

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Making "City Island: The Movie"

By MARSHA TREIBER



Photos by ELLA ROBINSON and MARSHA TREIBER

"City Island: The Movie" will be released in theaters beginning on March 19. The film was shot in various locations on the Island, especially the west side of Horton Street (top right photo). Described as a "dark family comedy," "City Island" features a dysfunctional family living on a picturesque island in the Bronx. The family patriarch, Vince (played by Andy Garcia, above), is a prison guard who is secretly plotting a new career as an actor. He was interviewed by *The Current's* movie critic, Marsha Treiber (photo above), at Artie's Restaurant, where he was greeted by owner Spiro Chagares (bottom right photo). The film won the audience award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2009.

Many of us remember the excitement of the summer of 2008 when our island was invaded by the independent film production of **City Island: The Movie** (see review page 11). Many Islanders will be equally excited now to learn that the movie is finally going to make its debut in theaters starting with a preview at the Pelham Picture House on March 4 and a premiere in theaters on March 19.

After missing two opportunities to see a screening of the film (I was in Sicily during the Tribeca Film Festival where it won the Audience Award, and then snowbound by the blizzard of Feb. 10), I finally saw it at the office of publicist Ella Robinson (Overture Films) on Feb. 16. Later that afternoon, I met with Andy Garcia at Artie's Restaurant, which provided the food for the family dinner scenes in the movie.

The story of a dysfunctional Italian-American family is set primarily on Horton Street, although various other Island settings were also used. Writer/director Raymond De Felitta was in the middle of writing the script when he saw a New York Times article about City Island and decided it would make the perfect setting for his movie.

"Manhattan is only a piece of New York City. It is surrounded by an infrastructure of the outer boroughs," the director explained to me in an interview he and lead actor/producer Andy Garcia graciously granted me in August. Raymond wanted to show a unique community that was not Manhattan-centric but was within the city limits. He calls the movie "a comedy that plays like the truth." He noted that Chekhov called his plays comedies, and like Chekhov, Raymond perceives his film as a "human comedy."

Andy told me, "The entire production took 27 days to shoot. Twenty of those days were on City Island." The rest were in various locations around Manhattan, a prison in Nassau County and a site near the

Roosevelt Island tramway.

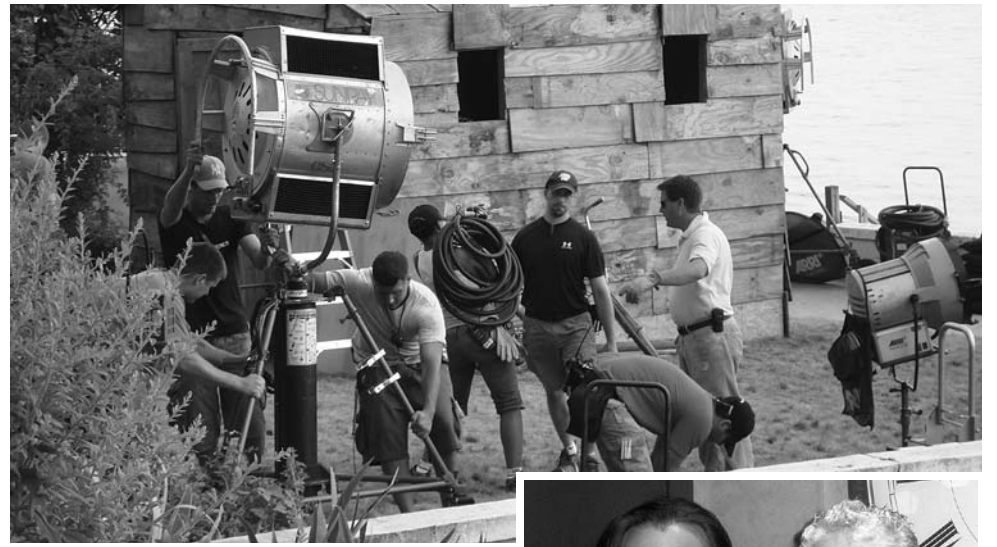
"This was the perfect setting for this story," says Raymond. "As I got to know more about City Island, it became clear that there's not a lot of keeping secrets out here. It's an island community. This whole movie is about a family that is trying to contain their own secrets. So it's kismet that it would be set here."

While they were filming, they met the oldest "clam digger" on City Island: Captain Ed Sadler, a former fireboat captain and Hell Gate pilot. He is now 93 years old and sleeps in the room he was born in. Raymond and Andy felt they had to use him in the movie. "That's what City Island's about. It's this place of enormous pride in its ability to stay the same as the culture around it has changed so much."

Even Manhattanites who pride themselves on knowing the city's most obscure locales may not be familiar with City Island. "No one I know from Manhattan knew that this place existed," says actress Julianna Margulies. "It's a very, very small, tight-knit community. From an actor's standpoint, being in this environment was vital. I would say that the most important character in the movie has been our landscape."

Producer Zachary Matz explained, "We were concerned that the populace wouldn't be welcoming of an outside film crew. But Raymond was so turned on by the place and the idea of someone who nurtures a dream about the big city that's just across the river it was always the heartbeat of the movie. The whole metaphor really spoke to him. The first time we came here, he insisted we walk all over City Island and check it out. As we got more into production, we started involving the people in the community, and it really came together. As a result, we were able to capture the flavor of a unique place."

The film company took its time in developing a relationship with the community and the community responded.



"Early on, we were lucky to meet a woman named Laura Tressel, who grew up here," says Zachary. "She sent us an e-mail and when we came to scout, we brought her in. She introduced us to people who have been there for years—the doctor, the real estate broker—we met everybody. There's a lot of heritage. She brought us right into the middle of all that and got us started off on the right foot."

Andy said that he enjoyed the project immensely and found the people of City Island "very hospitable and generous." He enjoyed working with the Second Unit, which took shots of such places as the Black Whale, the City Island Bridge and a man going for a swim at the beach off Horton Street. Andy was very pleased with the opening sequence montage, which truly captures the panorama, charm and beauty of our island.

The house that served as the setting for the Rizzo family was at the end of Horton Street on the Manhattan side. The film crew built a large deck, which enhanced the gorgeous outdoor shots. The Connolly house across the street was too modern for a house that multi-generations of the same family had owned, so it was used as the home of a neighbor on whom the younger Rizzo son is fixated.

Andy told me that he found the script "charming, funny, sad and poignant." Besides being the lead actor, he served as a producer, a much larger responsibility than one might think it to be. He said that "for a movie to be successful, the audience needs to root for someone." That is certainly the case in this film. Andy's character is someone who is trying to fulfill his dreams, and we really want him to succeed. Unfortunately, he feels the need to do it without telling his family.

Andy's daughter, Dominik Garcia-Lorido, joined the cast (in their third film together, the others being **Steal Big Steal Little** and **The Lost City**) as Vivian Rizzo, Vince's daughter. Nepotism wasn't in play here. Dominik trained for four months to learn how to be a pole dancer, so she would be ready for her audition with the director, and she was pretty amazing in that role. Andy said that sometimes he needs "to take off his father hat and put on his actor hat out of respect for his daughter." He was very proud that she won the part.

Andy explained that "the reason so many movies today are filmed 'on location' is that studios are looking for ways to save money." In fact, New York State gave the production of **City Island** a 35 percent tax rebate, or they would not have been able to



afford to film here. Andy said further that a film in which he appeared, **Modigliani**, wouldn't be a studio-produced film now but would have been made as an independent film in today's economy.

Andy was born in Havana, Cuba, and moved to Miami when he was five years old. When asked about the Cuban and Italian cultures, he said that they were very similar. He spoke of the moral structure and family value system that is a common theme. "Families are boisterous and protective of each other. They are large and glued together by love."

Although he has enjoyed working on many different films with marvelous directors and actors, his favorite film was the most personal. In 2005, he saw the fruition of a 16-year journey to tell his story in **The Lost City** (in which he starred as well as produced, directed and composed the

*Continued on page 5*

## CENSUS ALERT

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. During the month of March every household will receive a 10-question form that must be completed and returned to the Census Bureau in the postage-paid envelope by April 1. If the form is not mailed back by that date, a census taker will visit the residence in person and ask the questions from the form.

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like hospitals; job-training centers; schools; senior centers; bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects; and emergency services.

The data collected by the census also helps determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Any personal data provided is protected under federal law.

For more information, go to the website <http://2010census.gov> or call 1-800-923-8282.

# BRIEFLY...

**BARTOW-PELL LECTURE SERIES.** The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is hosting a March lecture series, "Hired Help, High Society, and the High Seas: Glimpses of Life in the 19th Century," with three talks focusing on servants, socialites and sailors (of the pirate variety). Authors Carol Wallace and Richard Zacks join Bartow-Pell docent and former journalist Doug Hearle to present these varied glimpses on life in the 19th century on Thursday, March 4, 11 and 18 at 7 p.m. The Thursday evening lectures in the glorious Greek Revival interior of the mansion promise to be both enlightening and entertaining. Admission \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children 6-17. Members \$7 adults, \$5 seniors and children. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

**THE CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON** will offer the American Boating Course at the City Island Yacht Club beginning March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Topics include fundamentals of safe boating, navigation rules and piloting techniques. The course material cost is \$75; instruction is free. Please call Jim Duffy at 718-863-3855 (please do not call after 9 p.m.).

**P.S. 175 ANNUAL CARD PARTY** will be begin at 7 p.m. on March 12 at the Lido. Tickets are \$45. For more information, call 718-885-1093, ext. 1300.

**CHURCH BENEFIT FOR FIRE VICTIMS RESCHEDULED:** On Sunday, March 21, at 3 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church will present an afternoon of music and comedy in the Grace Church Parish Hall. This will be a benefit performance for those affected by the October 2009 fire at 415 City Island Ave, which was home to Art of Beauty, To Go Express and a number of families. The show will feature some of the same performers who helped make last summer's USO Show such a success (including MC Chris Arena, Evyonne Baker, Bob Mulroy and Karen Nani). Admission will be \$10, and refreshments will be served during intermission. Grace is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street.

