

# The Island Current

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## Islander Attends 9/11 Terror Trials in Guantanamo

By BILL STUTTIG



Islander Dan D'Allara's twin brother, John, was killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. In January 2017, Dan was invited to visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to witness the pre-trial proceedings in the case against those accused of plotting the attacks on the World Trade Center. Dan met with the families of other victims of 9/11 and military personnel assigned to the naval base (top photo, bottom row, l. to r.): Casser Baksh, Debra Burlingame and U.S. Army Sgt. Mac MacDonal. Top row: NYPD Det. Ret Frank Favilla, PAPD Sgt. Ret. James Hall, Marveena Baksh, Eunice Hanson, Dan D'Allara, Lee Hanson, and USN Captain Karen Loftus. Dan took time to visit the historical marker honoring the first casualties of the Spanish American War, where he posed holding a Leonard Hawkins Post t-shirt.



Ever since 9/11, the day his fraternal twin brother, John, a 14-year veteran of the NYPD's Emergency Services Unit, was killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center, City Island's Dan D'Allara has dedicated much of his life to not letting the nation forget what happened that terrible morning.

In making countless appearances and giving numerous media interviews over the last 15 years, Dan, along with the families of many other victims, has succeeded to some degree in keeping the memory of those attacks alive in the minds of the American public. He is proud of his work on behalf of that cause.

But late in January came an opportunity to make what he believes to be his most important appearance on behalf of the victims and their families. He was invited, along with 400 other family members, by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Justice to visit Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to witness the pre-trial proceedings in this nation's case against Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others accused of plotting the attacks of the World Trade Center.

"They flew us down to Andrews Air Force Base, and there we were briefed on what we could do and what we couldn't do," Dan said. They then flew to the naval base on the isolated southeast tip of Cuba. He and the other family members could not speak during the proceedings and were only able to watch from a glass-enclosed

booth next to the room where the tribunals were taking place. Audible testimony from the proceedings was only fed into the soundproof booth after a 40-second delay.

After returning home in late January, Dan told *The Island Current* that, despite the seemingly slow pace of justice, he was heartened by the mountain of evidence he was told about and the thoroughness of the military prosecutors as they worked painstakingly to bring these alleged war criminals to trial. He was, however, discouraged by the slow pace of defense attorneys, paid out of U.S. taxpayer pockets, who continue to "successfully throw roadblocks in an attempt to grind justice to a halt."

"We live in a great country," Dan said, "as we give incredible legal counsel to people who openly admit that their purpose is to kill Americans. What we witnessed down there is a legal morass, or what is called 'lawfare,' fighting a war with lawyers in a courtroom."

Dan said he was not alone in his representation of families of the 9/11 victims. Accompanying him was retired Port Authority Sergeant James Hall, who gives credit to Dan's brother for saving his life by showing him a safe way to leave the north tower moments before it came down, killing John and more than a thousand others.

Also on the trip to Cuba were families of victims killed when American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the Pentagon that morning, but Dan was most moved by Lee Hanson and his wife, Eunice. Mr. Hanson had been on the phone with his son Peter, who was on United Airlines Flight 175 just before it flew into the South Tower, along with his wife and two-year-old daughter,

who was the youngest victim of the 9/11 attacks.

Now 84, Mr. Hanson was asked to give a deposition, but a judge ruled that Dan and the other family members could not attend; the defendants were allowed but chose not to do so since it was Friday, their day of worship. After Mr. Hanson returned to the family lounge, Dan recalls that "he was sobbing, and I and the others were sobbing along with him. With this case, acts of courage and heroism fall on the backs of everyday people like the Hansons."

Later in the week, Dan had his chance to come face-to-face with one of the defendants in the proceedings. "I locked eyes with him and when he looked at me, I made the Sign of the Cross. He just turned and walked away. . . . If this were fiction or a movie, the hero would have kicked these guys out of a C-130 flying 20,000 feet above the Pacific, but the real world is that we bring them down there and give them lawyers, all incredible legal minds to defend them," Dan said, adding that there are 19 lawyers defending the detainees just in this particular case. "I feel we will see justice. Justice is going on right now with the prosecution of these guys. But real justice will be the death penalty, and I think I will see it."

"However," he went on, "we in this nation, both the defendants and the families

of the victims, have the right to a speedy trial and that has not happened. How about the victims of this massive crime? Are my rights being trampled? Are the rights of the Hansons being trampled? The 9/11 family is a distinct community with statutory rights. Families have been destroyed by the people who planned this horror, and we have a right to pursue justice."

Dan has been invited by the Department of Defense to return to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in March. "I am going," he said, "I am going as many times as I am invited and as long as it takes to see justice prevail."

When asked if he still thinks 9/11 is in the mindset of the American people more than 15 years after it happened, Dan said. "It is. It is in the American mindset when we talk about Islamic terror, when we talk about executive orders. If it does not continue to be in our mindset, we have a lot to lose. This is an open society, and the government has an obligation to protect us. This is what this is all about. To make America safe. There is no appeasing. This is not about forgetting 9/11. It is remembering that something far, far worse can happen going forward that could make 9/11 look like a fender bender if we do not continue to deal with this constant threat consistently and effectively. The quest for justice in these terrible attacks is and has to continue to be part of that vital effort."

## SUPER SCOUTS!



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

It has been a busy 2017 so far for City Island's Cub Scout Troop 211. On Feb. 10, the Cub Scouts Troop 211 held its annual Pinewood Derby at Trinity United Methodist Church (top photo). They also competed in the 2017 Klondike competition at Alpine Camp, NJ. For the first time in many years, the Troop sent two teams, the Hornets and the Bootlegs. The Hornets took first place in the North Pole race, and the Bootlegs took fourth place in the West Meridian race. Overall, Pack 211 took first place in both the North Pole and speed races for an impressive sweep. Congrats to the City Island Scouts for being the Bronx Champions once again!

# BRIEFLY...

**THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP** will present Craig Lucas's charming "Prelude to a Kiss" on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 11; Friday, March 17; Saturday, March 18, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 12 and 19 at 3 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. For tickets please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the CITG website [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

**AUDITIONS** for the City Island Theater Group's next production of Philip Barry's comedy "The Philadelphia Story" will be at Grace Hall on Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 4, at 2 p.m. Performance dates are April 28, 29, 30, May 5, 6 and 7.

**THE HUNTINGTON FREE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM**, celebrating its 125th anniversary, is pleased to announce the following events: From Saturday March 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. through April 8, there will be free poetry workshops, with instructions by John Maney Jr. There will be a free public reading of various poets on Saturday, April 15, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. On Sunday March 12, at 2 p.m., the Red Monkey Theater Group will present William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." Tickets for students and seniors at \$5 and for adults at \$10 are available on-line at [RedMonkeyTheater.org](http://RedMonkeyTheater.org) and [BronxNYC.com](http://BronxNYC.com). On Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. the East Bronx History Forum will hold its 119th meeting, where members and friends will present short report on their favorite woman in Bronx history. All meetings are free and open to the public. On Saturday, March 18, from noon to 3 p.m. there will be a free arts and craft "recycle art" workshop with artist Star Nigro through the generosity of the Bronx Council on the Arts. Saturday, March 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. will be Jazz Age Night with historic music boxes and cocktails of the 1920s and '30s and prizes for period costumes. Tickets are \$20, which will be donated to the Library program fund. More information at [BronxNYC.com](http://BronxNYC.com) or [HuntingtonFreeLibrary.org](http://HuntingtonFreeLibrary.org). The library is located next to Apple Bank at 9 Westchester Square, Bronx, NY; parking is free after 7 p.m.

## 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2017. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - PETIT LARCENY
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - DEAD ON ARRIVAL

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Jan. 10 to Feb. 16, 2017.

1/10 - An Island female reported that she was harassed by an Island male at 8 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The complainant states that there was a dispute and the male threatened to kill himself. An ambulance took the man, 61, to Jacobi Hospital for evaluation.

1/25 - On Carroll Street, an Island male reported a burglary at 2:45 p.m. While the victim was away on vacation, an unknown perpetrator forcibly entered the house and caused damage. Power tools were left on the scene, and detectives are examining them for fingerprints and investigating the incident.

1/26 - At 6 p.m., police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 55, and charged him with criminal mischief on Pell Place. The defendant tried to enter the home of a female Islander. When he was

denied, he broke through a fence to gain entry to the backyard and banged on the window. The victim feared for her safety and called 911.

2/1 - A fatal car crash occurred at 11:45 p.m. at the City Island circle over the bridge. According to reports, an off-duty police officer, 27, was killed when the car, driven by another off-duty police officer, flipped and burst into flames. The driver, 32, was pulled from the burning vehicle by two other off-duty police officers. The 45th Precinct confirmed that the injured officer remains in the hospital, and the incident is under investigation.

2/3 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 24, and charged him with criminal possession of a weapon at 8:15 a.m. The arrest was made pursuant to the execution of a search warrant. The defendant was apprehended on Minneford Avenue when a quantity of drugs and an imitation pistol were found at the scene.

2/4 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault by another off-Island female at 8 p.m. The victim claims that she and the perpetrator got into an argument and that the woman struck her with a closed fist, causing pain and bruising.

2/4 - On Fordham Street at 4 p.m., an off-Island female reported that her cell phone was taken from the table of a commercial establishment without permission in an act of petit larceny.

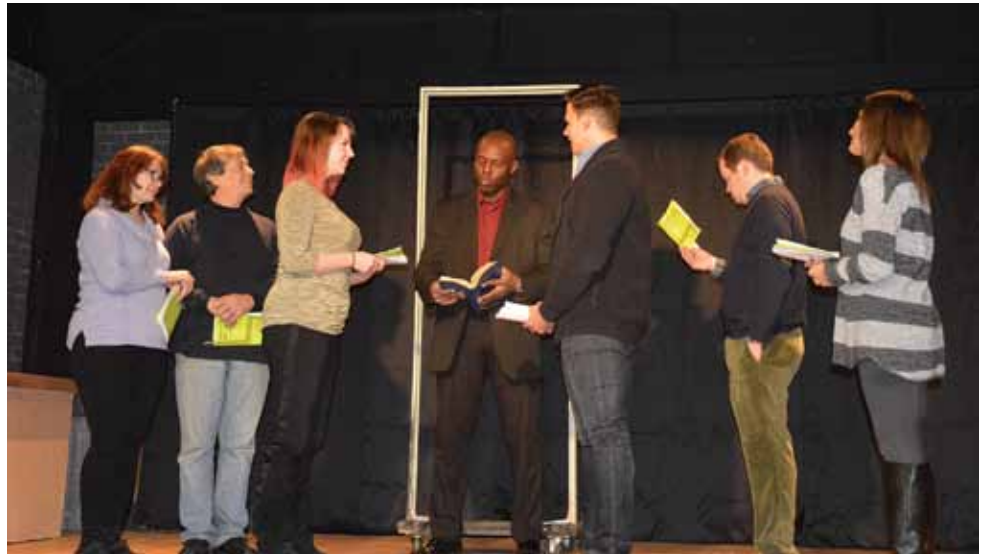
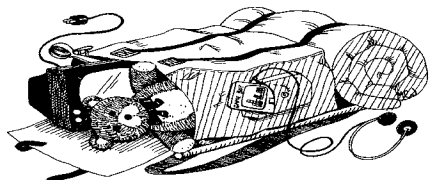


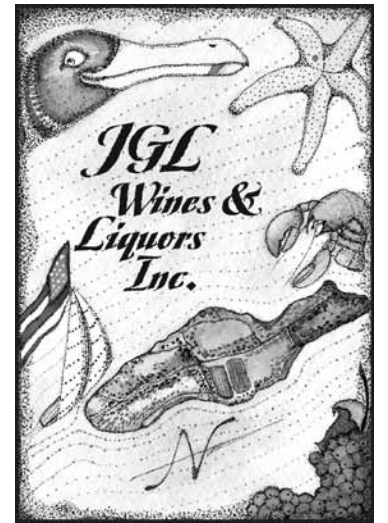
Photo by MARY McINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group is busy rehearsing for its new show, Craig Lucas's comedy "Prelude to a Kiss," which will be presented during two weekends in March. Members of the cast in this wedding scene are (l. to r.): Carol Dooner, Phil Dante, Sarah Smyth, Shane Williams, Greg Morra, Jack McGuirk and Franca Ritacco.



