

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

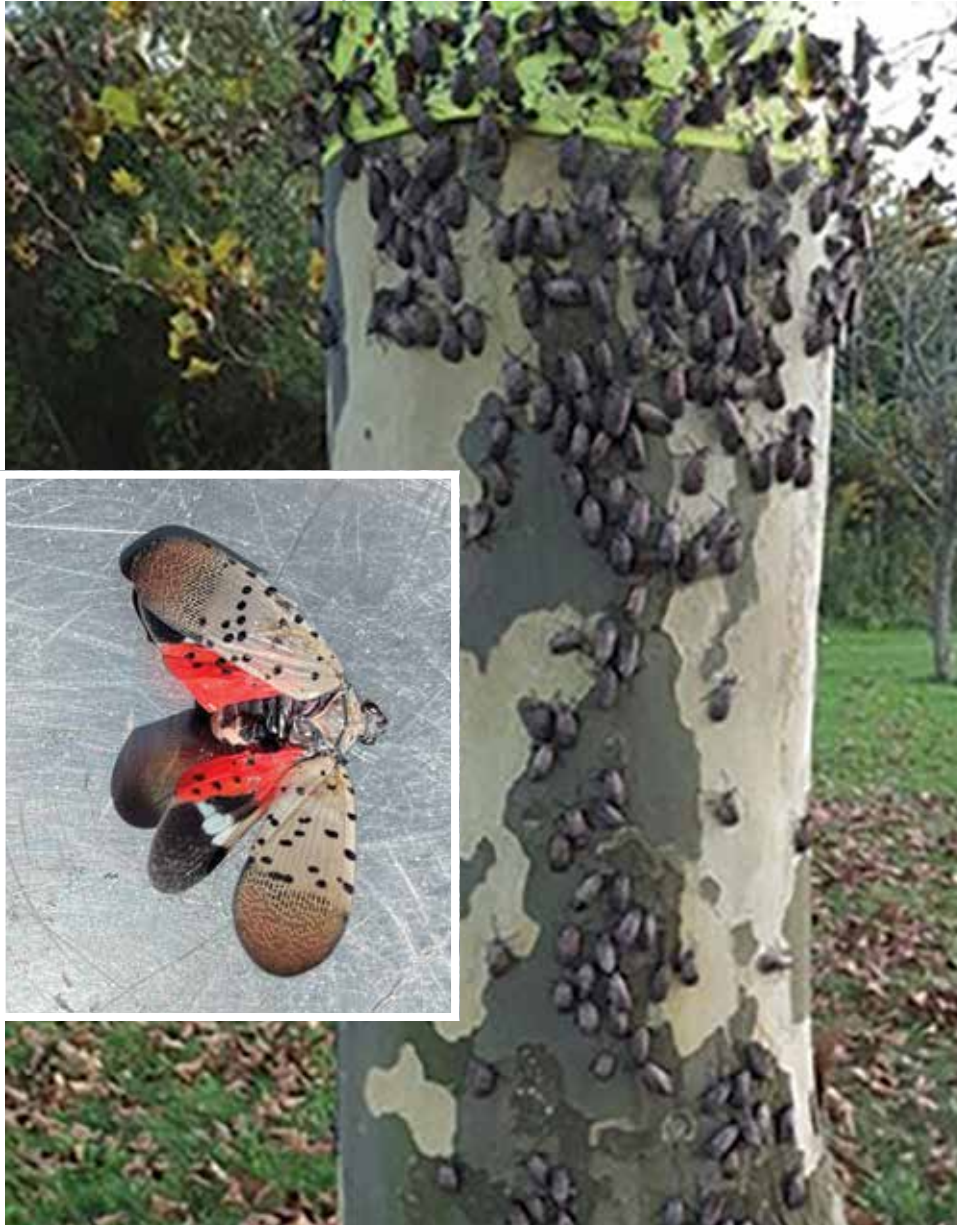
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One Dollar

## Lanternflies Find City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by HAILEY CLANCY, BARBARA DOLENSEK and NYC PARKS DEPT.

In the summer of 2023, swarms of the spotted lanternfly (inset above) found their way to City Island and Pelham Bay Park. Many residents found them on their decks and houses, while hundreds swarmed trees along the walking path between City Island and Orchard Beach (above photo). Although not harmful to humans, the flies are large, annoying and can damage trees, grapevines and other plants. Islanders and organizations resorted to makeshift traps to contain the insects (above right).

As anticipated by Mary Colby's garden column in the July-August issue of *The Current*, the dreaded spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), which is an invasive insect pest from Asia, has arrived on City Island in large numbers. The insects, first seen in Pennsylvania in 2014 and in New York in 2020, have already caused considerable damage in agricultural areas. Over the summer, Islanders have experienced an unusual increase in these pests, not only on trees and porches and cars but also on the water, where it has alarmed a number of kayakers and paddleboarders.