**THE CITY ISLAND MONORAIL RUNS AGAIN!** On Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m., at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, Bronx historian Tom Casey will talk about the history of the 1910 monorail that ran through Pelham Bay Park from Bartow Station to the City Island Bridge. Don't miss it!

**OWL WALK:** Winter is the best time to see wild owls in New York City, so take the opportunity to go on the owl walk in Pelham Bay Park on Sunday, March 14, at 1 p.m. Meet at the Orchard Beach Nature Center in Section 2 of Orchard Beach. For more information, call 718-378-2061.

**DON'T MISS "WAIT UNTIL DARK":** The City Island Theater Group's thrilling new production of Frederick Knott's play will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25 through 27, at 8 p.m. at the Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at the corner of Pilot Street. Call to reserve your tickets at 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com).

# 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2010. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

- 5 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 1 - DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE

Police report the following incidents for the period from Jan. 19 to Feb. 15, 2010.

1/24 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested a male, 19, at a checkpoint on City Island Avenue and Bridge Street at 10:30 p.m. for driving with a suspended license.

1/25 - Two incidents of criminal mischief were reported on King Avenue. Unknown suspects sprayed parked vehicles with yellow paint at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

1/31 - Police are investigating the burglary of a commercial building on City Island Avenue at 4 p.m. Unknown suspects broke the lock and removed some property without the owner's consent.

1/31 - Two incidents of slashed tires (criminal mischief) were reported. The first occurred around 3 a.m. on Tier Street and City Island Avenue. The second occurred on Fordham Street around 3:30 a.m. No arrest has been made.

2/6 - At 8 p.m. on Tier Street, the rear driver's side window of a parked vehicle was smashed.



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**April 1st, 7:30 p.m.**  
Maundy Thursday Service

**April 2nd, 7:30 p.m.**  
Good Friday Service  
with Grace Episcopal Church  
at Trinity United Methodist Church

**April 3rd, 8:00 p.m.**  
Tenebrae Service  
at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

**April 4th, 6:30 a.m.**  
Sunrise Service  
at Pelham Cemetery  
10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service

# Community Board 10 Meets on City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

State Senator Jeff Klein addressed the February meeting of Community Board 10, which met at the City Island Library on Thursday, Feb. 18.

The City Island Library was the location for the February meeting of Community Board 10, whose board members, along with interested residents of the community, tucked themselves in among hundreds of books to hear committee reports and a legislative update from State Senator Jeff Klein.

Senator Klein reported on various activities in his district, including his successful graffiti removal program, but most of his talk centered on issues in which he has been involved in Albany. He was successful in getting passed two important pieces of legislation, one requiring banks that foreclose on properties to maintain those properties rather than let them deteriorate and the other setting up an e-mail notification system for serious sexual predators. He then discussed the dire budget situation in Albany, which is reflected in proposed MTA service eliminations,

school budget cuts and other issues that will impact the community. The Senator will head up a task force to investigate several agencies and authorities to uncover waste of government funding, especially in unnecessary overtime payments, and to consolidate services

Members of the Community Board then heard committee reports and discussed resolutions regarding various projects. Virginia Gallagher, the only City Island board member present, recommended on behalf of the Parks Committee that the board approve the issuing of a request for proposals by the Parks Department relating to the Turtle Cove Golf Course, which needs a new concessionaire and would like to add professional golf consultation to its program. Regarding Orchard Beach, the committee also recommended that the Park pursue the sponsoring 10 free concerts in the summer, but that the sale of hard liquor be banned. The board approved these resolutions.

Jim McQuade, chair of the Economic Development Committee, spoke on behalf of City Island businesses and offered assistance to the community in this regard.

Ken Kearns, district manager of Board 10, spoke about a number of issues that would be coming up in the future and hoped that more members of the community would get involved in supporting the efforts of the board on such issues as the city budget and other matters over which the mayor has complete control.

## A Current Review

# Wait Until Dark

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

The not-so-scary cast of the scary play "Wait Until Dark," the latest production of the City Island Theater Group at the Grace Church Parish Hall. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-27. Behind Hannah Glick in the front row stands (l. to r.) John Garcia, Matthieu Regney, Justine Costanza and David Wetter; behind them are John Geideman, Denis Zepeda and Chris Manetakis.

The role of Susy Hendrix, blind heroine of the mystery thriller "Wait Until Dark," written by Frederick Knott, has been played on Broadway by Lee Remick, Honor Blackman and Marisa Tomei, among others. Lee Remick's portrayal earned her a Tony nomination for Best Actress in a play, and Audrey Hepburn received Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations following her interpretation of the role in the 1967 film adaptation.

But Justine Costanza will make fellow City Islanders proud of her acting ability, as she convincingly plays this complicated and difficult role in the City Island Theater Group's new production, which opened on Friday, Feb. 19, at the Grace Church Parish Hall. The audience was kept on the edge of their seats (brand-new comfortable seats just purchased by the Theater Group, by the way).

The opening-night audience was also privileged to witness the acting debut of clam digger Hannah Glick as Gloria, Susy's 9-year-old bratty upstairs neighbor. The play was directed by Eileen Marcus and produced by CITG president Nick Sala, assisted by Carol McCabe.

Winston Churchill once spoke of a puzzle inside a riddle wrapped in an enigma. Although he was referring to the Soviet

Union's foreign policy, he could have been trying to describe the story line of "Wait Until Dark." Without giving away too many details for those who still have a chance to see the play, let me try to set the scene. A dangerous con man named Harry Roat (David Wetter) has traced a doll to the Greenwich Village apartment of photographer Sam Hendrix (Matthieu Regney) and his blind wife, Susy (Justine Costanza). While in Canada a few days earlier, an unsuspecting Sam had been persuaded by a mysterious woman to bring the doll across the Canadian border, unaware that a stash of heroin was hidden inside it.

After murdering the mysterious woman, Harry Roat enlists the aid of two ex-convicts, Mike Talman (Chris Manetakis) and "Sgt. Carlino" (John Garcia). Together, the three criminals act out an involved charade, hoping to convince Susy that the police (Denis Zepeda and John Geideman) suspect her husband of the mysterious woman's murder. They claim that the doll is evidence of his guilt, in an effort to trick her into revealing its location. Thanks to young Gloria (Hannah Glick), Susy gradually sees through the charade, and then begins a dangerous game of cat and mouse with the criminals.

The story spirals inexorably toward a gripping conclusion, a stage classic that has the blind Susy putting Harry Roat (and the audience) at a disadvantage by throwing the apartment into pitch darkness. Perhaps the only predictable thing about "Wait Until Dark" is that her plan doesn't work out the way she had hoped.

The stage set, a re-creation of a 1960s apartment complete with dated kitchen and photographic equipment, was designed by Dorothy Muccio and constructed by Con Grondahl and John Byrne. The costumes were put together by Carol McCabe, assisted by Norma Kerner, and the props (including a set of brass knuckles) were collected by Barbara Dolensek (whose sources shall remain nameless). Christopher Meindl handled the lighting and sound, helped by the multitasking Matthieu Regney. Denis Zepeda, another talented multitasker, served as the production's stage manager.

Performances on the final weekend will be at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25 through 27. For reservations, call 718 885 3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com).

If you love suspense and fine acting, don't miss this wonderful play. It will make you want to keep the lights on, however.

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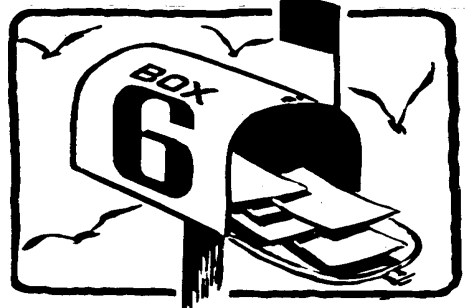


Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Skip Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, addressed the large group of Island business people who gathered at an open house on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Sea Shore Restaurant, in order to share ideas about how to improve the Island's economy.

CAPTAIN ED SADLER PONIFICATES ON THE BLIZZARD OF MARCH 1888.	KRAEMER TWINS BUILD MERMAID FOLLOWING FEB. SNOW.	POST COMMANDER CUTS RIBBON OF NEW RESTROOM.	MARSHA TREIBER INTERVIEWS ACTOR ANDY GARCIA.	ANDY GARCIA'S FILM "CITY ISLAND" WILL PREMIER IN MARCH.	SAL PIGS KNUCKLE PARTY TAKES IT'S TOLL.
CAPTAIN SADLER, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE BLIZZARD OF '88?	MORE SNOW, TANYA, YOU GOT IT, AMANDA.	REMINDS ME OF THE LATRINES WE BUILT DURING THE BIG DEUCE.	COMMANDER, THE TROOPS HAVE WAITED LONG FOR THIS PRISTINE RESTROOM.	ANDY, WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT CITY ISLANDERS?	DR. SANDER, WE HAVE A FEW CASUALTIES.
WELL, THE SNOW WAS SO DEEP, YOU COULD WALK ON THE WATER TO RAT ISLAND.			NOTE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.	WELL, THE ANOINTED ARE KNOWN AS CLAMDIGGERS AND WERE BORN ON THE ISLAND. A FEW STILL SLEEP IN THE SAME BEDS THEY WERE BORN IN.	TOO MUCH CHOLESTEROL.

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

**Snow Angels (and Devils)**

To the Editor:

Although we have had more than our usual amount of snow this year, we are very happy to applaud everyone who cleared sidewalks and pathways immediately after the recent snowstorms, making it possible to walk from one end of City Island to the other without needing cross-country skis. The city's Department of Sanitation also deserves our thanks for having kept us plowed and sanded in a timely fashion.