Photo by MATTIA PANZA

A memorial was placed at the scene of the fatal car crash on Feb. 1 at the City Island Circle.



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# COURTS ISSUE JUDGMENTS IN SAILMAKER DISPUTE

By KAREN NANI

One of the aftereffects of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 was the damage done to the Sailmaker Condominium complex and marina on Schofield Street. The issues of who is responsible for the repairs turned into a contentious legal battle between the owners of the marina and the Sailmaker's board of managers.

The Sailmaker was built in 1990, when the former Ratsey & Laphorn sail-making loft was converted to a boatel with transient slips and lodging. In 1997 it was converted to a condominium complex with 34 residential apartments, 40 boat slips designated as marina units, 18 parking spaces located inside the first level of the residential building and a lower-level parking lot adjacent to the marina.

Shortly after the conversion, Paul Laddomada and Maura Mandrano bought two apartments at the Sailmaker and four parking spaces in the upper lot. Since 1998, as Schofield Marina LLC, they also owned and operated the Sailmaker's marina. Located on the east side of City Island, the marina was damaged more than once by nor'easters, but it survived. The coup de grâce, however, was Superstorm Sandy which destroyed the docks, gangways, boathouse and bridges and seriously damaged the seawall.

The *Island Current* covered the aftereffects of the storm in an article in the Dec. 2013 issue. At that time, Ms. Mandrano told *The Current* that the condominium board had chosen not to support repair of the marina and that she and Mr. Laddomada were desperately attempting to hold onto their property without bankrupting themselves. They began the job of cleaning up all the broken docks and pieces of the marina by "working to procure the equipment and manpower needed. ... We purchased a crane for the purpose of lifting broken docks and debris out of the marina."

The relationship between the board and the marina owners then became contentious and litigious. In 2014 the Sailmaker board filed legal action against the couple related to several issues: access to the lower parking lot and the accumulation of debris, which had caused the value of the condominium units to be diminished. Dr. Enrique Davis, president of the board of managers, asserted in the affidavit that the defendants "appropriated the lower parking lot ... without consent and in continuing violation of the Condominium's governing documents."

In addition, the board charged that "unsightly storage areas were created; debris was strewn throughout; a crane and two junked cars were parked at the premises; and necessary repairs remain outstanding."

According to court documents, in 2014 the New York City Environmental Control fined the Sailmaker \$1,200 for "the storage of miscellaneous construction debris and \$800 for the crane [Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano] stored on the lower level parking lot."

Efforts to resolve the dispute led to a series of conferences with the parties over several months. At the court's direction, this resulted in the removal of the crane, the two cars and extensive debris proliferating in the lower-level parking lot. According

to the summary judgment issued on Oct. 3, 2016, "although this resolved a central issue, the parties are unable to reach agreement as to their remaining contentions."

These remaining issues included whether the defendants lawfully converted their four parking units into a floor-to-ceiling storage structure within the first-level parking garage. Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano acknowledged that they converted a portion of the internal parking space into storage.

The court cited the Condominium Declaration (property law) that says parking units may only be used for the non-commercial parking of a private motor vehicle. Judge Lizbeth Gonzalez of the Bronx County Supreme Court stated in the ruling that the defendants "wrongfully converted their parking units to a private enclosure ... contrary to both the Condominium Declaration and the Building Code."

The Sailmaker board's motion for a permanent injunction was granted by Judge Gonzalez. "Defendants are ordered to restore their four parking units to their lawful use; remove the storage enclosure; arrange for a re-inspection by the City; and pay all related costs and fines."

In addition, the court took up the issue of "parking common elements" related to the lower parking lot at the Sailmaker. This part of the conflict gained the attention of a reporter at the online publication *habitatmag.com*. Frank Lovece wrote an article in October 2016 warning condo boards that "common elements" can present a thorny legal and financial issue.

Defendant Laddomada maintained in his affidavit that the "lower-level parking lot has always been used to service the Marina since, as a public facility, it cannot function without adequate parking." He argued that in a 1999 amendment to the condo bylaws passed when he was board president, the marina was given exclusive use of the lower-level parking lot.

According to condominium law, "the common elements of the Condominium are proportionately owned by all its unit owners. By amending its Declaration ... the condominium can redefine its common elements and give a unit owner exclusive use of a space that was previously common to all."

The court asked for documentation, and Mr. Laddomada presented an affidavit of a fellow resident who said she had tallied the vote and that the amendment had passed. The judge ruled against the defendants saying, "the Court declines to credit [the resident's] affidavit to the extent that it is based on her memories of an event that occurred 16 years ago."

In his article, Mr. Lovece said "the lesson for co-op and condo boards is to take nothing for granted when it comes to common elements—and demand documentation when an apartment owner makes claims to something that's not an apartment."

Meanwhile, Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano had filed a cross-motion for a stay of the injunction pending arbitration. In September 2016, the arbitrator, Jonathan Cohen, issued rulings that put the responsibility for repairs on both parties. He ordered



Photos by KAREN NANI

The marina at the Sailmaker Condominium on Schofield Street (background, top photo) was damaged after Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Lawsuits between the owners of the marina and the board of managers have resulted in rulings that concern access to the marina parking lot (bottom photo) and repairs to both the marina and retaining wall.

the condominium to "undertake repairs and restoration of the Retaining Wall, at the expense of the entire Condominium, with the cost and expense ... payable by all Unit Owners in accordance with their respective shares."

Some Sailmaker residents told *The Current* that they had received notification of this ruling and an assessment charge for the repairs and other costs related to the maintenance of the building and property.

The arbitrator further ruled that "Claimants [Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano] must utilize insurance proceeds it received (of approximately \$347,500) to cover costs related to the repair and restoration of the

Marina and Common Elements."

Ms. Mandrano told *The Current*, "this nine-year battle has become an enormously complicated and expensive situation. We simply want to live in our condo, enjoy the beautiful waterfront and hopefully repair and then share our boat slips with others who love being on the water too. We never intended to harm, restrict, or disparage anyone in this building."

Board members also expressed regrets that this situation could not be resolved without lawyers. Ella Roundtree Davis told *The Current*: "we feel bad that it came to this because we are all neighbors. We prefer to resolve these issues without legal action."

## Islander Arrested in Drug Overdose Case

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Feb. 3, 2017, Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and James P. O'Neill, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), announced the unsealing of a complaint charging Fabrice Diaz, 24, of City Island with narcotics dealing that resulted in the overdose death of Robert Vivolo, 25, also of City Island.

The complaint alleges that Mr. Diaz participated in a conspiracy to distribute heroin and that the heroin he distributed resulted in the death of Mr. Vivolo on Oct. 21, 2016. Diaz was presented in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge Katharine H. Parker and faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum term of 20 years in prison.

Mr. Bharara stated: "Once again, we are confronted with the lethal effects of the opioid abuse epidemic. As alleged, Fabrice Diaz sold the heroin that sadly killed Robert Vivolo. Thanks to the outstanding partnership with the New York City Police Department, we seek to combat the deadly opioid crisis one alleged drug dealer at a time."

According to the complaint: "From at least in or about October 2016 up to Janu-

ary 2017, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, Fabrice Diaz and others conspired to sell heroin. As part of that conspiracy, on or about Oct. 21, 2016, Diaz exchanged text messages with Robert Vivolo, a 25-year-old heroin addict who lived on City Island, in the Bronx, New York. In those messages, Diaz arranged to sell heroin to Vivolo, and Diaz delivered heroin to Vivolo's home. A short time later, Vivolo overdosed on that heroin and died. After Vivolo's death, Diaz was arrested on separate charges in New Rochelle, NY, on or about Jan. 11, 2017, in possession of 17 envelopes of heroin."

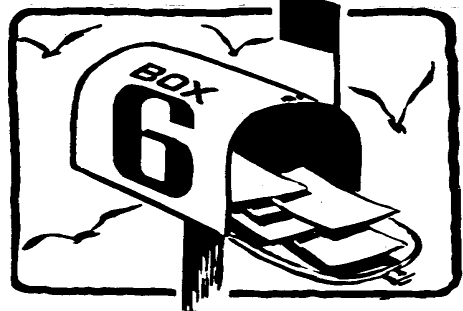
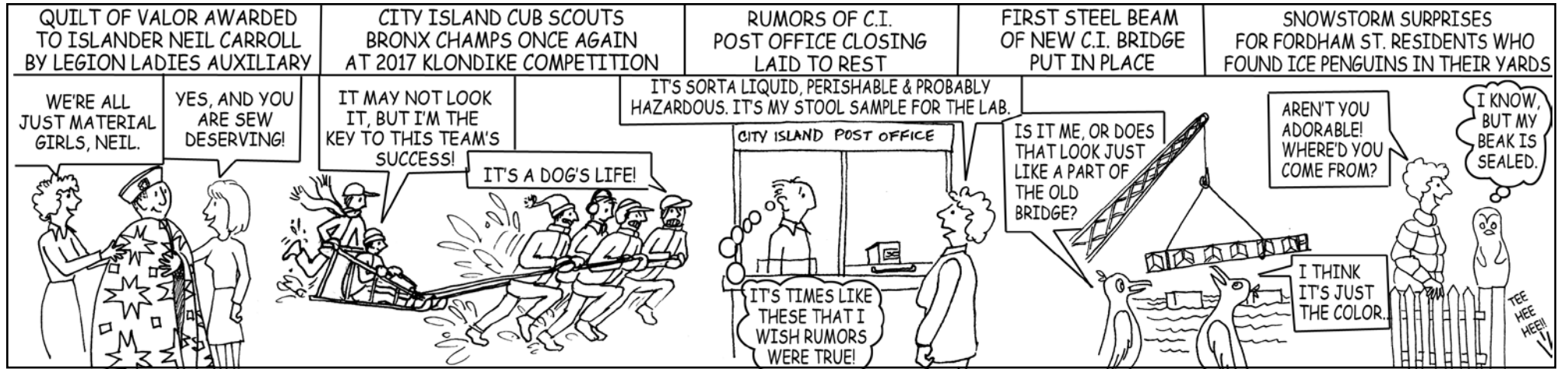
Mr. Bharara praised the investigative work of the NYPD and also thanked the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the New Rochelle Police Department for their assistance in the investigation. Mr. Bharara noted that the investigation remains ongoing. This matter is being handled by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorney David W. Denton Jr. is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



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**Rodman's Neck Victory**

To the Editor:

I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am that \$275 million was included in the City's preliminary budget to fund the total renovation of the police facility at Rodman's Neck. The City Island community has been tirelessly advocating for this allocation, and I have echoed your voice at City Hall.