Jean Mirabito of Earley Street told *The Current* that when she took her paddleboard out in early August, "There were hundreds of lanternflies on the surface of the water. They kept climbing up on my board and even my paddle as I was trying to get through them. It was horrible!"

In the fall, adult lanternflies will lay egg masses on tree trunks or rocks or cars or logs. In early spring the newly hatched black nymph with white spots begins to appear and eventually becomes red with black spots. Adult lanternflies with gray forewings marked with black spots and red hindwings with black spots can be seen as early as July. Islanders on the walking path to Pelham Bay Park, for

instance, noticed trees covered with hundreds of these flies, and some residents have had swarms accumulating on their houses or on trees in their yards.

There are a number of ways to deal with lanternflies at the different stages of their development. One can destroy egg masses by scraping them into a bucket of hot, soapy water or into a bag of hand sanitizer. If you are planning to travel, be sure to check your car and gear for these egg masses, so that you don't help them invade other areas.

As to the nymph and adult stages, the best means of killing individual flies is simply to smash them, but they move very quickly, so you need to approach them carefully. Some Islanders have found that the bugs are attracted to water in a bottle or glass, where they will die. Do not use Pinesol or any kind of insect killer, however, because of the damage that can cause for beneficial insects, such as honeybees and butterflies. And though Dawn mixed with water will kill the lanternflies, it is bad for plants, as Mary Colby pointed out, though effective on porch railings or steps. She uses an ortho Dial N Spray hose-end sprayer, which attaches to her hose.

Mary noted that one can use Neem oil extract from Garden Safe or a horticultural



dormant spray oil, which seems to be safe for bees and kills the early-stage nymphs slowly but effectively. These appear more readily on plants in early morning and at dusk, which is the best time to spray. But, she cautions, "Never spray in the sun, and wear an N95 mask, glasses, a hat and gloves when spraying."

It was on Staten Island that the lanternflies first appeared in New York City, and the nonprofit organization NYC H2O held a workshop there in August to show New Yorkers how to make their own traps. A trap is made from a soccer cone and a small half-domed cone, mesh wiring, a ruler, staples and a plastic Ziplock bag and can attract climbing lanternflies

into a dead-end street. According to Matt Malina of NYC H2O. "They get stuck and die. They run out of food sources." There are several YouTube videos demonstrating various means of creating traps or otherwise removing or killing lanternflies, which tend to climb up and down trees and can be caught in traps or shop vacs. *Amazon.com* offers a couple of simple traps designed specifically for lanternflies. And this month's Sights and Sounds column has some other helpful suggestions (see page 13).

The NYC Department of Parks will prune or remove trees if they post a risk for the public but is not considering

*Continued on page 3*

## WATER JUBILEE 2023

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS

Over 40 kayakers and paddleboarders competed in the fourth annual Water Jubilee race around City Island on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023.

On Saturday morning, Aug. 5, 2023, a fleet of more than 40 kayaks and paddleboards gathered at the west end of Tier Street and prepared to race around City Island, as the first event of the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) Water Jubilee began for the fourth year in a row. Later in the day a sailing race in Eastchester Bay attracted seven competitors, followed by a reception at the Morris Yacht Club.

As in previous years, the weather was cooperative, but this time the kayak race went in a counterclockwise direc-

tion because of the low tide. And because contestants had to go around High Island rather than under the High Island bridge, the time was slightly slower than in previous years. Nevertheless, the winners made good time. Marshall Seddon, in a high-performance kayak, won the race in 39 minutes, 22 seconds, and Jonathan Trambert, in a regular kayak, made it around in 45 minutes. The paddleboard prize was won by Andy Giaccon, who circled the Island in one hour, 4 minutes and 29 seconds.

*Continued on page 5*



**BRIEFLY...**

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR** will take place along City Island Avenue from Bay Street to Schofield Street on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. More than 50 artists and craftspeople will display and sell their works, including painting, photography, jewelry, soaps, personal care products, crocheted goods, gems and minerals, face painting/airbrush tattoos, great food, ice cream and more. There will be live music daily in Hawkins Park beginning at 3 p.m. and the annual clam chowder contest will take place on Sunday afternoon in the park. For more information, call 718-885-9100.

**CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM TAG SALE:** Interested in making one or more nautical-themed antiques a part of your home? Visit the museum Saturday, Sept. 9, for our tag sale, or e-mail [info@cityislandmuseum.org](mailto:info@cityislandmuseum.org) to learn more about items we are deaccessioning to make room for new artifacts and to support our fundraising goals!

**ART PROGRAM AT THE GALLERY:** Every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., David Ellis curates "Create" at the City Island Gallery on the southeast corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue, where children and adults alike are invited to create works of art; supplies are furnished by David. Suggested donation: \$8.

**45 BLOTTER**

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during June, July and August 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - LOST PROPERTY
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 3 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from June 21 to Aug. 21, 2023.