We were not happy, however, to see that some property owners (most of them living off the Island) did not clear their sidewalks, especially on City Island Avenue, making it difficult and messy to walk past their buildings. Remember, even absentee landlords have to obey the law, which requires that everyone must clear the snow and ice from the sidewalk on the property they own or rent within four hours after the snow has stopped falling, or by 11 a.m. if the snow didn't stop falling until after 9 p.m. the night before.

We have seen Sanitation police handing out summonses to Island residents for not clearing their sidewalks promptly after the snow stopped, but many sidewalks are icy or still covered with snow.

As you clear your sidewalk, keep in mind that you must not throw snow into the street. It's against the law and it forces Sanitation to replot the street. Also, be careful not to cover fire hydrants with snow, since this could interfere with emergency fire-fighting efforts.

Paul Nani,  
Traffic Committee  
City Island Civic Association

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**Holy Week Schedule 2010**

**CONFESSIONS**  
SATURDAY-March 27  
4:30-5:00 P.M.

**PALM SUNDAY-March 28**  
VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.  
SUNDAY-8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., & 12:00 NOON  
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

**HOLY THURSDAY, April 1**  
8:00 A.M. -TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER-7:30 P.M.  
Procession to Repository  
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

**GOOD FRIDAY, April 2**  
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS- 12:00 NOON  
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-4:00 P.M.  
Confessions 5:00-6:00 P.M.

**HOLY SATURDAY, April 3**  
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
Confessions 9:00-10:00 A.M. & 4:00-5:00 P.M.  
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL -8:00 P.M.  
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 4**  
Masses -8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon

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## CI: The Movie

Continued from page 1



Photo by MARSHA TREIBER

Andy Garcia posed with Artie's Restaurant waitresses Judith Lamantia and Cathy Dellacerra.

music). Andy also brought to the screen, **For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story**, in which he played the lead as the world-famous Cuban trumpet player, who was a personal friend.

Director Raymond De Felitta explains, "I wanted to explore how our painful pasts intrude on our present and future lives. I believe that if you are open enough to life, it is never too late to change and discover who you really are. People are often trapped by fear and made immobile by choices that may not have been good, but have grown comfortable. Being able to admit one's mistakes and choose a different path can be the turning point in a person's life, but it can also break a family apart. In the case of the Rizzo family of **City Island**, it becomes the last chance to hold together."

Raymond is a longtime New Yorker, but he had never even heard of City Island before reading the article in the New York Times touting it as an escape from Manhattan. "New York is the setting for so many movies that have influenced me," he says. "But we've seen the borough of Manhattan and its residents depicted many times. My interest is in the lives lived in the outer boroughs. For **City Island**, I chose a family living in this idyllic little fishing village

in the Bronx," he explains. "The people of City Island are the living infrastructure of New York City: the firemen and police, the factory workers, the secretaries, the cab drivers."

City Island boasts a singular view of the Manhattan skyline, which provided Raymond with a visual metaphor for the unspoken ambitions of his main character. "I wanted to see that golden destination through the eyes of a local resident," he says. "Even for someone living just across the water, Manhattan can be a place of destiny and dreams, as out of reach as another civilization. Vince goes into the city to take an acting class and hopefully become a new person."

Despite the logistical challenges, Andy is appreciative of the opportunities this film has presented for him. "The most important thing is that we had the ability to shoot the movie," he says. "A big studio might take 60 days to shoot, but we have to shoot in half the time and present the same level of product. That was a great burden on the crew and the crew was fantastic."

"In any movie, what I strive for is resonance," says Garcia. "I want for people not to forget the film. It will affect each person differently. I'm not looking for any one specific reaction, but I do want the movie to stay with people and for them to talk about it a week later and tell their friend, 'Oh, you've got to go see this movie.' That's all you can hope for."

"The climax of the movie was filmed in an all-night shoot. Andy had to set the pace for everyone and maintain his energy for a great outpouring of emotion. His key scene was shot in one take. They wanted to do another, but they had worked so long that the sun came up, and the lighting would have been wrong. It was extremely powerful, and I don't think it could have been improved," the director said.

City Islanders will be pleased with the result of all this hard work and determination. Talented writing, acting and producing have culminated in a film that will sit well with the proud residents of our community.

## TURTLE COVE: THE WORK GOES ON

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation led potential contractors to the berm in the middle of Turtle Cove in order to estimate the work that needs to be done to restore tidal flow to the north cove. The work is scheduled to begin in May, when it is hoped that the snow will be long gone.

Although much has been done in the Turtle Cove area of Pelham Bay Park to help remove invasive, non-native plants and restore the natural wetlands, there are more projects still in the pipeline.

On Feb. 17, the day after one of the recent snowstorms, representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) led a group of prospective contractors onto the berm in the middle of Turtle Cove to familiarize them with a project on which they are being asked to bid. The project involves the removal of the man-made berm in order to rejoin the bodies of water and restore tidal flow to the north cove, which is now largely fresh water and thus attractive to invasive plant species, such as phragmites and purple loosestrife. The berm cut will replace the failed culvert that used to allow tidal flow to the north cove.

Because the berm has provided a path for those who enjoy walking through the park, the DEC has asked for a pedestrian bridge to be placed in the area of the berm removal. The bridge will be pre-cast and installed in one piece on abutments that will replace those now on the site. The DEC, which is providing both funding and oversight for the project, had the choice of

building culverts to allow the tidal flow or a bridge, and they chose the latter as requiring less maintenance, since culverts tend to become blocked over time.

The berm was originally built to support the City Island Monorail, which was established in 1910 by New York City in order to attract tourists to City Island. The monorail, which ran (unreliably) from the Bar-tow railway station (near the riding stable on Shore Road) to the City Island Bridge, did not last very long, because of technical problems, but the berm remained.

The contractors were advised by the DEC representatives, led by chief of operations Philip Vansantvoord, that they must not disturb the natural systems on either side of the berm and must be especially attentive to erosion control. They anticipate that the entire job will begin in May and should take less than a month to complete.

Coincidentally, the City Island Historical Society will host a lecture by Bronx historian Tom Casey on the City Island Monorail on Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m. in the Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. This event would provide an opportunity for those interested in this area of Pelham Bay Park to discuss the changes that are taking place on the site of the old monorail.

## Island Artist Helps to Restore Antique Calliope



The restoration of a Wurlitzer calliope dating to 1914 was accomplished after many months of effort by former Islander Bob Yorburg, Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and Pam Hessey of Arizona. The facade of the original calliope, owned by Glenn Thomas of New Jersey, was in complete disrepair, but the musical workings were salvageable. Bob Yorburg carved a complete new facade, carefully re-creating the intricate acanthus and fretwork decoration of the original. The carving of the four panels that make up the approximately 12 by 7 foot facade took about two years. Marguerite Chadwick-Juner painted the landscapes on the panels in her studio, basing them on

photographs taken by Glenn Thomas of his travels in the Rockies of Colorado. She added many animals indigenous to the area to enliven the scenery. The process from sketches to finished paintings took about 4 months. The panels were then carefully packed and shipped to Pam Hessey in Arizona for the final phase of exotic gold leafing.

The finished facade arrived back in New Jersey at the end of January and was reassembled with its tuned musical workings. The impressive results will be a feature story in the June issue of the *Carousel Organ Journal* with a large photograph gracing the centerfold.

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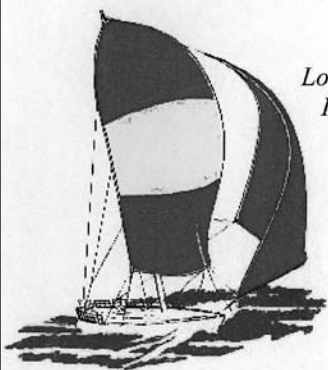
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# SOUPER BOWL 'SAINTS'



Photos by RICK DeWITT and EYVONNE BAKER

Sunday schoolers from Trinity United Methodist and Grace Episcopal Churches on City Island turned football's Super Bowl Sunday into a "Souper Bowl" Sunday on Feb. 7, 2010. Shown above (top photos) are children performing in Trinity's Souper Bowl of Caring skit. The enthusiastic players raised more than \$300 and 110 food items for City Harvest. At Grace, members of the Sunday school decorated a football cake and raised more than \$300 for the POTS (Part of the Solution) program in the Bronx and for the Carpenter's Kids, which is the New York Episcopal Diocese's outreach and partnership program with a diocese in Africa to buy cows for families. Shown with their teacher Harlan Sexton and their Souper Bowl cake are (bottom photo, l. to r.): Drew and Blake Cottam, Gregory Sexton, Austin Cottam and Emily Sexton.

# ANGELS AND MERMAIDS



Photos by JANICE COCO, MARGARET CIOFFI and SUSAN KRAEMER

Snowstorms on Wednesday, Feb. 10, and Tuesday, Feb. 16, inspired Islanders to create snowmen, snow angels and even snowmaids. Amanda and Tanya Kraemer perched their mermaid right at the water's edge on King Avenue, while Jackie Kall added her hat to the snowman in Catherine Scott Park by the bridge. Matthew Cioffi and other Island children enjoyed a snow day off from school and created cool angels on Minneford Avenue.

## Bartow Pell Events

On March 4, 11 and 18, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will present a lecture series entitled "Hired Help, High Society, and the High Seas: Glimpses of Life in the 19th Century, with three talks focusing on servants, socialites, and sailors (of the pirate variety). The evening lectures in the glorious Greek Revival interior of the mansion promise to be both enlightening and entertaining. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children 6-17 (members \$7 adults, \$5 seniors and children). Registration is requested; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

The first lecture, "The Invisible Irish: Hired Help at the Bartow Mansion," will be given at 7 p.m. on March 4, by BPMM docent Doug Hearle, who has made the lives of the servants at the Bartow mansion his particular focus in tours and talks. Thanks to the 1860 census we know that the Bartow household staff was almost all Irish. Doug brings them to life and makes us understand the rigors of downstairs that made life so agreeable upstairs.