In the Mayor's announcement, he detailed how the money would be spent. Most importantly, the plan calls for fully baffled gun ranges, which would greatly mitigate, if not entirely eliminate, the constant sound of gunfire that currently plagues City Island. The plan also calls for the building of a new tactical village, a new training facility and funds for environmental remediation of the soil. The allocation will allow our officers to have the state-of-the-art training facility they deserve, one that is fit for "New York's Finest."

It's been a long road to get to this point. There have been failed promises dating back to the 1980s and '90s. I feel that the turning point came when I was able to get former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton to admit on the stand that Rodman's Neck was a "disgrace." From that moment, there was continual pressure on the administration to do what's right. The Mayor even heard from City Islanders directly at a town hall I hosted last summer.

City Islanders deserve so much of the credit for this victory! They gave my words and advocacy the strength of the community. As we have done before with the bridge and our firehouse, we were able to get government to act according to the will of the people. The Mayor listened and acted. We now must work together to design a project that meets the needs of both our police and the communities that have long been negatively impacted by the facility at Rodman's Neck.

**James Vacca**  
Council Member, 13th District

**Deer Alert**

To the Editor:

About a month ago, as I was coming home after work, I approached the crosswalk between the City Island Circle and Orchard Beach. It was a rainy night and the visibility was poor. Suddenly a herd of deer appeared in front of me and the car next to me. The other driver saw them too, and of course we both stopped. He honked his horn, and the deer crossed into the area near the water at Turtle Cove. In the meantime, another group of about five deer stayed on the grass to our left. I saw them only at the last minute.

At dawn and dusk, when the deer are more active, visibility is poor, and I hope that all drivers would slow down and be especially cautious to avoid an accident.

**Diane Duryea**

**Thanks to the Community**

To the Editor:

The Schaller family would like to thank all of City Island for their kind words and support throughout a very difficult time with the passing of our beloved Russell. Your coming to visit, sending flowers, sharing a story or saying a prayer provided us all solace beyond measure.

Our father meant the world to us and he obviously meant a great deal to you as well. The unique experience of growing up and raising a family on City Island provides us all with insight into the caring nature of those we are lucky enough to call our neighbors. Our father loved City Island and all those privileged to call it home. Thank you.

**The Schaller Family**

**City Island Post Office Not Closing**

A copy of the following letter was sent to The Current:

To the Editor:

Thank you for reaching out concerning the City Island Post Office. Today I spoke with the Bronx Postmaster, Lillian Rodriguez. She assured me that there are no plans to close the City Island Post Office. Thank you for contacting me and feel free to do so concerning any community concerns.

**Council Member James Vacca**  
Editor's note: A similar confirmation was given to the City Island Civic Association by the office of Congressman Joe Crowley.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



## ART AFTER THE STORM



Photos by MATTIA PANZA, SUZANNE ANDERSON AND FRANK STRAZZERA

The storm on Feb. 9, 2017, dumped about a foot of snow on City Island, with even bigger drifts caused by high winds. New York City schools announced the night before the storm that all schools, including P.S. 175, would be closed, so students enjoyed a rare snow day. Our intrepid *Island Current* photographer caught the beauty of the snow covering Orchard Beach after the storm abated. After the snow, several Fordham Street residents were delighted to find snow penguins were left in their front yards by person/persons unknown.



Photo by TOMMY BREEN

The New City Island Bridge is on its way. This photograph shows the first steel beam of the new bridge being installed on the footprint of the original structure. The American steel was fabricated in Southfield, NJ, and sent to Elizabeth, NJ, where it was loaded on barges and shipped to City Island. The steel arrived on Feb. 7, 2017, and the construction workers offloaded it and began to set it in place. According to the Department of Transportation, the bridge is expected to be completed by late spring.

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Unique waterfront unit with patio next to water. Breathtaking views of NYC skyline. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room with vaulted ceiling, new granite/stainless kitchen, new wood floors, boat dock and pier. Enjoy all that City Island has to offer! Contact: John Grandefeld: 914-980-8787.



Photo by MATTIA PANZA

Neil Carroll, with his daughter Eileen (at right) and Harlan Sexton, of the American Legion Auxiliary, proudly display the quilt that was awarded to Neil Carroll at the first Quilts of Valor Foundation ceremony held at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017. See *Organization News* on page 8.

## NYPD to Renovate Rodman's Neck: Mayor Keeps His Promise

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As he promised at the Town Hall in Throggs Neck last August, Mayor Bill de Blasio has put funding into his capital budget for the renovation of the Rodman's Neck firing range, in response to renewed complaints about the noise that affects communities on Eastchester Bay, most prominently City Island.

The mayor made it clear that he intends to keep a promise made to the community in 1994 but never kept, and on Jan. 24, 2017, he and the NYPD announced that he had in fact put \$275 million into the city's capital budget. As the *New York Times* reported, this investment in Rodman's Neck "would represent an ambitious effort to modernize and enhance the training accommodations for the city's 35,000 police officers. The project is expected to be completed in two to five years."

For decades, residents of City Island have been fighting the city to do something about the noise pollution from the detonations and firing exercises that plague the communities surrounding Eastchester Bay. The noise has increased substantially over the years since 1994, thanks to the increased number of police officers (including those in the Corrections and Sanitation departments), the requirement that each officer requalify twice a year, and the use of louder weapons. According to information provided to representatives of the City Island Civic Association and Community Board 10 in October by Deputy Chief Dennis DeQuatro, there are approximately 90 thousand officers who train at the range each year.

DC DeQuatro explained at that meeting that certain infrastructure issues, such as electricity, sanitation and flood prevention would have to be dealt with before work can begin on the ranges, because much of Rodman's Neck has not been upgraded since the Police Department took over the grounds, including the firing ranges, in 1960. He confirmed that the sound abatement might not be in place for a few years.

Councilmember James Vacca, who has been instrumental in making sure that the mayor listened to the communities (see his letter on page 4), and members of the City Island Civic Association are pressing the NYPD for a temporary baffling measure to alleviate at least some of the noise in the meantime.

A joint letter to the mayor sent by State Senator Jeffrey Klein and Assemblymen Mike Benedetto, who represent City Island, and Mark Gjonaj, who represents Morris Park, asked that any data gathered by the

administration in the planning stages "that describes the degree to which noise pollution will be reduced and specifics regarding the environmental impact of these renovations, be released to the public." This would provide transparency to the project that has not been the case with previous proposals. They also requested that the NYPD provide to both the community and the 45th Precinct Community Council periodic updates regarding the project.

The letter also asked for additional information regarding the detonations being conducted at the bomb squad, also located at Rodman's Neck, in the hope that improvements at the range will "allow for a more refined approach to these detonations than is currently being utilized." However, the bomb squad is unlikely to be affected by the other NYPD activities at Rodman's Neck and was not included in the renovation plan described in the Jan. 24 announcement. When Mayor Bloomberg announced in 2007 that the firing range was going to be moved to College Point in Queens as part of the new police academy, the bomb squad was not part of the plan and would remain on Rodman's Neck indefinitely.

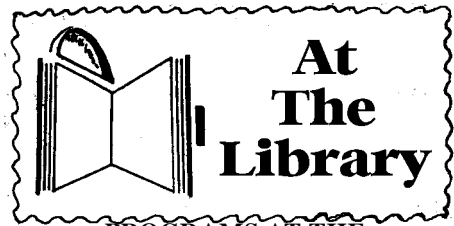
Many residents of the affected communities are happy with the city's promise of sound abatement, but others are skeptical, given the city's history of reneging on this promise for so long. As Island resident John Doyle, an officer of the Civic Association, points out: "The latest pledge from City Hall is encouraging, but Bronx residents who live along Eastchester Bay realize it's only the latest in a string of broken promises over the last 25 years." He advised that this mayor or subsequent mayors can always remove the funding from the capital budget and fail to communicate this information to the public.

To help prevent this from happening, the 45th Precinct Community Council has written to the mayor and the police commissioner as follows: "We would propose that a monitoring committee, similar to what was done with the Croton Water Filtration Plant, be set up for this project. We ask that the committee be open to all, that local community groups like our Council and Civic Associations receive representation on this committee and that these meetings take place on (at least) a seasonal basis. We believe this transparency would go a long way to ameliorating the lingering feelings of mistrust many have about this project and foster a new partnership with community stakeholders within our community."



**Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will have an artists' choice exhibition from March 3 through March 26. The opening reception will be on March 3, from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are an artist and would like to be part of the exhibition, there is a \$20 hanging fee per picture and 30 percent charge if the artwork is sold. All work must be ready for hanging. For more information, please call 718-885-1403.

Mac Lindsey, a sales representative for **1st Light Energy**, a solar installation and service company, can be found in the AER office at 300 City Island Avenue. His firm, which has been in business since 2004, installs solar paneling systems so that you can produce your own power and pay less for your energy. Call Mac at 561-316-5225 or stop by the office to make an appointment. This is a government-funded program that pays for installation; you pay nothing and you receive discounted monthly bills for your electric usage.



**PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**  
718-885-1703

**Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Robo Takeover:** This is a hands-on, robotics workshop series for kids! Learn the basics of circuits, conductivity, motor-operation and robot building. Space is

capped at 15 children, so please register in advance at the library. Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.

**New York City Kids Series:** An interactive sing-a-long with music for Aardvarks' songs celebrating growing up in New York City. This program includes singing songs, movements and rhythms that the whole family can enjoy. Presented by Music for Aardvarks. Every Monday at 11 a.m.

**Lego League:** Bring your imagination and join us for fun with Legos! Blocks of various sizes will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5 through 11. A limit of 10 children with their caregivers. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Circle Time:** Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

**Read & Play:** Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

**It's Bin Fun!:** Toddlers and pre-schoolers can play and explore our various sensory bins that will encourage curiosity through touch, sight and sound! Parent and child participation required. Ages 2 through 4 years old. Saturday, March 11 and 25, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, March 17, at 11:30 a.m.

**MARCH TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**After-School Lounge:** Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

**NEW! City Island Chess Club:** Chess is widely considered to be the oldest game in the world and has been played by people of all cultures for centuries. Now we are encouraging families, friends and

people of all ages to come into the City Island Library and learn how to play like a professional. Saturday, March 4 and 25, at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

**Comics and the Quest:** A band of heroes set out on a dangerous adventure in order to fulfill a noble quest. Sound familiar? From the hobbit to Dungeons and Dragons and countless other versions in comics, film, literature and gaming, the noble quest has fascinated kids of all ages. Now we can create our own gaming universes, full of interesting characters and wondrous vistas. Presented by Ivan Velez. Ages 13 to 18. Friday, March 17, at 3:30 p.m.