6/25 - On City Island Ave at 8:25 p.m., police from the 45th Precinct took a report for burglary. An Island female, 34, told police that an off-Island male, 60, entered the premises without permission or authority to do so.

7/1 - An off-Island male, 40, reported

lost property at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Victim states he was inside the establishment when he realized his wallet was missing.

7/30 - Police arrested an off-Island female, 27, and charged her with grand larceny on City Island Avenue at 9:04 p.m. The victim was an off-Island male, 29. The defendant allegedly extorted \$150 from the victim.

8/12 - At 3 a.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island male, 62, was parked in front of the location when an unknown vehicle struck his rear bumper. The driver then fled the scene of the accident.

8/13 - An Island male, 43, was parked on City Island Avenue when an unknown vehicle sideswiped his vehicle at 2 a.m. The driver then left the scene of the accident.

8/20 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 58, and charged him with DWI on City Island Avenue at 12:11 a.m.

8/21 - On Paulis Place at 8 p.m., an Island male, 62, reported being harassed by a male defendant. Victim states he was involved in verbal dispute with defendant. Defendant was vigorously banging on victim's front door, causing annoyance and alarm.

Gregory Manganello  
Nicholas Vrettos



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Photo by RON TERNER

**Saturday, September 30  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**City Island Oyster Reef invites families and friends of the environment to join us at P.S. 175/Ambrosini Field for a free, fun-filled day of educational activities! The festival will focus on the benefits of oyster restoration, other clean-water initiatives, and the importance of wetlands restoration on Long Island Sound.**

- Scavenger hunt
- Living Shoreline tour
- Hands-on touch tank
- Scuba diving demonstration
- Water-quality testing demonstration
- City Island historical exhibition
- Children's book readings
- Live music
- Art gallery and murals by local schools
- Face painting
- Meet our partner organizations
- Fun & games, and more

Visit [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org) for more information.

Funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation.





# Violet Smith Honored by 45th Precinct Community Council

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Islander Violet Smith was honored by the 45th Precinct Council on May 18, 2023. Council member John Doyle congratulated Violet on her award.

Violet Smith, a longtime resident of City Island Avenue, was honored for her contributions to the City Island community at the annual 45th Precinct Community Council breakfast on Thursday, May 18, at SUNY Maritime College.

Violet grew up in St. Louis but once she came to City Island, she was here to stay. She raised her five daughters and three stepsons here, and at least nine of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are clam diggers.

After teaching in special education programs for 35 years, Violet retired, but she worked in a one-on-one program for

young children after leaving the school system. She also continued to serve City Island in several ways. She was one of the founding members of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project and a member of the Friends of Pelham Bay Park.

She has also been active at Trinity United Methodist Church for years, as well as becoming a member of Temple Beth-El, where she has managed one sponsorships, community celebrations or special events to honor others. In May 2004 Violet was awarded the Drue Breen Award for Dedicated Community Service by the City Island Community Center.

# BSA TROOP 211 COMPLETES A REMARKABLE YEAR

By DAN HICKEY



Photo by DAN HICKEY

The scouts of BSA Troop 211 culminated another exciting year of service and advancement with their annual trip to Ten Mile River summer camp in the Catskills.

The scouts of BSA Troop 211 culminated another exciting year of service and advancement with their annual trip to Ten Mile River summer camp in the Catskills. Two senior scouts earned BSA's highest rank as others followed their paths, leading the younger scouts on their individual trails of achievement.

Peter Hickey was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at the Troop's Court of Honor in December, and his classmate Paul Goonan completed his Eagle requirements this spring by leading the renovation of the American Legion Hall. Troop 211 has produced 43 Eagle Scouts since 1962, and two in a scouting year is remarkable for any troop. The new season will begin in September with a Court of Honor to recognize the latest Eagle and the scouts who reached the Star and Life ranks by earning merit badges and completing service projects. City Island streets are cleaner and greener, and our neighborhood institutions have been rejuvenated, thanks to senior scouts leading junior scouts in service to the community.

Other highlights of the year included the Troop's continued dominance of the Greater New York Council's Klondike Derby team skills competition in January. Cub Scout Pack 211 also continued the winning tradition in their division.

Island Current readers saw several scouts receive the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems at St. Patrick's Cathedral in May. Catholic junior and senior scouts earned the respective medals through exercises that strengthen their faith and relationships with God.

Weekend camping trips provide the most fun for the scouts. This year the troop added Durland Scout Camp in Putnam Valley to the usual excursions, Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey and Seton Scout Camp in Greenwich, CT. Another addition this year was the Council Cook-O-Ree where

NYC troops prepare unusual offerings for others to try and enjoy. Fried insect tacos attracted the longest line, but the deep-fried Oreos was a close second.

