0402	-0.04	1006	7.80	1635	-0.58	2232	7.27	Sun 01
02 Mon	0448	-0.08	1050	7.81	1718	-0.53	2315	7.36	Mon 02
03 Tue	0529	-0.06	1131	7.74	1756	-0.40	2353	7.37	Tue 03
04 Wed	0605	0.03	1206	7.60	1829	-0.20			Wed 04
05 Thu	0026	7.32	0633	0.14	1232	7.42	1851	0.00	Thu 05
06 Fri	0048	7.26	0643	0.23	1242	7.27	1852	0.10	Fri 06
07 Sat	0056	7.25	0700	0.25	1303	7.19	1914	0.13	Sat 07
08 Sun	0121	7.30	0733	0.29	1336	7.10	1948	0.18	Sun 08
09 Mon	0155	7.35	0813	0.37	1415	6.98	2029	0.30	Mon 09
10 Tue	0236	7.36	0858	0.49	1500	6.81	2114	0.46	Tue 10
11 Wed	0322	7.33	0948	0.62	1551	6.64	2204	0.63	Wed 11
12 Thu	0414	7.30	1044	0.72	1647	6.51	2259	0.74	Thu 12
13 Fri	0510	7.29	1147	0.70	1749	6.50			Fri 13
14 Sat	0000	0.74	0612	7.38	1302	0.51	1857	6.67	Sat 14
15 Sun	0108	0.57	0718	7.58	1427	0.09	2007	7.01	Sun 15
16 Mon	0223	0.20	0824	7.88	1532	-0.43	2110	7.45	Mon 16
17 Tue	0335	-0.30	0926	8.20	1625	-0.93	2206	7.90	Tue 17
18 Wed	0436	-0.80	1023	8.44	1715	-1.30	2258	8.25	Wed 18
19 Thu	0532	-1.19	1116	8.55	1803	-1.50	2347	8.47	Thu 19
20 Fri	0625	-1.39	1208	8.48	1851	-1.50			Fri 20
21 Sat	0037	8.50	0719	-1.38	1301	8.23	1941	-1.29	Sat 21
22 Sun	0129	8.36	0816	-1.16	1358	7.84	2033	-0.90	Sun 22
23 Mon	0225	8.08	0917	-0.81	1501	7.38	2133	-0.43	Mon 23
24 Tue	0331	7.72	1024	-0.42	1616	6.97	2240	0.04	Tue 24
25 Wed	0447	7.42	1131	-0.11	1730	6.73	2350	0.38	Wed 25
26 Thu	0559	7.28	1236	0.07	1836	6.69			Thu 26
27 Fri	0055	0.52	0705	7.29	1337	0.10	1937	6.81	Fri 27
28 Sat	0156	0.50	0803	7.41	1433	0.04	2032	7.03	Sat 28
MARCH 2015									
01 Sun	0250	0.39	0856	7.56	1524	-0.05	2122	7.26	Sun 01
02 Mon	0340	0.24	0945	7.68	1609	-0.10	2207	7.46	Mon 02
03 Tue	0424	0.12	1029	7.74	1650	-0.10	2249	7.57	Tue 03
04 Wed	0505	0.06	1108	7.71	1727	-0.04	2326	7.59	Wed 04
05 Thu	0504	0.06	1143	7.60	1757	0.07	2356	7.55	Thu 05
06 Fri	0607	0.10	1207	7.46	1813	0.18			Fri 06
07 Sat	0009	7.51	0618	0.12	1214	7.36	1817	0.19	Sat 07



In December of all months we were drawn to a disturbance on the beach between a ring-billed gull and something else in the water. Upon closer examination, that something else turned out to be the long-fin squid pictured here. By the time we got to it, it was dead. It wasn't clear if the gull had killed it or had found it washed up on the beach. What was clear, though, was that the bird wasn't happy with our intrusion. It swam in small, angry circles as we collected the dead cephalopod for a photograph. After taking the picture, we returned to the victor its spoils, which it proceeded to devour in one greedy fell swoop.



In conducting our research for this article, we found that while long-fin squid are not uncommon in Long Island Sound—indeed, they are commercially harvested—they are much less likely to be observed in winter. Fall and winter are the seasons when long-fin squid migrate offshore. On the other hand, adult squid feed on two food sources that are in abundant supply in this part of the Sound at this time of the year: small crabs and other mollusks (yes, squid belong to the mollusk family). The annual return of the buffleheads, scaup and other diving waterfowl remind us of this bounty.