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** On Fridays, at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us!

March 3: Amelia Earhart Paper Airplane Challenge

March 10 and 24: Wii and Board Games

March 31: Spring Has Sprung! Take Home Your Own Houseplant

**MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS**

**NEW! Growing Together:** Growing Together is a group for people who want to improve and develop themselves and help others to do the same by providing motivation and support as a group to the individuals in it. We seek to provide a comfortable atmosphere for people to explore goals they want to achieve and self-improvement ideas, and be a network of people willing to listen, help, and motivate them. Wednesday, March 15 and 29, at 2 p.m.

**Movie: American Masters: Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise:** Journey through the prolific life of Maya Angelou featuring interviews with Oprah Winfrey, the Clintons, Diahann Carol and many others. Saturday, March 18, at 1 p.m.

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. You may even learn a thing or two while you're making some new friends. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required.

Call 718-885-1703 or stop by the branch to reserve your spot! Thursday, March 9 and 23, at 1 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Please call the branch or stop in for more information. Monday, March 13 and 27, at 5 p.m.

**The Island Writers:** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Intro to Computers:** Come to the library, ask questions about how to use computers and sharpen your skills through computer use. "How do I turn the computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Résumé Workshop:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**One-on-One: Computer Training:** Stop by or call to make an appointment for one hour of instruction that focuses on your questions and interests.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** at 1 p.m. March 4: "Florence Foster Jenkins"; March 11: "The Accountant"; March 25: "Ben Hur"

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free.



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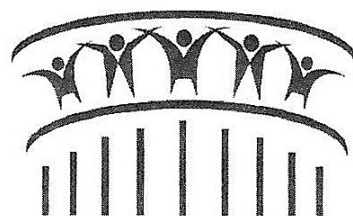
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# THE BOAT SHOW 2017

By GREGORY CLANCY

Alas! To be a boater amidst the dol-drums of January! Thank God for the New York Boat Show. But sailor take warning: changes are afoot at the Boat Show! Accompanied by my wife, Meaghan, and four boys, Patrick, Matthew, James and Jonathan, I was both heartened and dismayed by the most intense crowd I have ever seen at the Boat Show.

I have lost count of the number of times I've visited the Javits Center for a midwinter's boating fest, but I would hazard a guess that I've been to the Boat Show at least 25 times in my 39 years. And, seriously, I have never seen it so crowded. I have never seen it even close to being this crowded! The minute we entered I thought we had mistakenly walked onto the 6 train at rush hour, and we almost left immediately, but I was once a Marine (which means sea soldier for you landlubbers), and so we had to soldier on.

So what possibly could have been heartening about a claustrophobic, chaotic boat show floor with 20-minute lines to see even dinky little boats? Well, over a fast lifetime of visiting the Boat Show, I have watched a story of decline, much like watching the demise of so many of our boatyards here on City Island. I have watched the Boat Show get smaller and smaller, and then, some years back, the Javits people moved the timing of the show to a very undesirable New Year's week. It seemed like a death knell and attendance plummeted. We suffered through years where the floor was empty and the silence deafening. Then, in 2015 Governor Cuomo gave the boat show some help by aiding a modest expansion and moving its timing back to a preferred late January time slot. I can't say if these changes caused the desired resurgence, but two years later I can say that I witnessed the most heavily attended Boat Show floor I have ever seen!

Over the past few years I have tried to work up a theme for my annual Boat Show article. Last year I pursued the elusive (and very luxurious) Hinckley, which had made its first and only trip to the NY Boat Show. Hinckley's designers are brilliant, but their salespeople get a D for blowing it with their NY crowd. Not so surprisingly, Hinckley didn't come back this year. Two years ago I ventured on a quest to see engine rooms. This sounds simple, but believe me when I say that the last thing a yacht salesman wants to do on the floor of the boat show is to open up the engine room. This year, I

decided that my theme would be to report on the show through the eyes of my companions. "Report" being the operative word.

As for my companions, they change over the years too. Sometimes I have my wife and kids; sometimes I have friends; sometimes my brother Bill attends. Really, Bill is supposed to be my primary (mandatory) companion, but he was busy making soup for Kurstal and Puppet the cat. Turkey, not chicken. Dark meat, not light. Celery, no carrots. Hmmm. Okay, Bill. You have a good Saturday too, pal.

Fortunately, my lovely mussel-sucker wife came to the rescue with our boys. So what about my theme? I had a thought. At ages 10, 8, 6 and 2, my boys are getting quite wise in their old ages, and awfully boaty besides. Maybe I could use them to help. I decided then and there that I had had enough of this small-town columnist bit. This year I would become a real journalist. I decided to do a genuine investigative piece and interview my young subjects amidst some other pieces of investigative research. I led with a few basic lines of questioning: best part of the show, most interesting part of the show, most innovative part of the show, etc. The final question: if money were no object and you could make one purchase at the Boat Show, what would it be? So, here goes the beginning of my journalistic career:

The Progressive NY Boat Show, held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center from Jan. 25 to 29, 2017, hosted record crowds this year.

Master Pat Clancy, age 10, of City Island was quite impressed at this year's Boat Show. When asked what he liked most about the show, he instantly replied that the Cutwater Flybridge cruiser topped the list for him. Mr. Pat, himself the owner of a flybridge convertible, agreed that flybridges seem to have made a big comeback at this year's show. Over the past several years, very few flybridges were present, and two years ago, only one, a Carver. This year there were a variety of flybridges, including a 46-foot Sea Ray, a 42-foot Azimut and the Everglades 355 "Tournament" fishing boat, a traditional open air center console, which also sports a flybridge mounted atop a hard cover. With mounts for four outboards, this Everglades maxes out with a 1,050 horsepower capacity. Mr. Pat had never recalled seeing a center console with a flybridge before.

Flybridges atop high-powered center consoles were not the only noteworthy exhibits of this year's show. Master Matthew Clancy, age 8, of Centre Street thought it quite "weird" that there were not only boats at the boat show, but cars and pianos as well. Although cars are not unusual for the Boat Show (GM and others have maintained an annual presence), seeing a piano exhibit was a shock for many visitors. Steinway Piano made a first-ever appearance, pairing with Chris Craft to show off their new self-playing baby grand, the Steinway Spirio, selling for a special price of \$90,000. Young Mr.



Photos by GREG CLANCY

In January, Islander Greg Clancy and his family attended the 2017 Boat Show at the Javits Center in Manhattan.

Matthew and his family watched in wonder at Spirio's seamless performance of classic pieces.

Aside from being impressive and unique, the Boat Show offers exhibitors the opportunity to show off new innovations. Mrs. Meaghan Clancy, originally of Eau Claire, WI, enjoyed Hobbie Craft's new stair-stepping paddle board. A large surfboard of sorts, previous Hobbies included traditional standup boards, powered either by a standing paddler or by a person sitting on a bicycle mount and peddling to power a small propeller. Hobbie's sales team enthusiastically informed Mrs. Clancy that the new stair-stepper was invented to capture "the female demographic." Noting the bicycle-like handle bars to control a rudder and stair steppers to run the propeller, Mrs. Clancy simply said, "I really like that."

She agreed with the salesman who suggested that women of the waterfront, both young and old, might enjoy a chance to hit the waves while also toning their glutes. Hobbie's starting price for this new board is \$2,500. Other noteworthy innovations included a side-swinging swim platform. Both Scout and Sea Ray boasted coupes with retractable sidewalls off the aft cockpit. The concept is that the back deck can be widened by several feet as a second side-mounted swim platform drops down to just above the waterline.

Over the years, the Boat Show has been used to test a host of innovations. Some have weathered the ebb and flow of public opinion, others have not. But the Boat Show also calls to the traditionalist. Mr. James Clancy, age 6, of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, brought his father to the show. "My dad likes old boats," said James, perhaps alluding to a preference for traditional design qualities. In places, the Boat Show reeks of passing gimmicks, not just in boat design, but in boating-related products as well. As for boats, James and his father were drawn to Jupiter's 30ft Center Console. An old builder from Florida, Jupiter had not come to New York in recent years, but this year they made a proud comeback. Mr. James and his dad toured the Jupiter 30. First impressions: it was big, clean, white, a little bit beamy and sporting only two engines, twin Yamaha 300s. They both remarked that "it was perhaps the only Center Console on the show floor that wasn't trying to be re-invented." Retailing for \$278,055, the Jupiter 30 was now on sale for \$218,900. Perhaps a bit above the price range of the average working man, this is nonetheless a dream boat for older souls and the over-40 fishing crowd.

Speaking of products, devices and other services, Msrs. Matthew and James Clancy were drawn to one of the oldest and unchanging exhibits at the boat show: the German Glue Exhibit. "German Engineering, Made in America" is proudly displayed over the both of this multi-faceted multi-purpose epoxy-type super glue. Though long a favorite of the Clancy's grandfather (Bill Clancy Sr., who wrote this column for decades), both Matt and James watched in wonder as the proprietor of German Glue conducted a demonstration. When asked what he would buy at the Boat Show if money were no object, Mr. Matthew readily declared that he would "buy a million packs of that German

Glue." An intriguing choice, at least to his parents. As the old adage goes, "you can't fight the genes."

As for the other Clancys, the young boys' parents gravitated to the Sabre Yachts, with both a twin-screw Sabreline and a single-screw diesel Back Cove. These navy hulled Down-East style boats sported the highest quality finishes, traditional lines (the boat kind) and longest lines (the annoying kind).

Pat Clancy stuck to the practical Cutwater line of compact cruisers for his preferred purchase. Mr. Jonathan Clancy, age 2, a support staffer to *The Island Current's* Boat Show writer, preferred to restrict his purchase to fishing gear. Geico Insurance's free giveaway of a Geico fishing bobber caught Mr. Jonathan's eye very early and there was really no going back for him.

Last of the Clancys to make a fantasy purchase was Mr. James, who oscillated between Geico's 200-mph racing jet boat and the Yamaha line of jet-skis and jet-boats. Yamaha had a dominant display, and they traditionally dominate the transoms of most outboards at the show. But, in a notable marketing twist for Yamaha, they have returned their name to their engines. Last year Yamaha had removed its name from all of its outboards, sporting only the Yamaha logo. This year Yamaha seemed to have given up on that strategy. They have also given up on some market share, too. To the eye of a casual observer, Mercury showed a stronger presence on a variety of boat brands than in previous years.

Another strong presence at this year's show were the beer lines. Not a line could be found with fewer than 15 people. And with an impressive Javits serve time of approximately 100 seconds per \$9 plastic twist-off, a 12-person line just wasn't worth it. Even the Jerky lines were long. Yes, the Boat Show now comes with a "Jerky Hut."

Nine-dollar bottles of Bud are expensive, but not quite as stunning as the Boat Show special parking rate of \$65. Aspiring local journalists beware: *The Island Current* has a "no expenses paid" culture long ago established by former editor Sally McCheap. I bet they don't have \$65 parking in her current home of Appleton, WI.