On March 11, in "To Marry an English Lord: Or, How Anglomania Really Got Started," author Carol Wallace dishes up real-life tales of wealth and marriage, sex and snobbery and the 19th-century American heiresses who swapped dollars for titles in the throes of Anglomania.

On March 18, author, journalist and pirate scholar Richard Zacks, in "The Pirate Coast: Thomas Jefferson, the First Marines and the Secret Mission of 1805," relates the story of Captain William Eaton who battled Barbary Coast pirates at the behest of his president. A thrilling saga involving a covert mission, exotic lands, political intrigue, and more in the first decade of the 19th century.

In addition to the lecture series (see Briefly, page 2), the following events will take place during March at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road. A Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day will be held on March 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for those who want to help keep the garden and grounds of the mansion looking beautiful. Light breakfast will be available. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. The rain date will Sunday, March 14. Reservations are requested.

A Pysanky Workshop will take place on Saturday, March 20, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pysanky are Ukrainian Easter eggs that are decorated with a wax-resist technique. Learn the time-honored art of creating these intricately patterned eggs and decorate your own. The workshop is recommended for those over 14 years old. The programs involve the handling hot wax and permanent dyes—so please dress accordingly. Bring a bag lunch; light refreshments will be offered. Space is limited; admission is \$15 (members \$10), and registration is required.

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is one day when it's okay to put all your eggs in one basket! Children ages 2-12 will enjoy hunting for eggs in the mansion's formal garden, tapping their talents at arts and crafts tables or having their photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Bring your own basket. Light refreshments will be offered. The rain date is Sunday, March 28, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Admission for children 2-12 is \$12 (members \$10). Registration is requested.

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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

#### MARCH

Wed. March 3, **Hearing on C.I. Express Bus**, Paradise Theater, 2403 Grand Concourse at 187th Street, 6 p.m.

Thurs., March 4, **Preview of "City Island: The Movie,"** Pelham Picture House, 175 Wolf's Lane, Pelham, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., March 7 and 14, **Warriors Football Registration**, Lehman High School gym, 3000 East Tremont Avenue, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Jerry at 718-829-7574 for information.

Fri., March 12, **P.S. 175 Annual Card Party**, Lido Restaurant, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 7 pm. (see Briefly this issue).

Thurs., March 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Preston High School, 2870 Schurz Avenue.

Thurs., March 25, and Fri., March 26, **Kindergarten Registration for City Islanders only**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue (see School News). Ongoing registration will continue on Thursday mornings beginning April 8, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sat., March 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

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

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Our worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Prayer service is held every weekday at 9:15 a.m. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

Thanks to all who attended our pasta lunch and skit hosted by the children's Sunday school on Feb. 7. All the children were wonderful! The food and money will benefit City Harvest. Kudos and thanks to Mr. Baird for the generous donation of the outstanding pasta meal and the hard work of the teachers Pat LaPorte and Rick DeWitt and their crew.

A Group Bible Study is still in progress meeting Sunday March 7, 14 and 21 during Lent in Fellowship Hall, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The theme for this continuing study is "The Apostles, God's chosen witnesses for Christ's resurrection." George Cavalieri, our lay leader and speaker, will be moderator. There is no registration or fee and the Bible texts will be provided. All are welcome to join us in an excellent Lenten discipline and preparation for the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Don't forget our Palm Sunday service on March 28 at 10 a.m.

An informal ecumenical gathering for the annual outdoor Sunrise Resurrection Celebration will meet on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 6:30 a.m. The meeting gathers inside the Pelham Cemetery beneath the "big tree" facing East, near the water's edge on King Avenue. This celebration will consist of prayer, poetry, praise and singing, with scripture readings by interested members of the community. A meditation entitled "Baptism, A Death and Resurrection into Christ's New Life" will be led by George Cavalieri. All are welcome to attend. If the weather is severely inclement, the celebration will be held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall.

Please also join us for our Easter Service at 10 a.m. on April 4.

The Budget Shop will be open March

9, 13, 23 and 27. Won't someone out there volunteer to lead Budget behind the scenes? Myra Martin will work right along with you to help and train you for this responsibility. It simply involves contacting the established crew for work dates and providing help with the gleaning and pricing. We need your help; call Myra at 718-885-1049.

Ellen G. Hebard

#### Temple Beth-El

October 2009 marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of Temple Beth-El of City Island. The synagogue, unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian, provides an exciting place for observance for Jewish families who come from many different communities and cultures.

We are a spirited congregation that gathers together under the leadership of the stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener. Located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets. We conduct Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all and we follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Rabbi Shohama will conduct her next Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, March 12. The other Friday services will be led by Bob Berent with his accordion.

Our Community Passover seder will be conducted at the Temple on Tuesday, March 30, the second night of Passover this year. As in the past, glatt kosher food for Pesach will be served during this warm and congenial seder, which will be conducted primarily in English. The seder will be led by Reb David Markus. Please call Nan Kaplan at 718-885-2445 or Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 for information or to make reservations, preferably before Thursday, March 18 (\$45 for adults; \$15 for children).

Bob Berent

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer Evening Prayer in the Church every Monday at 7 p.m., and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Also, the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) is especially recommended during Lent and Holy Week and may be scheduled by contacting Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or [RevPPA@aol.com](mailto:RevPPA@aol.com).

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during March and early April:

Sunday, March 7: Lambs Babysitting available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, March 9, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke (Parish Hall). Join us as we read, pray through, and discuss the Gospel of Luke; newcomers are always welcomed.

Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke (Parish Hall). Thursday, March 18, 9 a.m.: Memorial Service on Hart Island/Potter's Field.

Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.: Benefit for October 2009 Fire Victims. Admission is \$10.00; refreshments served. (For further information, please contact Stephen Marcus at 347-964-1887 or [steveaynoir@yahoo.com](mailto:steveaynoir@yahoo.com).)

Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke (Parish Hall).

Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m.: Palm Sunday—The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist.

Tuesday, March 30, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke (Parish Hall).

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.: Maundy Thursday—Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, and "Nightwatch".

Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.: Good Friday—Ecumenical Service at Trinity United Methodist Church.



Photo by WALDO PERSTEINS

Fifteen scouts from Troop 211 braved the cold in January to compete against other Boy Scout troops in New Jersey.

Sunday, April 4, 10 a.m.: Easter Sunday—Holy Eucharist, with child care.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Thursday, March 4, there will be an important meeting of parents and sponsors of all our eighth-graders who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It will be held in St. Mary's gym at 7 p.m.

On March 5, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

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

Our gala St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday evening, March 13, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. The band is called Good Clean Fun, and the night promises to be filled with just that. For more information and to check if reservations are still available, please call Margaret Knapp at 718-885-1048.

All are welcome to join us at our monthly Hospitality Hour on Sunday, March 14. It will be held in the rectory after the 10 o'clock Mass.

The March meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our eighth-graders from school and parish who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will participate in a Retreat Day at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, New York, on Tuesday, March 23. This is part of their immediate preparation for the reception of the sacrament in April.

On Saturday, March 27, our children, mostly second-graders, will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The ceremony will take place in our church at 11 a.m.

Because of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter Week, there will be no Religious Education classes on March 31 and April 7.

Sunday, March 28, will begin the holiest week of the church year as we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. We will begin on Palm Sunday with the blessing and distribution of palms at all the Masses. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have the service of Tenebrae, consisting of psalms, readings and the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah.

The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The solemn commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 4:00 p.m. After a day of silence and waiting on Saturday, the solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. that evening, and our joyful Alleluias will continue on Easter Sunday at all our Masses: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Happy Easter to all!

St. Bernadette, osu

#### PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

We hope that milder March weather will allow us to resume our Orchard Beach walks. The program schedule is as follows: Zumba with Stephanie: Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall. Sittercise with Patty: Tuesday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall. Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday leave Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Michael: Thursday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall. Arthritis Exercise with Patty: Thursday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to programs and for a schedule of afternoon shopping trips. For further information, call Patty at 718-885-1891. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Arthritis Foundation.

Pat Grondahl

#### Holiday Services

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

City Island Avenue near the bridge  
March 27, Saturday: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m. Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.

March 28, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

April 1, 2, 3, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m., psalms and readings. No morning mass.

April 1, Holy Thursday: Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Procession to the Repository; adoration to 10 p.m.

April 2, Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 12 noon, Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 4 p.m. Confessions, 5 to 6 p.m.

April 3, Holy Saturday: Confessions, 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 4, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

##### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

March 28: Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.

April 1: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday Ecumenical Service with Grace Episcopal Church at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

April 3: Tenebrae Service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, 8 a.m.

April 4: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:30 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

##### Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street  
March 28, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

April 1, Maundy Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

April 2, Good Friday: Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.

April 4, Easter Sunday: Festival Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. (with child care).





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

**Open Monthly Meetings of the Board** are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The City Island Annual Women's Herstory Month Celebration:** P.S. 175 students and the fourth-grade Girl Scouts will be part of the program this year. There will be music, a potluck lunch, a relaxing meditation and more! Sunday, March 21, starting at noon. \$2 donation, more if you can, less if you can't. For more information, call Cheryl Berent at 718-885-3098 or Toby Liederman at 718-885-3423.

**NEW CLASSES**

**Rhythmic Movement Exercise Class:** A fun way to combine exercise with various styles of dance. Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m., \$15 per person. If you have any questions please contact Judy Farnum, Group Fitness Instructor, at 914-548-4184 or [judyfarnum@aol.com](mailto:judyfarnum@aol.com).

**Gentle Yoga-Qi Gong class with Norma:** Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Get into shape, relax the body and mind and have some fun doing it! This class is a combination of low-impact Hatha Yoga and Qi-Gong (freeform Tai Chi) and mild stretches. Although this class is geared to those of you who have not exercised in a while, all levels are welcome. Modifications will be given for all the poses. The price per class is \$7.00. For more information, please call 718-730-3442. Namaste.