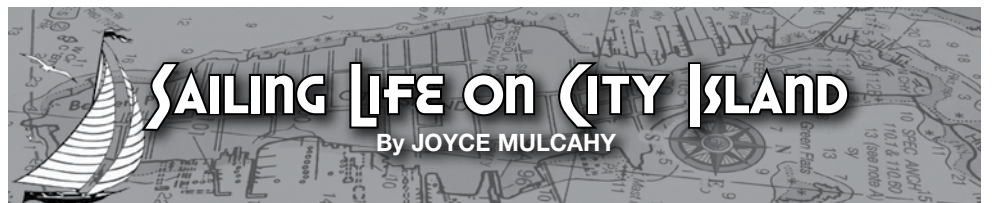
as yet another species staging a comeback in what was once a much dirtier and less-regulated Long Island Sound, it could also be the case that this particular squid simply slipped out of one of the containers of one of City Island's local fisherman and washed up onto the beach.

Long-fin squid live a little less than a year and can grow to about 18 inches in length. Our specimen was obviously an adult that had about reached its maximum growth potential. In their "youth" squid are a favorite food of menhaden, or moss bunker. As adults, they are preyed upon by both the striped bass and the bluefish, among others. These facts remind us that while it would be exciting to think of long-fin squid

Like many of you, probably, we prefer the former scenario. Who wouldn't prefer the idea of happening upon some herring gull waging war with a not-so-giant squid along the City Island coast?

On a much less exciting note, we came across a dead barred owl in the fire lane just over the City Island bridge early one morning recently. It had probably been struck the night before while hunting. Barred owls are very uncommon in New York City, especially this time of year. What makes this accident especially unfortunate is that this owl was female, and if she were nesting or getting ready to do so, it could have been the first documented case of nesting barred owls in New York City since a barred owl nest was documented on Staten Island in 1908.

Be careful out there, please, and more inclined to random acts of animal kindness.



What can I say about sailing life on City Island in February? The boats are out of the water, many of the yacht clubs are closed (except for an annual awards dinner or two) or only open sporadically. The sailboats drydocked in our local marinas with the halyards clanking-clinking against their masts, the only audible reminder that sailing will come again. While this noise may be an annoyance to some, I love it. If I could download a sailing app with halyards clanking against their masts, I would. For now I'll have to settle for walking past Minneford Marina or Barron's Boatyard.

the sailing season. A bottle of wine, or two, grabbed on the go from our island JGL Liquor store serves as the perfect inspiration for reminiscing about sailing and making future plans for the summer ahead.

However, if you have been lucky enough to fall under the spell of sailing life on City Island, then even the winter months can conjure up sailing. I moved to City Island eight years ago to get closer to my love of sailing and racing, and I am not alone. Over the past several years, I have met friends who did just the same, and the sailing community that lives on City Island continues to get together in the off-season. Impromptu gatherings at Bistro SK, the Snug or Artie's can happen on a moment's notice. Dinner at one another's homes occur much more frequently than during

For those local sailors fortunate enough to travel to warmer ports during the winter and to compete in various regattas, such as the Key West race week in January or the Heineken Regatta in St. Maarten in March, their stories carry the rest of us through until City Islanders once again set sail off our shores.

Other ways to beat the summer blues for sailors may be to catch up on some Netflix sailing movie watching. The movie "Wind" with Jennifer Grey and Matthew Modine is a classic. It was inspired by the 1983 and 1987 America's Cup races. "The Shape of Speed" is an instructional video about sail shapes and boat handling. Perhaps winter reading is more your preference; you don't have to look far to find sailing books written by City Island locals and friends, including Dallas Murphy's "Rounding the Horse" or "To Follow the Water." His journals of his expedition sailing adventures are also fascinating. More information can be found at www.dallas-murphy.com.

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Now, back to those clanging halyards. This winter I decided I wanted to start a walking regimen. I debated which gym to join or what off-island track to walk. After a while I realized I had the perfect place to walk, especially with this (so far) relatively mild winter: City Island Avenue! I get my fill of seaside smells, water views, sailing sounds and a healthy dose of fresh air. I recruited another sailor friend, so when our walking doesn't happen until the evening, we can inspire one another to get off the couch and on the avenue. And what do we inevitably talk about on our long walk? Why sailing, of course!

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THE PICTURE HOUSE: OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH

By MARSHA TREIBER



Those of you who were unable to attend the special screening of the film *City Island* (2009) may be unaware of the outstanding community-oriented movie theater called The Picture House, which is located a few minutes north of City Island at 175 Wolf's Lane in Pelham.