In parting thoughts, the whole Clancy family was asked what disappointed them about this year's show. Mrs. Clancy declined to answer after chasing her 2-year-old through a crowded maze of Manhattanites for two hours, but her sons were unanimous in their vote. "No Bobo" was their answer. Bobo is the Clancy's name for their Uncle, Bill Clancy Jr. They were genuinely bummed that Bill and his gang couldn't join us. The take-away there is that the Boat Show is, and always has been, a great family day, full of adventures for all ages. It's a great "pre-game" to the boating season as well, but, as the Clancys said, "Next year we're not going on a crowded Saturday!"

So how did I do as a journalist? Okay, okay. Maybe I bent the rules a little bit. I guess I'll stick to being a two-bit small town columnist. But jokes aside, this was the most energetic, buzz-filled boat show I have ever attended. I can't wait for summer! See you on the high seas!

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**City Island Yacht Club**  
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 Seminars begin at 7:30 pm; \$10 non-members

- March 22: ASA Instruction & Jr. Boating at CIYC
- March 29: Sail Cloth Selection by Tommy Nye
- April 12: Surveyors' Tricks of the Trade by Jim Dias
- April 19: Racing Rules for Tactical Advantages by Bill Gladstone
- April 26: New Racing Rules by Butch Ulmer

Join us for these great events!  
 email: cluboffice@cityislandyc.org  
 or call (718) 885-2487 • cityislandyc.org

## 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

Fri., March 24, **P.S. 175 Card Party**, "Life's a Beach," Scavello's On the Island, 101 City Island Avenue, 7 p.m. Call 718-885-1093 for tickets.

Sat., March 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chicken with peppers, onions and potatoes.

Tues., March 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### APRIL

Sat. April 1, **Spring Fair**, Trinity Church at Bay Street, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., April 8, **CILL Opening Ceremony, Ambrosini Field** next to P.S. 175, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., April 8, **Temple Beth-El Gala Dinner Dance**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

#### AARP 318

AARP meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. At our March 1 meeting, we will collect \$56 per person for our dinner-theater trip to New Jersey on April 19 to see "Born Yesterday" (members only). Our March 15th meeting will be our St. Patrick/St. Joseph luncheon at the church hall, and all members are invited. Be sure to sign up so we have a count of those who will attend. Future tentative plans include: April 5, Elder Law Speaker; April 19, dinner theater trip to New Jersey; May 3, Mother's Day luncheon; May 17, Fashion Show; June 7, Medical Lecture; June 21 (tentative date), final luncheon before the summer break.

Rosetta Woods

#### Garden Club of City Island

A spectacular collection of 300 camellias greeted club members on their Feb. 8 visit to the Planting Fields Arboretum Historic State Park, formerly the home of William R. Coe, in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Members were given a guided tour of all the greenhouses, including the Camellia House, and enthusiastically photographed camellias in bloom. Members then enjoyed a catered box lunch in the Haybarn Visitor Center, after which they went to the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site for a tour of President Theodore Roosevelt's home filled with the family's original furnishings. It was a beautiful warm day for the outing, which was declared a success by everyone who attended.

Our February meeting, held at the Harlem Yacht Club, focused on the Garden Club's working committees. The Helping Hands and Beautification Committees, chaired respectively by Judy Judson and Kathy Gibbons, are busy monitoring the City Island Avenue planter boxes to keep them fresh and free from debris.

Watch for the new Garden Club brochure, prepared by Maggie Higgins, chair of the Membership Committee, which will be distributed to community locations this month. The Program Committee chair, Carol Wilkinson, is organizing special events to the Untermyer Garden in Yonkers, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx for a tour and tea, and the New York Botanical Garden to view artist Dale Chihuly's blown glass sculptures on display throughout the grounds.

The Luncheon Committee, chaired by Francine Alheid, has chosen azaleas as the theme for the annual fundraiser luncheon, which will be held Thursday, May 18, at the City Island Yacht Club. Save the date! The Publicity Committee supports all the working committees and reports club activities to

the media. Sunshine Committee chair, Gail Hitt, attends members in need of special cheer and encouragement.

Although each committee has its designated members, in a real sense, every active club member is part of each committee, helping in their projects, and representing the Garden Club in our community. The Hospitality Committee continues to provide special refreshments at every monthly meeting. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. All are welcome. A reminder: annual dues of \$35 are due in March. Check out the club's Facebook page, which is maintained by Publicity co-chair Charline Evers. Happy springtime wishes.

Carol Hansen

#### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Our first Quilts of Valor Foundation ceremony was held on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post. Many thanks to Harlan Sexton, who spearheaded this event and collaboratively worked on the quilt. Since 2003, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has made and donated more than 146,000 quilts to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts.

Our first nominated honoree, Neil Carroll, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1980. He served as an Automatic Tracking Radar Technician in Florida until 1987 and then participated in ground-directed bombing training for the Strategic Air Command in South Korea. The evening was well attended by family, friends and the Legion family. It was a memorable night for all of us, and we hope to do it another time in the near future.

Our Valentine's Craft & Flea Market was well attended on Saturday, Feb. 11, despite the cold and snow. Proceeds will go to the Quilts of Valor and the newly planned VA Fisher House Foundation to support our veterans and their families. Special thanks to the Auxiliary members who donated their time and to the Legion men who assisted with set-up and support to make this event a success.

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 156 will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day event at the Post on Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. at \$30 per person. All are welcome to attend. Please contact the Post at 718-885-0639 or e-mail Laura Booth at [lamc2051@verizon.net](mailto:lamc2051@verizon.net) for reservations and further details.

On Dec. 21 our Legion family lost one of its Auxiliary members, Lisa Shipp. Lisa was a beautiful and intelligent woman who happily volunteered her time to Auxiliary events as well as contributing her jewelry-making skills. She will be missed.

The next Women's Auxiliary Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. New members and volunteers are always welcome.

Joanne Valletta

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory Oneg, refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Temple Services Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea; March 3, Women's Herstory



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

Elected at the annual meeting on Jan. 22, 2017, the new 2017 Grace Episcopal Church Vestry is shown above after being blessed by the congregation (l. to r.): Joanne Delaney, Annamarie Tomsen, Sandra Cardinali, Barbara Dennis, Eileen Marcus and Paul Nani.

Month Shabbat led by Rabbis Shohama and David; March 10, Congregant-led; March 17, Congregant-led; March 24, led by Rabbi David; March 31, Congregant-led

Two Merry Month of March Activities: March 3, from 5:45 to 7 p.m., Shabbat across America potluck dinner at TBE. Please RSVP to Elisa Weindling at [yourshulbythesea.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea.com). March 11, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. Please join us for light and fun-filled celebration of Purim. Come in costume to the synagogue. Our joyous Purim celebration will be followed by a dinner at the Black Whale restaurant beginning at 8 p.m. All dinner participants must RSVP and pre-pay \$30 for prix fix dinner. E-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend.

TBE invites the City Island community for our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes. Participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served after sessions. Suggested free-will offering of \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at [kycnyc@aol.com](mailto:kycnyc@aol.com).

Adult education: March 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Rabbi David leads classes in Seeking and Spirit: Re-introducing Judaism for the Renewal age. This is an ongoing series.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 8, from 7 to 11 p.m. 83rd Annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. A highlight of our year! Join Temple Beth-El for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea. We will honor longtime Temple supporters David Stark and Rachel Singer, celebrating their upcoming marriage, as well as giving a special Community Service Award to Brenda Prohaska. Silent auction items are requested. To volunteer or support this event, please contact us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com) or stop by Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

On April 11 from 6 to 10 p.m., there will be a community Seder led by Rabbi David.

Oneg sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, *yahrzeit* or memorial) can be a joyful moving community celebration as we warmly invite you to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

#### City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is happy to be producing "Prelude to a Kiss," a romantic fantasy written by Craig Lucas. On the day of the wedding of Peter and Rita, an old man approaches to kiss the bride. During their honeymoon, Peter begins to realize that there is something not quite right about Rita, and he struggles to understand what has happened. He comes to realize that he is truly in love with Rita, no

matter what form she takes.

Craig Lucas's play was first performed in 1990 and was considered by many to be a metaphor for the AIDS epidemic in which a man could find himself in a relationship with someone who was suddenly old and sick before his time, testing the couple's love and commitment.

Thomas Losito is directing "Prelude to a Kiss," whose cast includes Phil Dante, Carol Dooner, John Garcia, Gary Kringsman, Jack McGuirk, Greg Morra, Franca Ritacco, Sarah Smyth and Shane Williams. For more information about the production and purchasing tickets, please see *BRIEFLY* on page 2.

Mary McIntyre

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Father John Covington. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. New to Grace: We now do birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School: A new season of Amazing Grace's Sunday School has begun, but it's not too late to join our enthusiastic group of children. It meets on the first and third Sundays each month and is led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12, and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. Students will begin preparing for the "Passion of Christ" to be presented during Holy Week in April.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is starting its second year! The group, made up of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, performs at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Rehearsals take place on the second Sunday of the month and on the Monday before a performance. In March the Grace Tones are scheduled to perform at United Hebrew in New Rochelle. If you would like to join us, please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

Sandy Dunn

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will be closed on March 23 and 25 but will reopen on March 30 with the spring collection. There will be a Pop-Up Sale on Saturday, April 1, in St. Mary's Gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arlene Byrne







### A Selected Filmography of Tom Hanks

Tom Hanks is well known as the voice of Woody in the three Pixar children's **Toy Story** movies (1995, 1999 and 2003). He also appeared in the recurring role of Harvard Professor of Symbology, Dr. Robert Langdon, in the mystery thrillers based on Dan Brown's books, **The Da Vinci Code** (2006), **Angels & Demons** (2009) and **Inferno** (2016). His career has spanned 30+ years, in which he demonstrated a wide range of talent.

**Splash** (1984) was the first release from Disney's Touchstone Pictures division. It stars Hanks as Allen Bauer, who as a child falls in love with the mermaid who saved him from drowning. When she grows up, Madison the mermaid (Darryl Hannah) goes in search of her lost love. She climbs up on dry land, miraculously on legs; but the smallest splash of water makes her revert to her half-fish state. When she is captured by government researchers Kornbluth (Eugene Levy) and Ross (Richard B. Shull), Bauer's brother Freddie (John Candy) insists that Allen must rescue her.

In the comedy drama **Nothing in Common** (1986) Hanks plays David Basner, a top-notch advertising executive who has to pick up the pieces when his parents (Jackie Gleason and Eva Marie Saint) decide to divorce. The supporting cast includes the gorgeous Sela Ward as Cheryl Ann, a client he lusts after; Bess Armstrong as Donna, one of his best friends; and the delightful Hector Elizondo as Charlie Gargas, his understanding boss. When David's dad becomes ill, both father and son are surprised by how David handles the situation.

In **Big** (1988), 13-year old Josh Baskin makes a wish at an amusement park fortunetelling machine, and the next morning he wakes up to discover that he has grown into an adult overnight (Hanks). Still mentally and emotionally an adolescent, Josh decides to hide in Manhattan. A chance meeting at FAO Schwartz with toy company exec McMillan (Robert Loggia) turns into a big-time job. Although he falls in love with fellow employee Susan (Elizabeth Perkins), he still misses his home and family. Hanks received his first Oscar nomination for this role.