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Irish Dance:** The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit [www.deirdreomara.com](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

**Tae Kwon Do:** Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

**Sally's Playground:** Where children ages 1 to 5 enjoy indoor play. Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 with questions. \$7 per child (\$4 for each additional sibling.) Come and join the fun!

**Family and Me Fitness:** An exercise program for children (infant to 5) and parent(s). Music and stretching to benefit the children, toning and aerobic movement to benefit the adults with a focus on having fun. Tuesday and Thursday at 9 to 10 a.m. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

**Vilma's Music Together.** Music and movement for children ages birth through

5 and the adults who love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.funmusictogether.com](http://www.funmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

**Art Classes by Laury: Storytime Art,** for preschoolers accompanied by an adult; 12:45 to 2 p.m., Monday or Thursday, Jan. 25-May 10, 12 classes \$100, \$10 for individual classes but you must call ahead. **Exploring Sculpture** in a variety of materials for K through third grade; 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25-May 10, 12 classes \$100. **Drawing and Painting,** with inspiration from modern sources for grades 4-8, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26-May 4, 12 classes \$120. **Drama and Theater Arts,** masks, costume design, improvisation, stage make-up, creative movement and more for ages 7 to 11; 3:30 to 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28 through April 29, 12 classes \$100. Schedule with exact dates will be given out at the beginning of classes. There will be no classes during spring and winter breaks. Private and semi-private lessons also available. For more information or to sign up, call Laury at 718-885-3202.

**ADULT PROGRAM**

**Hi-Low Impact Aerobics:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 to 5 p.m. \$8.00 per class. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

**Yoga With Emily:** Yoga class now being offered on Wednesday at 10 a.m. All levels welcome. Call Emily Wilson at 347-886-4546 with any questions.

**Ashtanga Yoga with Vincenza:** Yoga Instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of Miami. Tuesday nights 7:30 for 1 hour. Please bring a yoga mat. Contact [Vma-donia59@aol.com](mailto:Vma-donia59@aol.com) or 917-440-3618.

**Salsa Dance:** Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa. No partner necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nilsa at 917-838-6501.

**Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea.** Theresa Mahon (aka Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

**Aerobics with Mary:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. New class added: Saturday 9 a.m.

**Yoga:** A beginner-to-intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at [marc@ohm-chi.com](mailto:marc@ohm-chi.com) or call 718-885-2445.

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Amy Gottlieb

**AARP CHAPTER #318**

The next meeting of AARP Chapter #318 will be on Wednesday, March 3, at 1 p.m.

Our St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day dinner will be held at the Trinity Church Hall on March 17 at 1 p.m. A complete corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served. We will be entertained by a group of step-dancers, and an accordion player will supply the music. Dancing will follow. The cost of the dinner is \$25, and payment must be made no later than March 3. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may leave your check at Barbara Whelan's house at 100 Marine Street. Non-members are welcome to attend.

At our last meeting, a gentleman from AARP spoke about the work that is being done to protect AARP members. His lecture was very informative.

Our thanks to Jean Neglio for the good work she is doing in getting interesting and informative speakers.

Come celebrate with us on March 17!

Carmelia A. Ramftl

**Boy Scout Troop 211**

Many folks may be aware that Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010. Did you know that scouting on City Island is marking its 76th year? I am proud to have been part of this tradition myself for more than 20 years and counting. The best part of scouting in a small community is that many of us have memories of being a scout, having a scout in the family or hearing friends tell some amazing and funny stories from someone's Troop 211 days. I want to take this opportunity to share what your troop has been up to recently.

Troop 211 had a successful two-night camping trip in October, leaving the comfort of home for tents and night skies full of stars. In December the scouts put their swimming and lifesaving skills to the test at two swimming pool nights. Scouts started 2010 strong by earning several merit badges, including woodworking and Indian lore at the Bronx merit badge fair. Fifteen scouts pushed themselves physically and braved the frigid cold in late January to compete against other Bronx troops in the annual Klondike sled trek.

The troop moved its activities indoors in February, first by attending the Monster Truck and Freestyle Mania, witnessing for the first time somersaulting quad-runners, and then we showed reverence at the Scout Sunday Mass in St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. These activities would not have been possible without the support of volunteers and Eagle Scouts from the community, support from scouting families and the generosity of the community at large.

We look forward to your support at our annual fund-raiser, the Boy Scout Flower Sale at Bay Street on April 1 through 3. Please visit us, buy a flower and share your scouting story.

Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins

**City Island Republicans**

As 2010 travels on, November is looking better. Several Democratic Senate retirements have now put us within reach of possibly achieving a majority in the United States Senate. The United States House of Representatives has many competitive races, and we look to pick up many seats on that side of the capitol as well; there is a good chance that we may end of up with a majority.

Our momentum is still growing across New York State. A few weeks back, there were special elections for State Assembly, and we managed to pick up two seats and hold another in the suburbs. Furthermore, we look to increase the number of seats in the State legislature ahead of next year's important redistricting of all of the political boundaries, which is all the more reason we need to pick up seats this November. All we need are two seats in the Senate to regain control. We will have a full slate of candidates who will be running for statewide office this year. One of the reasons for our success since November is the fact that we are running on the conservative principles of low taxes and less spending, which has resonated with New York voters since we are one of the highest tax states in the nation.

The state party will be sponsoring a screening for candidates in our area around early April. Anyone interested in attending or running should call 718-792-5800.

On the local level, the new Bronx Republican headquarters will have the grand opening of their new office at 3029 Middletown Road on Saturday, March 6, at 11 a.m. Several statewide candidates will attend. Stop by and see the new office.

We already have a candidate actively campaigning for the State Assembly: Throggs Neck native Michael Rendino, a firefighter who had to retire as a result of illness caused by the effects of 9/11. He has already had his first fund-raiser, which was a huge success. He will be on City Island quite often meeting and greeting everyone.

Our next meeting will be in April. Stay tuned!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

**City Island Theater Group**

The City Island Theater Group kicks off its 11th season with our next production, "Wait Until Dark". Final performance dates are: Feb. , 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. Call 718-885-3066 for tickets or visit us at [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com). See you at the theater!

Nick Sala

**Legion News**

News at the Post is rather paltry this month. It's quite evident that Islanders, like the groundhog, have seen their shadows and have extended their hibernation a little longer than usual. The Commander, in his infinite wisdom, warns us to beware of the Ides of March.

Comrade Bill Clancy has been busy putting his article on the 2010 Boat Show together. We all look forward to his report in next month's issue of *The Current*.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. The price is not yet known. We all look forward to this festive occasion.

We mourn the loss of Auxiliary member Dee Mazzella, who passed away in February. Our condolences to her family.

Some dates to remember: The Vietnam War began March 2, 1965; the Star Spangled Banner was made the U.S. national anthem on March 3, 1931; daylight savings time begins March 14 (set your clocks ahead one hour); and St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. Palm Sunday is March 28 and Passover is March 30.

The regular meeting for March is on Wednesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m.

My squadron, the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, left for Europe aboard the Nieuw Amsterdam at 0718 hours on April 18, 1944. We made the crossing unscorted and arrived in Gourock, Scotland, on April 25. The journey was uneventful except for an alarm that sounded before we left New York Harbor, causing one pessimist to proclaim loudly that "God torpedoed us before we got out of the harbor."

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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

March will be a busy month for the Sons. The annual St. Patrick's Day party will be held on Sunday, March 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. No further details were available as of press. For further information, swing by the Post.

On March 26, the State Commanders of both the American Legion and the Sons, along with the statewide president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, will be making a visit to Bronx County. The day will include a visit to Fort Schuyler and dinner at one of the area beach clubs.

In addition, we are happy to report that Vice Commander of Activities John Peters is out of rehab and back on City Island, resting comfortably at home. There is one Post member on sick call; Ladies' Auxiliary Past President Linda Ulmer is recuperating from surgery. It is with deep sadness that we report that longtime Ladies' Auxiliary member Dolores Mazzella has died. She and her family are in our prayers.

On a happier note, the new bathroom has finally been completed. Stop by the Post and give it a try.

We would also like to report that Greg Clancy is our Squadron advisor for 2010, as well as our first advisor. The job of the advisor is to serve as a liaison between the Sons and the regular American Legion membership, so the advisor is usually a member of both groups.

Just a reminder! SAL dues for 2010 (\$30) are now past due. Anyone who is interested in joining may call 718-885-0639.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, at 8 p.m.

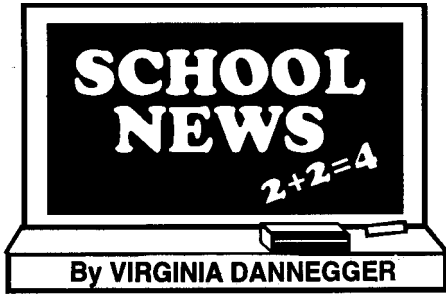
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**Public School 175**

Although February is a short month, it has been a busy one. Classes have been working on women's history projects that will be presented on March 21 at the City Island Annual Women's "Herstory" Month Celebration at the Community Center. Teachers and students will be on hand to share what they learned through their studies. Our City Island community has been a great resource for this project, and we are especially grateful to Toby Liederman for providing this opportunity for the school to work with the community on this wonderful project.

The first session of our Studio-in-a-School Art program culminated in a beautiful exhibition. Students in grades 4 and 6, as well as class 3M, created wonderful sculptures that were displayed in the school. Parents were invited to attend to see the students' art work and to hear about what they learned from the experience.

Our Sports & Arts After-school Program has been in full swing, with students participating in cooking, athletic activities and homework help. In addition, over the mid-winter break, small groups of students went rollerskating in Seaford, Long Island; they also went bowling and to visit Intrepid.