History

The Picture House first opened in September of 1921 and was in continuous operation until 2001, when it was almost demolished and turned into a bank. Fortunately, a group of dedicated citizens banded together to establish a nonprofit organization, Pelham Picture House Preservation, to purchase and preserve the theater. From 2002 to 2004, the organization was able to save the theater by raising nearly a million dollars from surrounding communities and nominating it for listing on the New York State Register of Historic Places. In 2010 fundraising for renovations was complete, and the doors were reopened in early 2011 to a renovated and restored theater, brand-new film series, new film education offerings and its first membership program.

Current Happenings

The Picture House offers weeklong theatrical runs of popular, independent, art house and classic films, in addition to curated series, retrospectives, sneak previews and other special events. The theater has a very large main hall with extremely comfortable seats and ample leg room. There is also a screening room with stuffed recliners for 14 viewers who wish to see special showings of outstanding independent films.

The popular films presented tend to be on their last run before they go into the limbo space between theatrical and DVD release, so if you want to see a film on a large screen and you missed it at the multiplexes, you can still catch it here. Also, just for fun, on the third Friday of the month there is the "OMG I love that movie! Series." This is an opportunity for adults to introduce their teens to movies they loved in high school such as the Matthew Broderick comedy classic *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986), Molly Ringwald's *Sixteen Candles* (1984) and Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey in *Dirty Dancing* (1987).

The Film Club and Special Events

In the summer of 2014, film critic Marshall Fine became the Picture House's curator, presenting special event programming as well as a six-week session Film Club that runs three times a year. The Film Club is scheduled for Wednesday nights, when he presents pre-release movies, followed by a Q&A with someone associated with the film. Club membership is via subscription with assigned seats. Before arriving, viewers may order snacks online that will be brought to their seats by the friendly and competent staff.

In the first six-week session presented in the fall of 2014, club members were treated to such Oscar contenders as *The Imitation Game* (nominated for Best Picture, Best Director Morten Tyldum, Best Actor Benedict Cumberbatch and Supporting Actress Keira Knightly) and *Wild* (with nominations for Reese Witherspoon as Best Actress and Laura Dern as Best Supporting Actress). The Q&A following *Wild* was with the fascinating and truly authentic Cheryl Strayed, the woman who wrote the book upon which the film is based.

Aside from the Film Club, Marshall has also shown many special event films, such as *Brahmin Bulls* (Q&A with Sendhil Ramamurthy, known for TV's "Heroes" and "Co-

The Pelham Picture House circa 1921 (above), and how it appears today (below).



vert Affairs"), **Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain** (Q&A with actor Kal Penn known for the *Harold & Kumar* trilogy, *The Namesake* and TV's "How I Met Your Mother," as well as others associated with the film), **Third Person** (Q&A with writer/director Paul Haggis, known for Best Picture Winner *Crash*, *Flags of our Fathers* and *Million Dollar Baby*), Amir Bar-Lev's unflinching documentary *Happy Valley* (about the Penn State University scandal; Q&A with the director), and *Women Aren't Funny* (Q&A with filmmakers/comedians Bonnie McFarlane and Rich Vos). Marshall has given the theater-going public rare opportunities to see lesser-known gems and to speak with filmmakers about

their experiences.

Educational Programs for all Ages

Programming at the Picture House is not for adults only. There is a plethora of exciting classes for students of all ages. This year's winter program includes Magical Movie Makers (ages 4 and 5), Mini Movie Making and Acting (grades K-2), Making Movies for Young Directors (grades 3-5), Acting for Film and Stage (grades 3-5), Intro to Screenwriting (grades 4-8), Advanced Acting and Directing (grades 6-8), Comedy Acting and Improv (grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8), Beginner Claymation (grades 2-4), Create an Animation Puppet Show (grades 5-8), and Evening Film Club (grades 9-12). Adult programs include Screenwriting, Editing in iMovie, and Acting.

Upcoming Events

On Friday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m., the Picture House will present **Music that Made the Movies**, a family-friendly evening of innovative live music and film featuring onstage performances of award-nominated movie songs brought to life by local Pelham musicians and singers. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children (18 and under) and members are free.

During the week of February 17-20,

there will be a special event for the winter school vacation: **Night at the Museum Camp**. Students will have the opportunity to explore the camera, acting, writing and directing inspired by the highly-popular **Night at the Museum** movies. Each day, workshops and exercises will provide an understanding of the movie-making process. Students will be able to create a short film in one week and will be provided with a link to their work two weeks later. Check the website for times and fees.

Becoming a member is affordable and tax deductible and comes with lovely benefits including half-price tickets, special member-only events and even free popcorn and reduced-priced candy. For more information on the delightful array of programs, check out the website www.thepicturehouse.org. Note: Because special programming sometimes pre-empts regular theatrical films, it is always wise to check their website rather than moviephone, or to simply call the theater (914-738-7337), to obtain the most accurate scheduling information. In a world where people can carry a movie screen in their pockets, the Picture House preserves the sense of community, wonder and engagement that has existed since the formation of the first theaters. It is a treasure that can be enjoyed by every member of the family.