In **A League of Their Own** (1992), women are recruited to keep baseball fever alive while men are at war. The film stars Geena Davis as Dottie Hinson and Lori Petty as her kid sister, Kit. They are discovered by the hilarious scout Ernie (John Lovitz) and wind up on a team coached by has-been baseball player Jimmy Dugan (Hanks). The terrific cast is rounded out by teammates Mae Mordabito (Madonna) and Doris Murphy (Rosie O'Donnell). The women on this team indeed become like sisters and band together as Jimmy recites the unforgettable classic line "There's no crying in baseball!" in this fine family flick.

In **Sleepless in Seattle** (1993), Hanks stars as Sam, the widowed father of Jonah (Ross Malinger). When Jonah calls a radio talk-show host and says "my father needs a new wife," the program is heard by Annie Reed (Meg Ryan), a reporter from Baltimore who becomes obsessed with Sam. A wonderful supporting cast includes Rosie O'Donnell as Annie's boss, David Hyde Pierce as Annie's brother and Bill Pullman as Annie's fiancé. This film is an homage to the wonderful **An Affair to Remember** (from the 1950s).

**Philadelphia** (1993) was the first big-budget Hollywood film to tackle the medical, political, and social issues of AIDS. Hanks, in his first Academy Award-winning performance, plays Andrew Beckett, a rising gay lawyer at a law firm in Philadelphia. When Andrew is diagnosed with AIDS, he

tries to hide this from the firm, especially the senior partner Charles Wheeler (Jason Robards). Though trusted with the firm's most important client, Andrew is fired when lesions appear on his face, ostensibly because his work has been inadequate. Because no reputable lawyer will go up against the firm, Andrew, who is desperate to be reinstated, hires Joe Miller (Denzel Washington), a black lawyer who advertises on television, mainly handling personal injury cases. Joe is uncomfortable around homosexuals, but at first he agrees to take the case for the money and exposure. He soon realizes that the discrimination practiced against Andrew is no different from the discrimination Joe himself has suffered. The supporting cast includes Mary Steenburgen as the opposing attorney, Antonio Banderas as Andrew's partner, Joanne Woodward as Andrew's mother, and Stephanie Roth as Joe's wife.

Winning back-to-back Oscars, Hanks appears in the title role as **Forrest Gump** (1994). Despite his sub-normal IQ, Gump leads a truly charmed life, being a part of the most memorable events of the second half of the 20th century. He teaches Elvis Presley to dance; becomes a football star; meets JFK, LBJ and Nixon; serves with honor in Vietnam; speaks at an anti-war rally at the Washington Monument; defeats the Chinese national team in table tennis; discovers the break-in at the Watergate; and becomes an original investor in Apple computers. The stellar cast features Robin Wright Penn as Jenny, the girl he loved as a boy; Sally Field as Forrest's mother; Gary Sinise as his commanding officer in Vietnam; Mykelti Williamson as his ill-fated Army buddy who is familiar with every recipe that involves shrimp; and the special-effects artists whose digital magic seamlessly places Forrest within an extraordinary assortment of historical events.

**Apollo 13** (1995) is the thrilling story of astronauts Jim Lovell (Hanks), Fred Haise (Bill Paxton) and Jack Swigert (Kevin Bacon), and the problems faced by the Apollo 13 mission. At that time, the U.S. population was so jaded that the networks didn't even bother televising it; until everything started to go wrong. Supporting players include Ed Harris as Gene Kranz, the flight director in Houston; Gary Sinise as astronaut Ken Mattingly, originally scheduled to go on Apollo 13; and Kathleen Quinlan as Jim Lovell's wife, Marilyn. No stock footage was used in the filming of this powerful movie, which was directed by Ron Howard.

**Saving Private Ryan** (1998), directed by Steven Spielberg, won Oscars for Director, Cinematography, Sound, Film and Sound Effects Editing and was nominated for six others, including Best Picture, Actor (for Hanks), Score, Screenplay, Art and Set Direction and Make-up. It is one of the greatest anti-war stories ever filmed, with its realistic re-creation of World War II's Omaha Beach invasion, which renders the first half hour of the film virtually unwatchable. In the opening prologue, a veteran brings his family to the American cemetery at Normandy. The story is then recounted in flashback, joining Captain John Miller (Hanks) and GIs in a landing craft. When Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall (Harve Presnell) learns that three Ryan brothers have all been killed in a single week, he requests that the surviving brother, Private James Ryan (Matt Damon), whose backpack was found on the beach in the aftermath, be located and brought back to the United States. Captain Miller along with his right-hand man, Sergeant Horvath (Tom Sizemore); Corporal Upham (Jeremy Davis), skilled in language but not in combat; plus privates Mellish (Adam Goldberg), Medic Wade (Giovanni Ribisi), cynical Reiben (Edward Burns) from Brooklyn, Italian-American Caparzo (Vin Diesel) and religious Southerner Jackson (Barry Pepper) are given the assignment. The film is based on a true occurrence in Stephen Ambrose's 1994 bestseller "D-Day: June 6, 1944."

In 1935 inmates at the Cold Mountain Correctional Facility call Death Row **The Green Mile** (1999) because of the dark green linoleum that tiles the floor. Paul Edgecomb (Hanks) is the head guard when a new inmate is incarcerated, John Coffey (Michael Clarke Duncan), who has been convicted for the sadistic murder of two young girls. Although physically imposing and accused of a heinous

crime, Coffey behaves more like an innocent child than a hardened criminal. Soon Edgecomb and two of his fellow guards, Howell (David Morse) and Stanton (Barry Pepper), discover that Coffey is able to perform what seem to be miracles of healing among his fellow inmates, making them wonder if he was capable of committing the crimes with which he was charged. The film co-stars James Cromwell as the warden; Michael Jeter, Sam Rockwell, and Graham Greene as inmates awaiting dates with the electric chair; and Harry Dean Stanton as a clever trustee.

**Cast Away** (2000) tells the story of Federal Express worker Chuck Noland (Hanks in an Oscar-nominated performance), who devotes his life to his job, often neglecting his girlfriend, Kelly (Helen Hunt). While on an assignment, his plane crashes, and Chuck finds himself stranded alone on a remote South Pacific island. He uses cargo remnants and his ingenuity to survive. To combat loneliness, he "befriends" a volleyball he calls Wilson.

Hanks stars in the title role of **Captain Phillips** (2013), the story of the 2009 hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama by a crew of Somali pirates. The film focuses on the relationship between the Alabama's commanding officer, Captain Richard Phillips, and the Somali pirate captain, Muse (Barkhad Abdi), who takes him hostage. In the ensuing conflict, 145 miles off the Somali coast, both men find themselves at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

**Bridge of Spies** (2015) is the story of what happened when American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell) was sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison as a spy. Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks), who has been recruited by the CIA to negotiate Powers' release. Donovan arrives in Berlin, hoping to win the young man's freedom through a prisoner exchange, wherein the Russians would get Rudolf Abel (Best Supporting Actor Oscar winner Mark Rylance), a convicted spy who Donovan previously defended in a U.S. court.

**A Hologram for the King** (2016) is an original, unpredictable and charming film about American businessman Alan Clay (Hanks) who arrives in Saudi Arabia desperate to close an important business deal: selling a holographic teleconferencing system to the Saudi king. He is befriended by Yousef (Alexander Black), a funny street-smart taxi driver, and Zahra (Sarita Choudhury) a beautiful doctor. The supporting cast also includes Tom Skerritt as Alan's dad, Tracy Faraway as Alan's daughter Kit, and Sidse Babbett Knudsen as Danish worker Hanne, who is looking for romance.

Directed by Clint Eastwood, **Sully** (2016) is the story of "Miracle on the Hudson," which took place on Jan. 15, 2009, when Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger (Hanks) landed his disabled plane on the Hudson River in New York City, saving the lives of all 155 aboard. However, even as Sully was being praised by the media for this extraordinary feat of aviation skill, an investigation was unfolding that threatened to destroy his reputation and his career; much to the dismay of co-pilot Jeff Skiles (Aaron Eckhart) and Sully's wife, Lorraine (Laura Linney).

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

## Organization News

*Continued from page 9*

who is now our interim commander.

Sunday, March 12, is the annual Post Saint Patrick's Party. Stop by the post for details and to sign up.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their

help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all ourselves anymore.

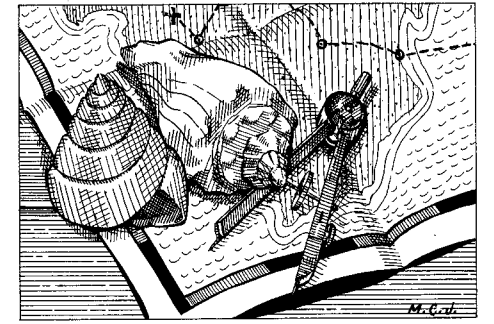
All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

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

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

Thanks to the Garden Club of City Island for the wonderful wreath they gave us to decorate our front door. Thank you to the entire City Island Community for all of your support over the past 97 years.

**John Muhlfeld**



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

Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

Our monthly holy hour will be held on Friday, March 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory on Sunday, March 12, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Join us for light refreshments.

The beautiful Lenten devotion, Stations of the Cross, will take place on all Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m., with the exception of Good Friday, when Stations will take place at 12 noon.

**Rose Dietz**

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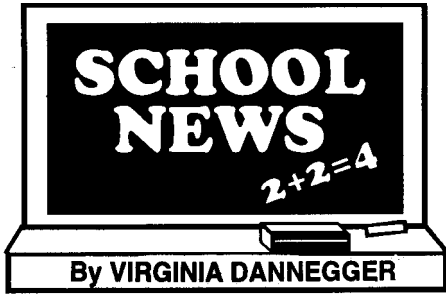
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**Public School 175**

Although a short month, February has been quite busy. Thanks to a another grant from Councilman James Vacca, we are able to provide an after-school musical arts program for students in grades 3 through 8. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a choral performance. Rehearsals have been going very well, and students will be putting on the performance for their families in the middle of April.

Our fifth-graders have also been busy working with the teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble and their classroom teachers on their March performance of "Shrek, 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.

We received a Project Boost Grant from State Senator Jeff Klein that will enable students to participate in a visual arts program at different points throughout the year. Students will be exposed to a variety of media, including acrylics, tempera, oil, pastels and clay.

In celebration of Black History Month, and to learn about the amazing African-American women who enabled NASA to put a man on the moon, all of our students in grades 4 through 8 saw the movie "Hidden Figures." Many of our students came back inspired to learn more about, and to work for, the rights of women.

The P.S. 175 tradition of the sixth grade going to Camp Greenkill will continue this May. 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 are working hard to be ready for their momentous June event. This month they held a Valentine's Day bake and candy-gram sale, which provided an opportunity for their schoolmates to purchase Valentine's Day goodies for their family members. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, DC.

Our Sports & Arts after-school program has been in full swing, with students participating in art, dance, athletic activities, ping pong and knock-hockey tournaments and homework help.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 9, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day, as well.