The scouts brightened our homes with their annual flower sale in the days before Easter. Using their organizational skills, they were able to arrange shifts and to cover the delivery and sale at Trinity Church and Pilot Cove. They appreciate the outpouring of support from our community, which helps pay for their week away at summer camp.

Thanks to City Island's generosity, 31 scouts are attending camp this year for a nominal fee. They progress on their individual paths through scouting's ranks by learning skills and earning merit badges, as they make friends from other NYC troops. One rookie usually gets homesick for the first night or two, but everyone returns for the annual highlight of the scouting year.

The new season will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8, at the Trinity Church Fellowship Hall. All boys and girls from sixth grade through the age of 18 are welcome to join. Those as young as kindergarten are encouraged to join the Cub Scout Pack, which meets on Tuesday evenings at Trinity. If you know anyone who is interested in scouting, Greg Clancy is happy to answer any questions; his e-mail address is [greg-clancy@hotmail.com](mailto:greg-clancy@hotmail.com). Everyone is welcome to enjoy the vibrant scouting fun on City Island.

Although girls can now join the BSA, City Island also has a vibrant Girl Scouts troop with Brownies and Cadettes ranging from grades 2 through 6. They meet bimonthly on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Meetings usually begin in late September or early October. For information contact Melissa Rosado, troop co-leader at 347-739-2076. *The Current* will have more about the Girl Scouts in an upcoming issue.

## Lanternflies

Continued from page 1

widespread treatment, "due to uncertainty of the success of chemical treatments and the prohibitive cost." The department is participating in an interagency work group with federal, state and local agencies to coordinate surveying and treatment approaches." The Westchester County Parks Department has recently acquired five high-powered commercial vacuums that are used to suck up large clusters of insects.

For more information, visit the New York State Departments of Agriculture

and Environmental Conservation (<https://agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly> and <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html>).

If you don't feel you can handle the lanternfly infestation yourself, ask a professional pest control company for help. Last year *The Current* interviewed Islander Halil "Dave" Lajqi, who is the owner of A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control. He specializes in rodents, mice, ants, flying insects and bed bugs and occasionally traps and releases raccoons and skunks. But he has undoubtedly found lanternflies taking up much of his time lately. You can reach him at 718-220-1410.

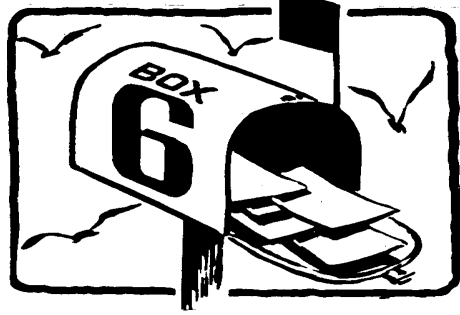
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<p><b>LANTERNFLIES INVADE CITY ISLAND AND ENVIRONS</b></p>	<p><b>ANOTHER FUN-FILLED WATER JUBILEE EVENT</b></p>	<p><b>AMERICAN LEGION PREPARES FOR ANNUAL PUMPKIN SALE</b></p>
<p>MOM, I KNOW YOU SAID OUR NEIGHBOR IS A CLEAN FREAK, BUT DID YOU SEE HER VACUUMING HER TREES?!!</p>	<p>ACTUALLY, SHE'S BATTLING THE INVASIVE LANTERNFLIES IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE WAY.</p> <p>PREDICTION: THE HALLOWEEN PARADE THIS YEAR WILL FEATURE LOTS OF LANTERNFLY COSTUMES. THEY'RE SURE SCARY ENOUGH!</p>	<p>MY MONEY IS ON THE OLD GUY BEING A LANTERNFLY HEAD CASE, I MEAN EGG CASE.</p> <p>I COULD HAVE WON THE KAYAK RACE BUT I RAN INTO MASSES OF LANTERNFLIES SO THICK ON THE WATER OFF EARLEY STREET, THEY SLOWED ME DOWN!</p>
<p>I'VE GOT AN IDEA! WHAT ABOUT AN INCENTIVIZED SALE? BUY 2 MUMS AND 1 PUMPKIN GET A FREE ROLL OF WIDE, DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE TO WRAP THEM WITH AND STOP LANTERNFLIES IN THEIR TRACKS!</p>		



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

**“Sensorship”**

To the Editor,

On May 25, I reported to the 45th Precinct that the sensor from my Honda CRV had been stolen. I had parked the car on City Island Avenue near St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and had dinner at the Sea Shore Restaurant. When I returned to my car, I saw no signs of damage. Unfortunately, however, when I started the car, all of the dashboard warning lights lit up, indicating a multitude of problems—brakes not working, lane assist fail, no oil, etc. Although everything mechanical seemed to be working when I drove home, I took the car to the Honda dealership the next day and learned that my front sensor had been stolen. The thieves simply took off a plate cover, snipped the wires and put the plate back. I was glad no body damage had been done, but the sensor was a \$2,000 replacement.