Thanks to a another grant from Councilman James Vacca, we are able to provide an after-school arts program for students in grades 6 through 8. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a dramatic performance of "Alice in Wonderland." Rehearsals have been going very well, and students will be putting on the performance for their families in the spring.

Our fifth-graders have also been busy working with the teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble and their classroom teachers on their May performance of "Seussical, Jr." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! A portion of the grant from Councilman Vacca is also being used to subsidize this performance. In May, as an extension activity, the students and teachers are going to see "West Side Story" on Broadway and will meet with one of the cast members after the show to learn more about what goes into a professional production.

The P.S. 175 tradition in which the sixth grade goes to Camp Greenkill will continue this year in April. We are most fortunate that Mr. Rauh has promised to accompany our students for the 25th consecutive year!

Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun and learning-filled trips that will be taking place in the coming months. In March they will go to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social studies.

Our eighth-grade students and parents have been meeting with Mrs. Rondi and Mrs. Gisante to plan for their momentous June event. This month they held the annual Valentine's Day Sale fund-raiser, which provided an opportunity for their school-mates to purchase Valentine's Day gifts for their family members. The fund-raiser was a huge success! This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Tuesday, March 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day as well.

- Kindergarten registration for City Island residents ONLY will take place on March 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ongoing registration will continue on Thursday mornings beginning April 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on June 25, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade

Dance will take place the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Thursday, June 17, at 6 p.m.

- The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on June 24, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

Citizens of the Month for February were as follows: Kindergarten: Filomena Baker and John Russell; first grade: Aiden Sanchez and Francis Padagas; second grade: Eleni Mantzaris and Alexa Gjonaj; third grade: Mia Comerico and Michael Amos; fourth grade: Nicholas Capalbo and Brianna Lozada; fifth grade: Frank Gaudio and Kasper Pedersen; sixth grade: Alexis Candelaria and Kathleen Kramer; seventh grade: Adrianna Aceto and Stephanie Morrissey; eighth grade: Ardita Rugova and Crystal Christian.

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# From Pells to Parks (Part 2) A History of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

By ELLEN BRUZELIUS



Photo by RICHARD WARREN

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum today.

Although World War I caused the Frederick Law Olmsted design project for the gardens at the Bartow-Pell Mansion to be set aside, the International Garden Club (IGC), which was responsible for maintaining and improving the property, nevertheless continued to improve the grounds and open them to the public. The club sponsored a variety of horticultural programs, including lectures and an annual flower show and, for the first few years, produced an impressive quarterly journal, copies of which still exist. The mansion itself served as a temporary residence for dignitaries. Fiorello LaGuardia used it as his summer headquarters during the summer of 1936, during the time when Orchard Beach was being built, and Sir Angus Fletcher lived here for several months in 1945–46 while he was chairman of the committee searching for a site for the future United Nations.

By the 1940s, however, the club's fortunes had begun to dwindle. Resources and membership were diminishing, and gas rationing during World War II made it extremely difficult for members to get to the mansion. The club depended on its members for revenue, which included offering overnight accommodations for a fee, but in October 1942 the club voted to close temporarily while it considered a new course. Under consideration was "a change from our present form of Club to an association for the Preservation of Bartow Mansion."

The club stayed closed for three years, and in November 1945 it reopened as the Bartow Mansion Museum (no mention of the Pells), admitting the public on two afternoons a week for an admission charge of 25 cents. The board announced that it had "undertaken to preserve our historic Club House by the restoration of the exterior and several rooms in the Bartow Mansion. Inside walls and woodwork have been painted in colors typical of the 1830s when the house was built. Appropriate old lighting fixtures of the period have been secured, and furnishings in the Greek Revival style consistent with the fine woodwork have been borrowed largely from museums and private sources.

This work is being successfully concluded with the cooperation of the Department of Parks and staff members of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Brooklyn Museum."

When it reopened, the IGC still very much depended on revenue from overnight accommodation to members. In 1948, however, the Parks Department instituted a new policy that prohibited the overnight use of bedrooms in park-owned buildings. It was also suggested by the Parks Department that at least one of the bedrooms be interpreted as a period-appropriate bedroom for public viewing. This new policy was an important development as it shifted the responsibility for the maintenance of the mansion to one shared with Parks.

The next 50 years brought increasing recognition to the mansion as a historic house museum, and in 1959 the IGC voted to change the name to the Bartow-Pell Mansion and Gardens. The fine Greek Revival architectural and historical importance led in 1966 to the designation of the house as a landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City. (Unfortunately, that same year, the library, orangery, and powder room suffered considerable damage from a fire.)

In 1970 the museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and five years later, the landmark designation was extended to the main public rooms of the house, followed four years later by a designation of the entire site: carriage house, treaty tree, formal garden and Pell family burial plot. The house is one of 23 that make up the Historic House Trust (HHT) of New York City. Throughout the 1980s a number of historic reports and plans were published and continual improvements were made on house interpretation. Finally, in 1992 a carriage house restoration was completed and a permanent exhibit installed there.

The 21st century has seen a growing collaboration between Parks and the IGC, which in 2008 changed its name to the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, which made clear that its primary function was to serve as steward of the site's preservation and interpretation. The museum's staff works closely with various groups within the Parks Department: Pelham Bay Park administrators on structural and grounds issues and with HHT and Capital Projects staff on structural, conservation and planning issues. The Conservancy is responsible for museum interiors, collections, maintenance, day-to-day operations and programming. It employs a full-time director, a part-time education staff of two, a part-time site manager, a seasonal, part-time director of gardens and two tour guides.

Over the last few years, a great many improvements have been made, thanks to the close collaboration of Parks and the Conservancy staff. A view to the water on the south side of the house has been cleared for the first time in many years, and a wildflower meadow has been planted north of the house. Exterior renovations on the house are scheduled to begin this year, including repairing and repainting windows and cornices, repointing, and refinishing the front door.

In August, a volunteer effort partnership with Adventures in Preservation will work

for the third summer in a row restoring the stone walkways and steps in the formal garden. In addition, the Sierra Club is offering a service vacation at the museum in October, when up to 20 volunteers will work with Parks and museum staff for four days clearing invasive undergrowth on the grounds. And of course, the Appalachian Mountain Club and Friends of Pelham Bay Park are longtime partners who help maintain trails and beautify the park.

The interior of the mansion also reflects the close public/private relationship between Parks and the Conservancy as well. Although the latter is responsible for the interior and museum operations, all major structural

issues, heat, plumbing and electricity are the responsibility of Parks. As with any old house, there is constant work to be done and resources in the form of both manpower and funding are always an issue.

And this is how Pell, Bartow, Parks, and the Bartow-Pell Conservancy all connect into a living, breathing historic site tucked away in the northeast corner of the Bronx. Its long history, architecturally significant buildings, impressive collection of decorative arts and lovely grounds make the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum a rich place to visit, and the museum staff and volunteers work very hard to offer fun, interesting and educational programming for all ages. Come see us!

## A Current Review City Island: The Movie

By MARSHA TREIBER



Photo by JEANNE PEZONE

Mr. Garcia visited the City Island Nautical Museum on Feb. 16 and chatted with Islander Ed Sadler.

Set in a quaint fishing community on the outskirts of New York City, **City Island**, which opens in theaters on March 19 with a special preview at the Pelham Picture House on March 4, is a comical and poignant tale about a family whose comfortable co-existence is upended by surprising revelations of past secrets and present-day lies.

Vince Rizzo (Andy Garcia) is a lifelong resident of the tiny, tradition-steeped Bronx enclave of City Island. A family man who makes his living as a corrections officer, he longs to become an actor, but he is ashamed to admit his aspirations to his family. Vince would rather let his hot-tempered wife, Joyce (Julianna Margulies), believe that his weekly poker games are a cover for an extramarital affair than admit he is secretly taking acting classes in Manhattan.

Vince and Joyce have stopped communicating. They have been together a long time, and there is now a certain distance in the relationship, and many frustrations lead to short-tempered moments and accelerated arguments over nothing.

Joyce has taken her husband for granted for so long that she assumes she knows exactly what he's thinking. But she is completely wrong. Because she believes that her husband is having an affair, she feels worthless, and when she finds out how wrong she is, it's a real shock to her system. She realizes that the love has always been there, that the relationship has always been there. They just forgot to look.

When Vince is asked to reveal his biggest secret in acting class, he inadvertently sets off a chaotic chain of events that turns his mundane suburban life upside down. Inspired by the exercise, he decides to bring his long-lost ex-con son, Tony (Steven Strait), home to meet the family, but he doesn't tell them who Tony is. The rest of the film is mostly seen through Tony's gentle eyes—as a stranger watching the dysfunction of a hot-tempered family into which he has been drawn. It soon becomes clear that everyone—including Vince's college student daughter (Dominik Garcia-Lorido), teenaged son Vinnie Jr. (Ezra Miller), charismatic acting partner (Emily Mortimer) and drama coach (Alan Arkin)—has something to hide.

Tony Nardello is the flash point for much of the conflict in the Rizzo family. Neither the family nor Tony himself is aware that he is Vince's illegitimate son, whom Vince discovered when he was pronounced ineligible for parole because he did not have a sponsor. So Vince decides to take the young man home,

without explaining anything to anyone. During the course of the film, Tony's character progresses from that of an isolated and angry young man to the most stable member of the Rizzo clan.

**City Island** spins a web of misrepresentations, misinterpretations and misunderstandings into a smart and charming comedy about a family that will stop at nothing to avoid the truth. A perfect storm of deception, half truths and confusion makes Vince and his family members realize that the truth may not set them free, but it is easier to keep track of than all their well-intentioned white lies.

The theme is serious, but humor is interspersed throughout. As the director told me during the filming here on City Island: "This is a human comedy." The story is fraught with human frailties and poignant hopes and dreams. It is about people who truly love each other but who have lived together so long they are unable to communicate their truths. When reality finally does come to light, it paves the way for the intimacy the family has been lacking for so long. The audience leaves the theater satisfied with how the story is resolved, with the high quality of the acting and the spectacular setting.