Families living on City Island with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2017, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for Kindergarten, should do so immediately.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 23, at 9 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will be the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 21, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

**January Citizens-of-the-Month** were Daniel Mandarino and Waverly Treiber (kindergarten); Terrance Howell and George Ramirez (first grade); Jason Reyes and Jackson Baumann (second grade); Jacey Chen (third grade); Kostadinos Vergis and Alfredo Ferrante (fourth grade); Sonya Doyle (fifth grade); Robert Baumann and Patrick Livingston (sixth grade); Benjamin Nicoletti and Skylar Powers (seventh grade); Arjun Maystry and Francis Padagas (eighth grade).

**February Citizens-of-the-Month** were Sarah Ramirez and Matthew Cullen (kindergarten); Sofia Rexhaj and Naomi Boyle (first grade); Jordan Shirkishun and Grace Riordan (second grade); Mila Paljusaj (third grade); Campbell Weppler and Gabriella Gierum (fourth grade); Kylie Archambault (fifth grade); Max Wiehler and Fiorela Miria (sixth grade); Joseph Burton and Michael Gierum (seventh grade); Maria Leni and Ava Ferro (eighth grade).

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**IN THE GARDEN**

By MARY COLBY

**Visions, Revisions and Indecisions**

There is a relationship between painting and gardening, especially when it comes to composition.

Take the following example: I worked on a large painting for a month, tweaking little things here and there, nibbling at it, noodling away. Yet from the beginning the main figure was all wrong. Still I continued, and after an evening of having at it, after hour upon countless hour of fruitless endeavor, I took my brush and obliterated the offense. Alone the painted hedge was fine, but in conjunction with the rest of the painting, it was a sore reminder of the failure of good components working together.

This is also true of gardening. Many people garden safely, refusing to throw out any living thing and thereby contributing to their jumble of incohesive planting and ruining the overall effect for the sake of one plant. What I'm trying to say is that if you have a tired garden or if you are just plain tired of it, oust a few things; it makes one feel lighter to have a change.

There are very few plants I would consider ugly, but when plants do not cohabit well, it may be because they don't naturally grow together in the same conditions. Let the skunk cabbage and the primrose have their bog, as the yucca, daisy and poppy might populate a beach. A plant species may be beautiful, but there are some varieties that are really just awful. Performance, shape and color are as important to consider as how beautifully a flower holds its head.

Tulips in a display bed are another problem, as their leaves hang on tattered and forlorn for months. There is no plant I rejoice in moving more. You, dear tulip, have been splendid, but I will dig you up and relegate you to a sunny ditch near the vegetable bed until autumn. Or you might buy new ones, with an exciting color scheme to herald the next gardening year. I confess this is one of my life's little luxuries.

In early spring I trundle my wheelbar-



Photo by MARY COLBY

**Liatris**

row about with a spade and some spare pots. If the plants are languishing, heave ho. We do not garden to be annoyed. I remember a stand of red oriental poppies intermingling with a red twig dogwood. They outgrew each other, and because I thought the poppies would be so much better off with the irises, I replanted them there to the benefit of both.

Spring is the best time to move plants, and for great success dig the hole first, add compost and water the hole. Water the plant and only then dig it up and plant it in the new hole. It is a very satisfying experience to visit a garden and have the owner be glad to give you pieces of this and that. Gardeners are a generous lot; it's never divide and conquer, only divide and reposition.

Consider the liatris, a flower that florists seem to love. Purple pompoms on a stick, blooming from the top down. By the time the last flower blooms, the apex is an embarrassing shade of dung. I've pictured it here with the painting I am in the process of revising. So all the digging and repainting may lead you to another open-ended question, and that's the experience and the adventure of it, but no liatris, please!

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. [www.theartistgardener.com](http://www.theartistgardener.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.



## Carl Gold

Carl Gold, DMD, a retired orthodontist and long-time faculty member in the Montefiore Orthodontic Department, died after a long illness on Dec. 19, 2016, at the age of 84. He was born in Philadelphia, where he received his DMD from Temple University. His orthodontic degree is from Columbia University. He served as a dentist in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Carl and his wife Barbara, a psychotherapist, came to City Island nearly 25 years ago, so that Carl could sail. They found that the friendly sense of community here made them feel at home like nowhere else. Carl served on the board at the Boatyard Condominium.

Carl loved adventure and traveled widely; trips to Africa and China were highlights. Carl had been a pilot of a small aircraft; he also made several trips to Central America and Haiti, where he served as a missionary dentist. He was known for his generosity and a creative, spontaneous humor.

He is survived by Barbara and his first wife, Claire; his sons Larry, Aaron and Sholom; his daughters-in-law Phyllis and Yuko; and four grandchildren: Nathan (18); Sarah (16); Maya (9); Eilee (7) and his beloved Havanese, Sneakers.

Contributions in Carl's honor can be made to Temple Beth El of City Island, P.O. Box 188, Bronx, NY 10464.



## Herbert A. Hild

Herbert A. Hild, winning yachtsman, sailmaker and family man, died on Dec. 11, 2016, at his home in Rye, NY.

A true clam digger, Herb was born August 10, 1928, to Mabel Curio Hild and Harry Michel Hild on Marine Street on City Island. His family later moved to Buckley Street. He graduated from P.S. 17 in the class of 1942 (whose alumnae met regularly until recently) and from Christopher Columbus High School.

One of Herb's first jobs was manually setting up the bowling pins at the island bowling alley with his buddy, J. Urstadt. He also drove the launch at the City Island Yacht Club and worked at Ulmer sails for many years before opening his own sail loft, Hild Sails, in 1962.

As a young man, he was a member of the Masonic-like Order of DeMolay, and he met a young woman, Helen Shoemaker, who belonged to a similar group, the Orga-

nization of Triangles. They were married in 1952; a year later they moved to Reynolds Street, where they lived for 17 years before moving to Rye.

Herb's first sail loft was in the United Boatyard but he then moved to the east end of Fordham Street to the former site of Airways, a sea plane facility and restaurant/bar. The HH logo was the hallmark of many one-design and offshore racing events on Long Island Sound and beyond, and the Hild name lives on through Doyle-Hild Sails, still on City Island. A successful businessman, Herb was often heard to say, "the harder I work, the luckier I get."

His business was based in his great love for the water and his accomplishments as an expert sailor. He was a lifetime member of the Star Class Association and actively raced his Star Boat, *Desiree*, over a span of 20 years. His sailing highlights included winning the Atlantic Coast Championships twice, in 1953 and 1963; competing in the Olympic trials, where he qualified as an alternate in 1948; and crewing on the winning Star at the 1963 Bacardi Cup. Numerous other regattas were won in Star Boats and later in his beloved Tartan 44 and 37, both named *Endurance*.

Herb was a member of the City Island Yacht Club; the American Yacht Club, where he served as Commodore from 1981 to 1982; the Cruising Club of America; the New York Yacht Club, and the Storm Trysail Club.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Helen; his daughters Heidi Hild Sommers of Jamestown, RI; Hope Alison Hild of City Island and Heather Hild Atwater of Madison, CT; and his nephew, Hunter Hild of City Island, and niece, Holly Vincent Hild of Vero Beach, FL. Herb was predeceased by his brother, Howard M. Hild.

Donations in his honor can be made either to the City Island Nautical Museum, P.O. Box 82, Bronx, NY 10464, or to the Trustees of Columbia University, in honor of Dr. Leonard Stern, nephrologist of Herbert A. Hild, Attention of the Executive Director of Development, 630 West 168th Street, P&S 2-421, New York, NY 10032.



## Robert T. Stumpf

Robert T. Stumpf, 85, of Bethel, CT, passed away on Jan. 23, 2017. He was born

on City Island on Dec. 23, 1931, to Peter and Edith Stumpf and grew up on King Avenue. He attended P.S. 17 and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx.

On July 14, 1956, he married Ruth Coleman, daughter of the Rev. Henry R. Coleman of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island. He had met her at the age of 12 through the church.

Bob was proud of his lifelong work at Norden Systems, a division of United Technologies, especially their contribution to NASA's shuttle program. He retired in 1994.

Bob had the patience of a saint and genuine kindness for those around him. He was a devoted caregiver to his wife, Ruth, throughout her long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Later when faced with his own struggle with Parkinson's disease his "never give up" attitude served him well. In the face of adversity, Bob enjoyed life and the good company of family and friends and the staff at Bethel Health Care.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth, and is survived by his children, Susan (Gary) Adkin, Pam (Tom) McCluskey, Wendy (Jeff) Cartin, Kim Stumpf, Cathy (Rob) Grosshart and his foster daughter, Laurel Quinones and her family; his grandchildren, Lindsay (Ken) Macdonald, David Adkin, Brittany Cartin, Ryan Cartin, Emma Grosshart, Ruby Grosshart, Susie (Gary) Fernandez and Tom McCluskey Jr.; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan Mayberry-Lewis, Quentin and Nathanael Fernandez and Tommy McCluskey.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.



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

## Beware of Ransomware: The Newest Virus That Can Really Destroy Your Files

Imagine signing on to your computer and seeing the following screen message: "Your files have been encrypted, use the enclosed link to pay us to decrypt your files."

Yes, your files are being held for ransom. Hackers have penetrated your computer's defenses and have now encrypted all of your files and have likely disabled your internet browser so that the only website you can go to is theirs. Now what?

If you have a detachable back-up drive that is currently connected to the computer, you'll discover that those files have been encrypted as well.

Anti-virus software will detect some types of ransomware, but ransomware is designed to install itself in seconds, wholesale encrypt your data files and uninstall itself seconds later.

This means that when you run a virus scan, the virus scan will not detect the virus because it's no longer there.

Windows has a recovery mode. You can "restore" your computer to an earlier time. It leaves your data files alone but any software installed after the restore point will be wiped out. This is useful for when a Windows update has disabled a particular feature on your computer. However, since the process specifically excludes data files, the function will not restore the data files to their previous decrypted status.

If you bring it to a professional IT, currently there isn't anything he can do either. Typically, the encryption methodology is fairly advanced, so he cannot restore your files.

The only "solution" is that the computer be reset to its factory settings and you reload your software. Your data is gone forever. Do not pay the ransom, and get a professional technician involved if necessary.

Some defenses include:

1. Do not check your e-mails on your laptop while traveling. Use your phone. If your phone cannot open the e-mail, delete the e-mail from your phone. Do not try to open the e-mail on your laptop if you have not been able to open it on your phone. Ever.

2. Do not download any files attached to an e-mail from a sender that you are not expecting an attachment from. The most frequent senders used by the scammers are Federal Express, USPS and UPS. They will claim you have a package and that the attachment has the details.

3. Buy anti-virus software. At the present time these programs cannot catch most ransomware, but they make progress every day.

4. Buy a detachable hard drive to make periodic "mirror" images of the hard drive in your machine. Once you make the mirror image, detach it, and keep it on a shelf.

5. Invest in cloud backups of your computer. Cloud backup services continuously back up your data files. Just like the attached external hard drive, your backup will be encrypted. However, cloud companies keep several versions of your data files. If your tenth copy is encrypted, chances are the ninth copy is not.

6. Reset the computer back to factory specifications, reload your software and restore your data files from whatever media you have.