Never would I have imagined that my car would be vandalized on a clear day at 6 p.m. on City Island Avenue. Who would have thought that someone would be so bold as to steal something from the front of a car during daylight hours? I myself would probably have thought this person was working on his own car. It turns out that this was only one of many such occurrences that take place during the day. I personally know of two other Honda CRVs that were stolen at one o'clock in the afternoon.

The NYPD Crime Prevention Division is running a program throughout the city in which they are giving out a free “air tag” or “steering wheel lock” to specific car models to combat this kind of auto crime. I took advantage of this program, which may or may not help in the future, but at least I feel that I’m being proactive. So, if you still have a Club, your old steering wheel lock from the 1980s, dust it off and hook it on.

**Rose Kolb**

**CORRECTIONS**

In the story “Grace Church’s ‘Fathers’” that appeared in the July-August issue of *The Current*, the dates of Father Douglas Coleman’s service—from 1980 to 2004—were omitted. In Talebearer, Bob McKenna’s grandchildren Alexandra, Christopher and Philip Morabito were incorrectly described as his children.

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Photos by ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez (inset) participated in the Water Jubilee sailing race on Aug. 5, 2023, and expressed support for the City Island Oyster Reef's efforts to involve the community in improving water quality and increasing biodiversity in western Long Island Sound. Standing with Islander Walter Rodstrom, Ghislaine and Will Fordham (above, middle and right), descendants of the Orrin Fordham who made oystering a major industry on City Island in the 19th century, came up from Florida to celebrate the Water Jubilee sponsored by City Island Oyster Reef.

## Water Jubilee

Continued from page 1

The Nautilus Cup sailing race this year attracted a fleet of seven boats, and it was won again, for the third time, by *Panic Attack*, skippered by owners Ellen Murphy and Roy Smith, who were closely followed by *Saudedes*, *Starlight* and *Folly*. CIOR was honored to have State Senator Nathalia Fer-

nandez in the regatta, and she expressed an interest in competing next year in the kayak race!

Senator Fernandez spoke to the group that gathered later in the afternoon to enjoy refreshments and congratulate each other on a successful fundraiser. She applauded the goals of CIOR, not only environmentally but also in its efforts to engage the community, especially the youth of City Island.

Senior Field Coordinator Ahmed Abbas and Intern Connor Normoyle gave a presentation to the gathering to describe the various procedures that CIOR undertakes, including the monitoring of oyster reef stations located at four different sites around the Island and water-quality testing.

After prizes were awarded to the race and raffle winners, Luna Placchi, Educational & Community Outreach Coordinator, auctioned off paintings and other donations contributed by generous CIOR sponsors.

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Contact Cubmaster Tommy McMahon at cubscoutpack211@aol.com

## Legion Flags on the Island

By DAN HICKEY



Photo by DAN HICKEY

The flag crew for the Leonard H. Hawkins Post (l. to r): Jim McGaughan, Dan Hickey, James Goonan, Bill O'Brien, Joe Goonan, Tommy Lott, Mike Clancy and Greg Clancy.

The Stars and Stripes were flying wide and high as City Island began the summer season. The week before Memorial Day, approximately 20 volunteers put up 144 American flags along City Island Avenue and on King Avenue in front of Pelham Cemetery. Those that survived the storms remained flying through July 4.

For nearly 30 years, the Leonard H. Hawkins, Post 156 American Legion has been funding and organizing the annual tribute to service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Dozens of flags and brackets get damaged or destroyed every year, so volunteers gather in the spring to

repair and replace any tattered flags.

An assembly line process removes, replaces and reinforces all the damaged flags and poles. Then everyone takes enough clean and bright flags to cover their assigned area of the Island. The flags are removed after July 4, and then the flags are put up again for the week of Veterans Day.

Everyone coming home or visiting City Island is struck by our community's dramatic patriotic display. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to the Legion's flag fund, please contact Post Vice Commander Greg Clancy at [Greg-clancy@hotmail.com](mailto:Greg-clancy@hotmail.com).



Father Augustus Onwubiko of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (front row, fifth from left) celebrated his 50th birthday with friends and parishioners on July 7, 2023, at the Harlem Yacht Club.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Con Edison is relocating underground pipes and equipment on Minneford Avenue and Terrace Street at the request of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which will be undertaking a water and sewer main project in the fall. The Con Ed replacement of the underwater gas main from the mainland to City Island is still in the planning process, awaiting approval from the Parks Department.

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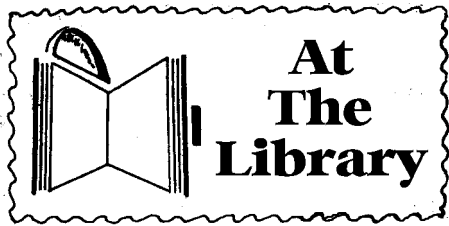
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This location offers free at-home COVID-19 tests for the general public.

### SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person at the City Island Library. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that storytime is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

**Start with Art:** Promote early literacy through art while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

**Chill Zone:** No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

**Teen Unwind:** Unplug and Relax: Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m.; Crafternoon: Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m.; Maker's Club: Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 3 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

**Introduction to Computers: Resumé and Job Search:** Subjects will include help with job searches and resumé preparation. All work will be conducted on our Library computers. Call us for details and more information. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, Sept. 11 and 25.

**Island Writers:** Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Origami for Adults:** Origami—the art of paper folding—originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for more than 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it “engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.” Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

**Movie: “Knives Out”:** A detective investigates the death of the patriarch of an eccentric, combative family. (Comedy, Crime, Drama) (2019; PG-13; 2 hours, 10 minutes); Saturday, Sept. 30, at 2 p.m.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



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## Bartow-Pell Events

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present and cultivate appreciation for the area's historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or reservations, call 718-885-1461.

On Saturday, Sept. 9, from 2 to 3 p.m., Lori Belilove and the Isadora Duncan Dance Company will present a performance in Bartow-Pell's terraced garden. Every attendee will receive an elegant picnic refreshment basket that includes a prosecco mini bottle and plastic flute, grapes, cheese and crackers, and cookies to enjoy while watching the performance. Bartow-Pell will provide picnic blankets or bring your favorite lawn chair. There will be a short Q & A session following the performance. Cost \$35 (rain date: Sunday, Sept. 10, at 2 p.m.)

“The Great Gatsby,” adapted by Amy Frey from the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, will enable audiences to have a cocktail with Nick or a dance with Daisy, and to meet the enigmatic Gatsby himself. Frey's new play examines F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic story of love, betrayal and loss through the lens of class structure and social hierarchy, and audiences are invited to immerse themselves in the Gatsby world. Most performances will move the audience throughout the mansion, including the sec-

ond floor, but the matinee performances on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 will utilize only the double parlor on the ground. Guests who prefer not to climb stairs or move about the house during performances may prefer to attend one of these special “single-room Sunday” matinees. Dates: Saturday, Sept. 23, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 24, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. Cost: Adults \$40; Seniors/Students \$30.



City Island's newest restaurant, **City Island Pizza Company (CIPC)**, held its first dinner services on August 19, 20 and 23. The restaurant is now accepting reservations for in-person dining at 273 City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Carroll Streets, while still featuring delivery and takeout. Learn more at their website: <https://www.cityislandpizza.com/>. If you dine in, you can sit in front of the old City Island Bridge sign! Call them at 718-210-1970.

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# Pat Hennessy, Guardian Angel

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of PAT HENNESSY

Board members and BCGN staff with Judge Cohen at BCGN's Open House. Pictured (l. to r.): John D'Alessandro, Esq., Gloria Benkwitt, Hon. Andrew Cohen, Donald Klocek, Pat Hennessy, Diana Eisenman and Dr. Peter Masella.

Many City Islanders remember resident Patricia Hennessy for her roles nearly two decades ago as co-president with Rose Rodstrom of the P.T.A. at P.S. 175 and as a co-founder of IDEA, which sponsored the development of a marine science and maritime history program at the school.

But Islanders have new reasons to acknowledge Pat's significant contributions to the community. As president of Bronx Community Guardianship Network, Inc. (BCGN), Pat works with local officials, the courts and other multidisciplinary agencies and organizations to meet the needs of Bronx residents who need quality guardianship services. In addition to managing the invaluable benefits that BCGN provides for its clients, Pat can also be praised for moving her organization's office to a building

on City Island that has been empty for many years, on the northwest corner of City Island Avenue and Fordham Street.

A graduate of Fordham University, Pat is a licensed social worker and paralegal and worked for 18 years for Weisman and Calderon, LLP, which specialized in elder law, estate planning, medical malpractice and personal injury. Her colleague, the late Richard Weisman, Esq., was the first attorney for BCGN, which had been founded in 2011 by county court specialist Philip Conran and medical consultant Becky Bigio. When Philip Conran retired from the presidency last year, Pat took on the demanding role in helping to provide assistance to hundreds of Bronx residents.

As Pat told *The Current*, "BCGN, the only guardianship organization with an office in the Bronx, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for each of our clients, helping incapacitated people in need of care management." Working with local courts, BCGN serves as a trustee for the disabled, the elderly and the young who cannot manage or afford their own care.