The film stars Andy Garcia (**Ocean's Eleven**, **Twelve and Thirteen**), Julianna Margulies ("The Good Wife"), Steven Strait (**10,000 BC**), Dominik Garcia-Lorido (**The Lost City**), Ezra Miller ("Californication"), Alan Arkin (**Little Miss Sunshine**) and Emily Mortimer (**Shutter Island**). The film is written and directed by Raymond De Felitta (**Two Family House**), and the producers are Andy Garcia, Raymond De Felitta, Lauren Versel (**The Last Summer of La Boyita**) and Zachary Matz (Jolene). Jan A.P. Kaczmarek (**Finding Neverland**) is composer.

Winner of the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, **City Island** opens on March 19 at the Angelika Theater in Manhattan.

And until next time, happy viewing...

### Attention City Islanders

There is going to be a screening of **City Island** followed by a discussion with director Raymond DeFelitta on Thursday, March 4, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Pelham Picture House, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham NY 10803. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at <http://tphcityisland.eventbrite.com/>.

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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.



Elizabeth A. Rainford

### Elizabeth A. Rainford

City Island resident Elizabeth A. Rainford passed away on Sept. 15, 2009.

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, on Dec. 18, 1935, Betty was the third of six children of Clara Smith and George Emre. Surrendered to foster care along with her siblings, she learned early on to make the best of a tough situation, and she loved the orphanage, of which she had warm memories of play and mischief. The siblings were often placed with families, and Betty and her shadow, her older sister Ethel, were always placed in the same home. Eventually, she found a home in Bloomfield with a family that earned her enduring love, and she gained a sister in their only daughter, Nancy.

Betty graduated from Nutley High School in 1953 and went to work at Curtis Publishing as a secretary. She met Ronald R. Rainford, a CFC stationed at the Schofield Army Base in Hawaii at a USO dance, and they were married three months later, on June 22, 1954.

A happy homemaker, Betty raised four children with Ronald on a small farm in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. She returned to school and graduated in 1981 with an associate's degree as a legal secretary. After 33 years of marriage, Ronald succumbed to pancreatic cancer, and Betty relocated to North Port, Florida, to be near her sister Ethel. There she worked alongside Ethel as a data clerk for Nielsen's Ratings, retiring at age 65.

She returned north to her children in 2001 and was diagnosed with dementia shortly thereafter. In 2002 she moved to City Island and could often be found holding court in Exotiga or with her sons Bill and Paul and her gal pal, Alicia Magana. Dementia could not diminish her humble soul. Betty taught many lessons; she loved deeply and was deeply loved.

Betty is survived by her children, Majors Roxanne and Kim Feinauer, and her granddaughter Christa, of Hampton, Virginia; William Rainford and Paul Klein

of City Island; Andrew Rainford of Lynville, Pennsylvania, and Philip and Vanessa Rainford of Milford, New Jersey. She is also survived by her siblings Ethel Mae Scally of Englewood, Florida; William (and Yvette) Emre of Deerfield Beach, Florida; Rose (and Jerry) Lohberg of Spring, Texas; and Barbara (and John) Lamphere of South Montrose, Pennsylvania.

Memorial donations may be made to Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, a leader in Alzheimer research ([www.infoALZ.org](http://www.infoALZ.org)).

### Lars E. Helgesen

Lars Edward Helgesen, a longtime City Island resident, passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Dec. 7, 2009, at the age of 88.

He was born April 2, 1921, in Hauge-sund, Norway. A veteran of World War II, he served with the Norwegian Merchant Marine, but he moved to City Island in 1948 to start a new life with his bride, Anna Theresa LaValle. They raised seven children, all of them clam diggers. About 15 years ago, he moved to St. Petersburg, but he came back every summer to visit family and friends. Anna Helgesen died in 1994.

Lars was the owner of the A&L Supermarket, which was located at the corner of City Island Avenue and Schofield Street (now the Masonic temple). In 1948 he also worked as a chef at The Club, a restaurant at the corner of Carroll Street, owned by Pat Reville and renowned for its weddings and



Lars E. Helgesen

parties.

After Lars sold the market in 1971, he took his family to Norway and went into semi-retirement. After his return, he worked as a steward at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club until he retired to Florida. He will be remembered by many Islanders for his many passions in life and for his strength and ability to realize them. He always had an open door for everyone to share at his table, where there was always plenty to eat and stories to enjoy.

Lars is survived by his second wife, Sara Jennings Helgesen, and his six children: Mary Ellen Burgess of City Island;

Michael Joseph Helgesen and his wife, Patricia, of Ridgefield, Connecticut; Karl Edward Helgesen and Lynn Boyle of City Island; Laurence Helgesen of New Fairfield, Connecticut; Christine Pugliese and her husband, Salvatore, of Mahopac, New York; Elizabeth Jane Porter and her husband, Keith, of New Fairfield. He also leaves two stepsons, Richard Thomas Jennings and his wife, Georganna, of Port Charlotte, Florida, and Paul Jefferson Jennings and his wife, Karen, of Rockledge, Florida; his brother, Sigurd Helgesen of Stavanger, Norway, and two sisters, Kirsten Iversen and her husband, Ivar, and Kitty Pearson of Stavanger. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and a great grandson.

His family invites readers to visit Lars's website ([www.veteransfuneralcare.com](http://www.veteransfuneralcare.com)) and add your thoughts and wishes to the guestbook entries. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

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

MARCH 2010									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0558	-1.41	1147	8.35	1819	-1.37			Mon 01
02 Tue	0009	8.58	0648	-1.48	1236	8.15	1904	-1.20	Tue 02
03 Wed	0056	8.49	0739	-1.29	1326	7.80	1949	-0.84	Wed 03
04 Thu	0144	8.23	0832	-0.90	1418	7.35	2037	-0.34	Thu 04
05 Fri	0237	7.85	0929	-0.39	1518	6.89	2131	0.23	Fri 05
06 Sat	0339	7.43	1031	0.13	1626	6.53	2237	0.76	Sat 06
07 Sun	0452	7.09	1136	0.54	1735	6.35	2348	1.12	Sun 07
08 Mon	0603	6.93	1240	0.77	1840	6.39			Mon 08
09 Tue	0055	1.25	0707	6.95	1339	0.82	1939	6.58	Tue 09
10 Wed	0155	1.18	0804	7.08	1431	0.76	2031	6.85	Wed 10
11 Thu	0247	1.00	0855	7.25	1519	0.64	2119	7.12	Thu 11
12 Fri	0334	0.76	0941	7.37	1600	0.52	2201	7.32	Fri 12
13 Sat	0415	0.53	1022	7.43	1637	0.43	2238	7.44	Sat 13
14 Sun	0551	0.34	1157	7.41	1807	0.38			Sun 14
15 Mon	0008	7.49	0620	0.20	1224	7.33	1825	0.34	Mon 15
16 Tue	0022	7.53	0640	0.07	1235	7.27	1836	0.26	Tue 16
17 Wed	0034	7.67	0700	-0.05	1254	7.27	1901	0.17	Wed 17
18 Thu	0101	7.84	0729	-0.12	1326	7.27	1935	0.16	Thu 18
19 Fri	0137	7.98	0806	-0.09	1404	7.21	2015	0.25	Fri 19
20 Sat	0217	8.02	0849	0.05	1448	7.10	2059	0.43	Sat 20
21 Sun	0303	7.94	0937	0.27	1537	6.93	2149	0.69	Sun 21
22 Mon	0355	7.76	1031	0.54	1634	6.75	2245	0.94	Mon 22
23 Tue	0453	7.52	1136	0.75	1738	6.66	2351	1.09	Tue 23
24 Wed	0600	7.32	1302	0.77	1855	6.76			Wed 24
25 Thu	0117	1.01	0719	7.29	1437	0.47	2024	7.11	Thu 25
26 Fri	0258	0.54	0848	7.48	1541	0.01	2133	7.62	Fri 26
27 Sat	0406	-0.11	0959	7.79	1636	-0.44	2228	8.11	Sat 27
28 Sun	0503	-0.73	1055	8.03	1725	-0.78	2317	8.48	Sun 28
29 Mon	0554	-1.18	1146	8.15	1812	-0.96			Mon 29
30 Tue	0003	8.68	0644	-1.40	1234	8.11	1857	-0.94	Tue 30
31 Wed	0048	8.69	0732	-1.37	1321	7.92	1940	-0.73	Wed 31
APRIL 2010									
01 Thu	0133	8.53	0821	-1.10	1408	7.63	2023	-0.35	Thu 01
02 Fri	0219	8.23	0910	-0.64	1458	7.29	2107	0.13	Fri 02
03 Sat	0307	7.83	1002	-0.09	1553	6.94	2156	0.66	Sat 03



**OWLS, HAWKS, SWANS AND MORE...**

So far this year, the owling has been as good as any in recent memory. Saw-whets, long-eareds and great-horneds continue to be the main attraction in our own local woods, but they are only the beginning. Birding Bob maintains that 14 different owl species have been positively identified in New York City parks, so you never know what you may find. We have heard of a snowy owl at Orchard Beach. Christine and her neighbor discovered a great-horned owl up a tree in her backyard right here on City Island. We wonder if it was the same bird we thought we heard in our own backyard about a month ago.

If you're interested in looking for owls on your own, find a bunch of evergreen trees in the woods on Hunter Island or the grove that was planted over the old Little League field; these are the most popular local spots, although you can't get much more local than your own backyard. Wherever you're looking, scan the ground first in search of fresh "whitewash" (aka owl droppings) or perhaps an owl pellet, which is the regurgitated remains of prey that could not be digested. Once you've located these, then you

can begin scanning the trees overhead. It is by no means a foolproof system, but it is a heck of a lot less foolish than scanning every tree in the neighborhood.