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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 2017									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Wed	0030	8.35	0659	-0.79	1253	8.06	1916	-0.74	Wed 01
02 Thu	0115	8.34	0748	-0.67	1342	7.78	2002	-0.50	Thu 02
03 Fri	0204	8.17	0841	-0.40	1435	7.37	2053	-0.13	Fri 03
04 Sat	0258	7.86	0946	-0.04	1535	6.92	2153	0.30	Sat 04
05 Sun	0400	7.50	1125	0.23	1653	6.56	2322	0.65	Sun 05
06 Mon	0522	7.22	1250	0.20	1843	6.54			Mon 06
07 Tue	0106	0.63	0711	7.26	1358	-0.04	1956	6.82	Tue 07
08 Wed	0216	0.33	0821	7.52	1458	-0.36	2056	7.21	Wed 08
09 Thu	0316	-0.06	0919	7.80	1551	-0.64	2148	7.57	Thu 09
10 Fri	0409	-0.42	1011	8.02	1640	-0.81	2236	7.85	Fri 10
11 Sat	0485	-0.68	1058	8.10	1725	-0.85	2320	8.00	Sat 11
12 Sun	0644	-0.77	1242	8.06	1907	-0.73			Sun 12
13 Mon	0101	8.02	0726	-0.71	1322	7.89	1945	-0.48	Mon 13
14 Tue	0139	7.92	0805	-0.50	1400	7.65	2018	-0.15	Tue 14
15 Wed	0212	7.75	0840	-0.18	1434	7.35	2038	0.21	Wed 15
16 Thu	0238	7.54	0906	0.17	1502	7.06	2048	0.50	Thu 16
17 Fri	0302	7.34	0921	0.50	1529	6.80	2117	0.76	Fri 17
18 Sat	0333	7.16	0952	0.80	1606	6.58	2157	1.03	Sat 18
19 Sun	0413	6.98	1035	1.07	1652	6.40	2244	1.30	Sun 19
20 Mon	0501	6.83	1127	1.29	1747	6.30	2338	1.50	Mon 20
21 Tue	0556	6.75	1229	1.39	1904	6.34			Tue 21
22 Wed	0038	1.56	0658	6.78	1353	1.30	2026	6.56	Wed 22
23 Thu	0146	1.43	0806	6.96	1503	1.01	2113	6.89	Thu 23
24 Fri	0259	1.07	0906	7.24	1551	0.62	2148	7.28	Fri 24
25 Sat	0358	0.58	0953	7.57	1632	0.19	2223	7.70	Sat 25
26 Sun	0447	0.05	1037	7.89	1711	-0.22	2300	8.12	Sun 26
27 Mon	0532	-0.44	1120	8.13	1750	-0.55	2341	8.47	Mon 27
28 Tue	0617	-0.82	1205	8.27	1830	-0.76			Tue 28
29 Wed	0024	8.70	0702	-1.03	1251	8.27	1913	-0.80	Wed 29
30 Thu	0109	8.77	0750	-1.04	1339	8.10	1959	-0.65	Thu 30
31 Fri	0157	8.65	0842	-0.84	1430	7.80	2049	-0.33	Fri 31
APRIL 2017									
01 Sat	0248	8.35	0942	-0.49	1527	7.40	2145	0.11	Sat 01
02 Sun	0345	7.93	1101	-0.10	1637	7.01	2302	0.56	Sun 02
03 Mon	0456	7.49	1224	0.15	1818	6.82			Mon 03
04 Tue	0043	0.76	0645	7.26	1336	0.18	1938	6.95	Tue 04
05 Wed	0200	0.64	0806	7.36	1440	0.05	2042	7.26	Wed 05



Photo by JOHN SHERIDAN  
The amphibious Landing Craft 503, which likely saw action in the Pacific during World War II, now resides at an old dock in the salt marsh north of the Pelham Bridge.

**Who Said You Can Never Go Home Again?**

Over the years, we have noticed some interesting items in the water between the Pelham Bridge and the Pelham Bay Bridge (aka the Amtrak Hutchinson River Bridge). For example, partially hidden in the salt marsh, at about the point where Rattlesnake Brook empties into the Hutchinson River, there are some curious remnants of an old private dock or two. Then, when the tide is especially low, there are the remains of what was probably the train trestle that preceded the present-day span. Other observations include the derelict barge with the now faded red barnlike structure and derrick on top, an unidentified owl and a pair of black skimmers.

The most recent item in the water there, however, may take the prize for most interesting. Tied up to the working barge that has been moored between the bridges for some time now is what appears

to be an old World War II era amphibious landing craft.

We do not presume to be experts on this sort of thing and would welcome any additional or clarifying information on the subject (send to [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com)). That said, however, here is what we have turned up since the historic vessel came to our attention: it appears to be Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) 503, 1 of 25 such vessels attached to the Second Engineer Amphibious Brigade (there were six such brigades). The Second, Third and Fourth saw action in the Pacific theater. Think Guadalcanal!

In one fairly well documented episode of the war in the Pacific, LCM 503 was part of the Allied effort to eradicate the Japanese military's presence once and for all from the Philippine Island of Caballo. Apparently, there were soldiers who refused to surrender, choosing instead to hide out underground, within the intricate network of tunnels that the Japanese had constructed. Ultimately, the Allies responded by burning them out. The fuel that was used to undertake the operation was carried by pipeline from LCM 503. In fact, there is a YouTube video of the event. It can be viewed at the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGxD\\_eaqh94](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGxD_eaqh94).

When you get about 2 minutes and 25 seconds into the video, you can clearly see the number 503 on the landing craft's side. Could it be our 503? How did it get here? Where has it been all this time? And wouldn't it be interesting to learn that the same vessel was built on City Island? Such craft were built on our Island, after all, along with minesweepers and tugs. But that would be a story for another article—and what a story!

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Photo by RICK DEWITT

In preparation for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring, the children at Trinity United Methodist Church presented a skit stressing the importance of sharing and caring for those less fortunate. So far this year, the children have raised over \$400, which will go to City Harvest to help many in their own community.

## Family Meetings Can Develop Citizenship in the Home

By JOHN SCARDINA

The third week in February—in addition to our children being off from school—was the winter Congressional recess. This is a time when members of Congress return to their home constituencies and hold town meetings. It is a favorite form of citizenship participation in government for many of us; we can speak our mind to our representatives directly and in person.

Why not consider having a “family meeting,” your version of a town meeting, in your home? You can help you and your children find your voice, a civil and appropriate voice that discusses issues in a calm and respectful way, and develop important skills such as listening, self-expression, compromise and problem-solving.

Family meetings can be used for many purposes:

- to solve family problems of living together (who gets to use the bathroom first in the morning or who leaves the empty milk carton in the refrigerator and doesn't put milk on the shopping list);
  - to propose new family rules (“no electronics at the dinner table” or “no skateboards in the house”);
  - to reinforce family values (“everyone can speak their mind if the tone is respectful and civil” or “this family gives to charity and believes in community service”);
  - to check in with one another (you all might share your schedule for the next period of time and adjust chores and activities if one family member is especially stressed);
  - to plan family activities (such as the next vacation or a visit to a museum);
  - to enjoy one another's company!
- Here are some useful ideas for setting up regular family meetings in your home:
- Pick a regular time and stick to it (like

the second Sunday of the month for dinner).

• Rotate who's in charge of the meeting (and perhaps have that person plan for a special dessert to share); anyone 5 years old or up can chair a meeting with some guidance and practice.

• Have a “family meeting agenda items” white board in the kitchen so any family member can bring up something for discussion. That way, if something comes up amongst the kids, you can say “put it on the agenda” and you can discuss this next time.

• Begin each family meeting with a round of sharing: a simple routine might be going around the table and sharing one thing that went well today, one thing that didn't go well today, and one thing each person is looking forward to tomorrow.

• Have simple rules for sharing: use a “talking stick” to prevent interruptions, be vigilant about no put downs, give each person the right to pass, and consider all ideas until you get to the feasible and constructive ones.

• End each family meeting with a round of appreciations: each person goes around the table and expresses one thing they appreciate in each family member who participated in the meeting.

One important point: for me, families are not “democracies” but hopefully more like “benevolent dictatorships” with Mom and Dad having final say. Nonetheless, you will soon see the benefits of treating your children as valued members of the family community, and all of you will become better creative problem-solvers.

Like any skill, having a successful family meeting will take some time. Stick with it and all will be well—you will be helping your children to develop important life skills.

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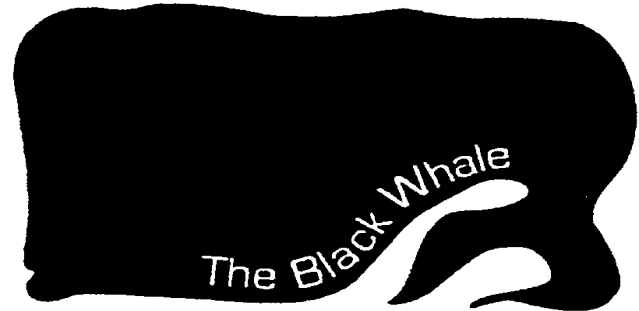
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Photo by NANCY KHECK

Members of the Garden Club of City Island enjoyed their visit to the Planting Fields Arboretum Historic State Park on Feb. 8, 2017.



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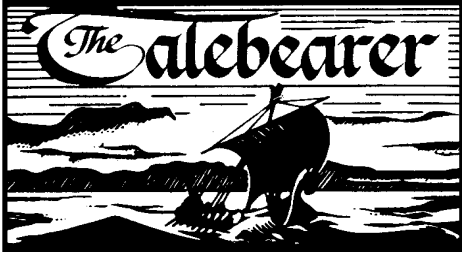
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Grace Kelly Kretzmer as Fantine in "Les Mis".

Congratulations to Centre Street's Grace Kelly Kretzmer on her amazing portrayal of Fantine in the Random Farm's production of "Les Mis"! We are so proud of you! Love from Mom, Dad and Paxton.

It's a girl! Congratulations to our son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Mere, and big sister, Scarlett, on the newest addition to our family, Tabitha Reese Ribaud, who arrived on Feb. 5. Love, hugs and kisses, Nonni and Pop.

Best wishes to Jennifer Carman, who celebrates her 25th anniversary with Red Lobster. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Love from Mom and Dad.

Belated happy birthday shout-out on Feb. 20 to Hawkins Street's Reid Travers, with best wishes from your sister, Lori, and all your friends.

It will be a fun night as Temple Beth-El members and friends celebrate their 83rd anniversary with an awards dinner dance at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses on Saturday, April 8. Honorees are Temple



Asher Rubenstein Swanton



Tabitha Ribaud

Beth El supporters David Stark and his fiancée Rachel Singer and City Island's own Brenda Prohaska, who will receive a special Community Appreciation Award.

Welcome to the world, Asher Rubenstein Swanton, who was born on Jan. 10, 2017. Thrilled parents are Jill Rubenstein and Philip Swanton.

March birthday greetings go out to Chris Butterworth on March 8; Joseph Nelson on March 10, and his dad, Joe Nelson, on March 28; Judy McCormick on March 18; and Barbara Stiene on March 31. Celebrate!

Maria Swieciki

Editor's Note: Congratulations and big thanks go out to Maria Swieciki on writing her 300th Talebearer column for this issue. She began her stint with The Current in March of 1987.

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 Adam Zagajewski, a Polish poet

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