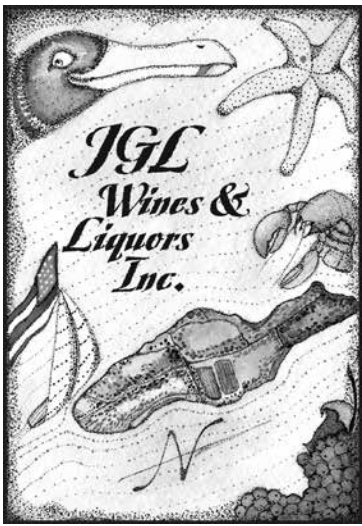
The office for BCGN was originally in Riverdale, but Pat's decision to move it to City Island was not simply because she and her husband, David, live here (along with her three grown children and their families). She finds that the cost is less, the space is attractive, the parking is easier, and her clients and their representatives or court examiners enjoy coming to the Island. Pat herself is especially pleased as well with the new office space, which she has decorated with works of art by Island artists, among others.

For more information about the incredibly valuable services that BCGN provides, visit the website at <https://www.bcg.org>. And the next time you see Pat Hennessy, be sure to complement her on the important role that she plays for the Bronx community.



Photo by KAREN NANI

The summer of 2023 began with bad air quality in June from the wildfires in Canada. But the air cleared in time for the Bronx Salutes America fireworks show on June 29 sponsored by Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and City Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez (photo above). Unfortunately, the dreaded spotted lanternfly invaded City Island in June (see cover story) spoiling some outdoor activities for many residents.



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Photos by RON TERNER

On July 29, musicians, singers and more gathered for a three-plus hour jam session at The Artist (Starving Artist) to celebrate Elliott Glick's 74th birthday (top photo). On Aug. 19, Dylan Cady made his debut piano performance for a packed house at The Artist, performing everything from Scott Joplin to Billy Joel and John Lennon. Dylan was joined by members of his family (bottom photo, l. to r.): his parents, Christa Lachman Cady and Nathan Cady; his grandparents Mary Lou and Bob Lachman of City Island; his sister, Ella Cady; and his great-aunt Gene Zantor.

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## Organization News

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

### Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) are how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

On Sundays, at 11:30 a.m. after worship, we have "More Love, Joy and Peace in God's Words" Bible Study.

On Wednesdays at Trinity, at 4:30 p.m., Youth Group for all children in 5th through 12th grades. At 6 p.m., there will be a Community Supper of soup and bread followed by a time of prayer at 6:30 p.m.

The Budget Shop will reopen on Saturday, Sept. 16. The bin is open for your donations now.

If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845-532-3378.

**Rick DeWitt**

### Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the New Year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this COVID period, our offerings are either on Zoom only, or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish History, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for September 2023:

#### Shabbat Services

Sept. 1: Friday Night Erev Shabbat Service, with Stu and Leslie (TBE and Zoom, 7:30 p.m.)

Sept. 8: Friday Night Erev Shabbat Service, with Stu and Leslie (Zoom only, 7:30 p.m.)

#### High Holiday Services

The High Holidays are days of deep prayer and reflection. Be prepared to have your senses shaken and your spirits stirred.

Sept. 15: Erev Rosh Hashanah, with Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 7 p.m.)

Sept. 16: Rosh Hashanah, Day 1, with Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 10 a.m.)

Sept. 17: Rosh Hashanah, Day 2, with Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 10 a.m.)

Sept. 22: Shabbat Shuvah – Special Friday Shabbat between the days of AWE – details to come.

Sept. 24: Kol Nidre, Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 6:30 p.m.)

Sept. 25: Yom Kippur, Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 10 a.m.). Meditation and Song, 2 p.m.; Mincha and Jonah, 5 p.m. Neilah and Rebalancing, 6 p.m.; Havdalah and break/fast, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29: Erev Sukkot, with Rabbi Levy and the band (TBE and Zoom, 7 p.m.)

**NOTE:** TBE offers High Holiday

services free of charge. Registration is requested to help event planning.

Please arrive 15 minutes before listed times. Members will be seated first.

Saturday Morning Deep Dive: Torah Study led by congregants of TBE: (Zoom, 10 a.m.)

No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We would be happy to host you.

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please e-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends & family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

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

**Rachel Stark, President;  
Shari Berkowitz, Vice President**

### City Island Nautical Museum

Visit us this month before we close for the season, and learn about City's Island's nautical history, culture and more! We are open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. and have docents on site to show you around.

A collection of stunning sailing photographs by Morris Rosenfeld is on view in our Library, and local artist Liz Alderman's BIRDS exhibit is on display in our new Contemporary Art Gallery space.

Kids and adults will enjoy the exhibits, especially our oral history video project. Come see and hear stories about our boat industry, schools and community from Skippy Lane, William Clancy, Elisa Gilbert Kroepke, Fay Jordaens, Herb Hild and more!

We will be having a yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 9, as we decommission items not mission-aligned but full of nautical and historical flair for your home. If you'd like to know more, e-mail [info@cityislandmuseum.org](mailto:info@cityislandmuseum.org) and follow us on Instagram [@cityislandnauticalmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/cityislandnauticalmuseum).