There have been multiple reports of hawk and falcon activity as well. One peregrine falcon seems to have taken a liking to the puddles in the Orchard Beach parking lot. It has been photographed bathing there on numerous occasions. A lone red-tailed hawk has staked a claim to a particular street light alongside the southbound Hutchinson River Parkway. It has been spotted there almost every day, unless it is raining. This being mating season, pairs of red-taileds—or perhaps the same pair—have been observed in various locations on the grounds of the Split Rock Golf Course. Sharp-shinned hawks have also made their presence known. Unlike owls, who prefer evergreens and who are nocturnal, hawks seem to prefer bare trees in the daylight, making them much easier to find.

The deer population continues to impress. Maria saw eight of them off to the right side of the road as you approach Orchard Beach from City Island. Eight at a time could be a record! In the lagoon across the road from Glover's Rock, Maria also saw what could be a record number of mute swans in one place in these parts—a full dozen.

For more information about the birds in and around City Island, you'll want to check out [www.cityislandbirds.com](http://www.cityislandbirds.com). The last time we joined Jack on one of his regular bird walks he had added another lucky seven or so regular walkers. No wonder he didn't recognize us.

As always, we invite your input at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com), or by way of *The Island Current* at P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

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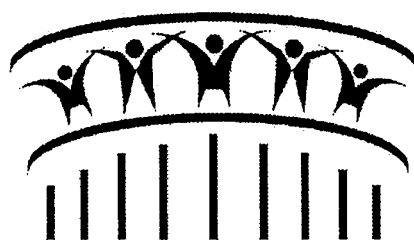
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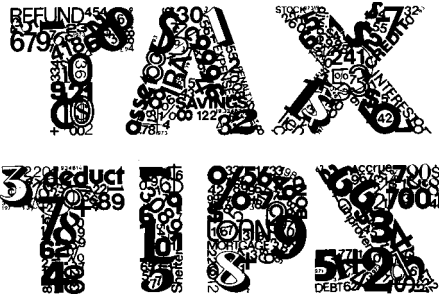
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### New Vehicle Sales and Excise Tax Deduction

If you purchased a new car in 2009, you may be eligible for a special tax deduction on the sales and excise taxes you were charged.

Here are some relevant and important facts from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding the deduction.

- State and local sales and excise taxes paid on up to a \$49,500 purchase price of each qualifying vehicle may be deductible.

- Qualifying vehicles generally include new cars, light trucks and motorcycles that weigh less than 8,500 pounds. The purchase of new motor homes is not subject to the weight limit.

- The purchase must have taken place after Feb. 16, 2009, and before Feb. 1, 2010.

- Purchases made in states that do not have a sales tax, such as Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon, may also qualify for the deduction with regard to other qualifying fees or taxes imposed by the state government or a local taxing authority. To qualify, any fees, charges or taxes must be assessed on the purchase price of the vehicle or as a per unit fee.

- The deduction is available regardless of whether or not the buyer itemizes his or her deductions. Thus, if you take the standard deduction and do not itemize, you should add the additional amount to the standard deduction amount on your 2009 federal income tax return.

- Taxpayers who do not itemize their

deductions must complete Schedule L, Standard Deduction for Certain Filers to claim the additional amount.

- Unfortunately, the amount of the deduction phases out for single taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 and, for married joint filers, the phase-out range is from \$250,000 to \$260,000.

For more information about these rules and other eligibility factors, visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery).

### Common Tax Mistakes

The tax laws are complex and confusing. The IRS notes that the gathering of information and data, interpreting and understanding it, and then preparing an "average" self-prepared tax return could take as much as 21 to 22 hours to complete. Common errors are as follows:

- Failure to report all sources of income, whether or not Forms W-2, 1099, K-1 or other relevant forms were received from the payer. Penalties will still be imposed, so please remember to report all of your taxable income.

- Failure to report accurate business expenses. In order to be deductible, a business expense must be "ordinary and necessary," and you should be able to substantiate the business purpose for the expense incurred. If not supportable and if disallowed under audit, the added cost will include the additional tax due, plus accumulated interest and penalties.

- Forgetting to deduct your qualified moving expenses.

- Failure to keep receipts. Any expense must be either paid by cash, check or credit card during the calendar year, and receipts should be retained and filed in an orderly fashion.

- Deducting expenses paid on behalf of another person if they are not a legal dependent.

- Failure to deduct out-of-pocket medical or dental expenses and real estate taxes net of any reimbursements for insurance coverage and Star rebates.

- Miscalculation of mortgage interest. The mortgage interest deduction is limited

to the first \$1,100,000 in loans. Any mortgage interest paid on loans in excess of that amount is not deductible. In addition, there is an AMT (Alternate Minimum Tax) add-back for mortgage interest paid on home loans where the proceeds were used for personal rather than residential purposes.

- Failure to save receipts for charitable donations. Charitable donations are tax deductible, but the law states that you must obtain receipt for any and all contributions of \$200 or more directly from the charitable organization concerned in order to substantiate the deduction. An eligible tax deductible donation is limited to the amount contributed in excess of the fair market value of any goods or services received.

- Failure to take business-expense reimbursement records from employers. If an employer offers you a business expense reimbursement, take it. If you don't, the expense will be considered non-deductible,

because reimbursement was offered.

- Failure to keep accurate auto mileage records. These records will properly substantiate any business-related expense deduction. Keep a record of total miles driven during the year plus any commuting and business related trips. Be specific: include the date, destination and purpose of each trip, as well as the beginning and ending miles for each trip.

- Claiming the wrong dependents. Please check out who is eligible for dependency status at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

- Use of the wrong or an incorrect Social Security number.

- Forgetting qualified energy conservation tax credits.

- Forgetting to attach all necessary documents to your returns before submitting them to the appropriate governmental authorities.

- Forgetting to claim your recovery stimulus rebate if you are eligible.

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flat thin pasta with fresh chopped clams

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*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"*

*He is not here, but has risen!"*  
Luke 24:5

Come meet the Living Christ at Grace Church this Holy Week and Easter...  
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**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, March 28:**  
The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 AM

**Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 1:**  
Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 PM

**Good Friday, April 2:** Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church, 7:30 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 4:**  
Festival Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM  
(with child care)

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Assisting Priests



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.

Get-well wishes for a full recovery to Pell Place's Karen Valentino, who is now in rehab following injuries from an automobile accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and her family.

Birthday wishes go out to Kevin and Briana Whelan with love from Mom, Dad and Christine.

Congratulations to Mildred Jewett, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday with a reception at the Harbor Restaurant on Feb. 28. Helping Mildred blow out her birthday candles will be her many City Island friends and family as well as loved ones from as far away as California and Florida.

Congratulations to P.S. 175's Hannah Glick, who made her debut as an actress in the City Island Theater Group's play "Wait Until Dark." Her mom and dad, Monica and Elliott Glick, and her whole family are very proud of her performance but note that Hannah has always been their STAR!

Happy birthday wishes to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, who will celebrate her big day on March 31.

Many thanks to Steve Berardo for tracking me down to return my lost wallet. I owe you one! Bob C.

Welcome to new Tier Street resident Frank Adinolfi and his daughter, Emma. Much happiness in your new home.

Good luck to Paul Klein, who will be opening his new store, "Kaleidoscope Gallery," in April. The shop will feature gift items, jewelry and jewelry repair but will also share space with various artists and an engraver.

Happy third birthday wishes on March 26 to Russell Prohaska, with love from Mom and Dad, Dusty and Travis.

Happy sixth birthday to Sophia DiGrazia, who is coming to City Island from California to celebrate her big day with Nonna Lina of Lina Petite Salon. Proud



Walter Huffell celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends at Artie's Restaurant on Jan. 24. He is pictured with his wife, Paula, behind a "money tree" gift, handmade by two of Paula's nieces, which made an impressive display. The Huffells wish to thank Spiro, Janet, Patrick and Toni for their helpful arrangements, delicious food, fine wines and excellent service. It all added to making the special occasion even more memorable.

parents are former Islanders Anthony and Julie DiGrazia. Enjoy the party!

Congratulations to longtime Island resident Lucille Rivin and her husband John Scardina on their first wedding anniversary on Feb. 28. After knowing each other since high school, they finally made it "official," with John moving to City Island this past June and setting up his practice as a school psychologist and parent educator.

Annemarie Tomsen wishes her father, Phil Tomsen, a happy birthday on March 3 and her mother, Dottie Tomsen, happy birthday on the 11th.

And happy birthday to Jimmy Vacca, who celebrated his 55th with a party on Feb. 25 at the Villa Barone Restaurant attended by many Islanders.

Keith Manfredonia is a firefighter with the U.S. Coast Guard; his ship is the Coast Guard cutter Seneca, and he and his shipmates will be sailing soon from Boston Harbor to Haiti to provide humanitarian aid to victims of the recent earthquake.

Congratulations to Richard Ferris for



Keith Manfredonia

his acceptance into the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Richard is hoping to begin his culinary studies later this year after his service in the U.S. Navy comes to an end. Cooking has always been a passion of Richard's, and we couldn't be more proud and happy for him! Way to go, Richard! Love from Mom, Joey and Marissa

Congratulations to Marissa Ferris for



passing her road test! We are so happy for you; now the fun begins for mom! Way to go, Marissa! Love from Mom and Joey

Happy birthday to Judy McCormick on March 18.

March birthday greetings to the six-year-old Suriski triplets, Jenee, Jese and James, with love from Grandma Maryann and Grandpa Gene.

Happy birthday on March 15 to Grandpa Gene with love and kisses.

Gene, thanks for the beautiful kitchen! Love, Maryann

Save the date for the City Island Reunion on August 21, 2010 at Anthony Ambrosini Field. For more information contact: cityislandreunion@yahoo.com.

Maria Swieciki

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Sound Salvage, Inc. marine services advertisement. Includes contact info for Russell Schaller (885-3089) and address 170 Fordham Street, City Island, New York 10464.

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