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PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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12 Guides for Living That You Might Share with Your Kids in 2015

By JOHN SCARDINA

1. Make a good effort to be calm and fair when dealing with conflicts. Even impossible situations can have peaceful solutions.
2. Honesty is everything, and your integrity is priceless.
3. Humility is not an act of defeat but an act of triumph: you have chosen a greater truth over your own limited self.
4. When you are wrong, promptly admit it and make amends.
5. Learn from everyone, not just the "experts." Try to learn something new every day.
6. Know the difference between "I want" and "I need" and act accordingly.
7. Deal with people in authority with respect: if you need to state your truth,

- then begin from a place of mutual respect and common ground.
 8. Expect the best from others: they may surprise you!
 9. In tough situations humor and surprise can help.
 10. Take care of one another: the only spiritual practice we need is loving kindness.
 11. Love your Mother Earth and make an effort every day to better this planet.
 12. There is something greater than ourselves running this universe, and we do best when we take care of the things we can take care of and leave the rest to the universe.
- And we might just practice these ourselves, too!

Where Is It?



Can anyone identify the location of this object, which is in plain view on City Island? This is the second in our series of "Where Is It?" highlighting rarely noticed City Island features. The image in the November issue, which was guessed by a few sharp-eyed residents, is on the sidewalk in front of Filomena's Pizzeria.

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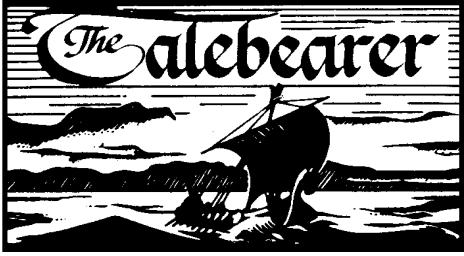


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations to Bay Street's Ben DiGregorio, who was one of the 49th Precinct's honorees at a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the precinct's opening day on Jan. 8, 1985. Ben was the first commander of the 49th Precinct and was lauded by NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton for his many years of service.

Happy 9th birthday to our sweet Abigail

Rose. We love you to the moon and back and to infinity and beyond! Love, Mom, Maddy, Mema and Papa.

All the Warners, along with their spouses, children, grandchildren and patriarch, Vincent Warner Sr., enjoyed their recent Christmas gathering of over 70 family members! A great time was had by all and this is why a banquet hall was needed!

Happy birthday on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Belated January birthday wishes go out to Drew Davis.

Birthday greetings on Feb. 24 to Manny Carrillo and also to Pilot Cove's Brian Sullivan on Feb. 27.

Happy birthday on Feb. 26 to Lucy Zec. Wishing you a great day!

February birthday wishes to our son, Anthony Ribaud, with love from Mom and Dad.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by SANDY CARDINALI

On Dec. 21, Grace Church ushers were surprised with a special blessing by Mother Ruth Anne Garcia, who thanked them for their service. At the conclusion of the ceremony, they were joined by their wives who pinned them with boutonnieres: (l. to r.): Millie and Bill Allcot, Joanie and Peter Klopfer, and Senior Warden Paul Nani with his wife, Karen. Paul stepped up when Peter, who has ushered for more than 20 years, was temporarily felled by illness. Bill stepped in when long time usher Bob White passed away last year.



The Warner family reunion.



Islander Ben DiGregorio (right) and NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton at a ceremony on Jan. 8.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Members of The Island Current staff and their guests celebrated the 44th year of continuous publication at the home of longtime writer and copy editor Barbara Dolensek on Jan. 18, 2015. Editor Karen Nani congratulated the group on a successful 2014 and parodied a comedic tradition with "The Top 10 Reasons You Love Working for The Island Current." The number one reason was "this fabulous party with the best volunteers in America!" Shown above at the celebration are (seated, l. to r.) Emily Leni, Barbara Dolensek, Judy Rauh, Maria Swieciki and Maria Christina Swieciki. Standing: Ginger Danegger, Karen Nani, Cheryl Koller, Rose Kolb, Rino Leni, Jane Protzman, Mary Colby, Bob Swieciki, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Donald Kolb, Marsha Treiber, John Sheridan, Maria Sutherland, Bruce Weis and Sandy Dunn. If you would like to work alongside these dedicated volunteers, call The Current at 718-885-0760 or email us at info@theislandcurrent.com.

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