The Museum shop features beautiful nautical-themed gifts, but if you can't get to the Museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (at its new location 271 City Island Avenue, just south of the Black Whale) has some Museum gifts for sale.

The best way to visit and support the Museum is by becoming a member. For the 2023 year individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45 and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit the Museum for free and to get a 10 percent discount at the gift shop, as well as exclusive events and communications. Single day tickets are \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

**Lauren Nye**

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We will be back on Sept. 21 with our all new Coat Sale and then open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hope to see you there.

**Arlene Byrne**



Joseph Sortino wrapped in his Quilt of Valor at Post 156 in June 2023 is surrounded by some of the Quilters by the Sea who made the quilt (l. to r.): Doreen Gallagher (president, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156), Sandra Panzarella, Nancy Scotford, Joe Sortino, Harlan Sexton and Judy McCormick.

### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 10, at 12 noon, our first meeting back after the summer break. Dues (\$55) are due for the 2023–24 year. Please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox, by the Post's flagpole.

Post 156 will be the host post for the Bronx County Visitation. This serves as an opportunity to meet with fellow legionnaires of Bronx County and your Department of NY Leadership for the 2023–24 year. Please consider attending the Bronx County Visitation Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Morris Yacht Club. The social hour will be from 5 to 6 p.m.; the buffet dinner (with beer, wine and soda) followed by coffee and dessert will be from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. RSVP by Sept. 5 to Peter Del-Debbio at 914-760-2588.

The annual Pumpkin Sale will be held from Friday through Sunday, Oct. 6, 7 and 8. Details to follow.

Please visit our website for the latest information and in order to e-mail the Post directly: [Leonardhhawkinspost156.com](mailto:Leonardhhawkinspost156.com).

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 105 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**

### U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla

We hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. Now that the boating season is slowly winding down, we want to thank all the local mariners who opted for a free courtesy vessel exam to make sure their boats are up to date with the safety requirements. Boating safety is always our #1 mission. This year we successfully qualified six new vessel examiners and conducted more than 270 vessel inspections on boats, jet skis and kayaks.

Our education team continues to offer Boating Safety classes at the Harlem Yacht Club in three-day and one-day course segments. We have successfully offered eight courses this year with three more scheduled for September and October. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, all powerboat operators regardless of age will need a boating safety certificate.

Our vessels have been out on patrol in the waters around City Island, most recently to support the City Island Oyster Reef Water Jubilee kayak race. Our members continue to train and build our boat crew program to enhance our visibility on the water.

Our next Flotilla meetings will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 12, and Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our Command staff and officers will be available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests. Our next three-day boating class will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 20 and 27 from 7 to 10 p.m., and our next one-day boating course will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30. If you are interested in joining our unit or taking a boating class, send us an e-mail at [uscgaux0140504@gmail.com](mailto:uscgaux0140504@gmail.com).

**David P. Mooney**

### AARP Chapter 318

We meet at the Trinity Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. Our next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 14, at 12 noon. Our guest speakers will be New York State and Army officers, who will talk about Emergency Response. A go-bag filled with emergency items will be distributed to the first 50 people who sign up. Call Cathy Kehoe at 718-824-0037 and leave a message, or call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707. There will be bingo to follow.

Please call Cathy or Elaine to confirm attendance.

**Cathy Kehoe**

### Sons of the American Legion

Our September meeting will be a week earlier than usual to coincide with the regular season Thursday Night Football opener, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. We invite the Legion family and friends to come out for Football Sundays. It's always a good time and there are enough TVs for everybody to have a great seat. Our annual Pig Roast is coming up in October; save the date: Saturday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. \$40 per person.

We are now accepting membership payments for 2024. Dues are \$30. If you are the son or grandson of someone who has served in the armed forces and you are interested in joining, just stop by Post any day from 12 to 10 p.m. and ask for an application.

**Peter Chadwick**

### City Island Civic Association

At the June meeting, it was agreed that there would not be another meeting until September. Make a note that our next full meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 19 (not the 26th), at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Because there has been an increase in break-ins, members were advised to secure their homes, cars and businesses. Catalytic

*Continued on page 11*





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

Happy September and Welcome Back to School to all our members and City Island residents.

The Community Center is gearing up for the new season and hopes to bring our members and residents some fun fall activities and events. Please save the date of Nov. 4 for the return of the annual Fall Harvest event at the Center. This is a fun adult evening event featuring good food, music and more.

We are also very happy to announce that the Center will resume rentals for approved member events and celebrations. The board has voted on an updated rental agreement that allows for family-friendly, safe and community-appropriate events utilizing the main large room equipped with a full kitchen and restrooms. If you're interested in renting the Center for an upcoming special occasion or community event, please contact Maria Sipas at mariasipas@yahoo.com.

Our fall schedule of offerings is below:  
**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly at 914-262-4517.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**Children's Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga & Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

**Girl Scouts:** Every other Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m., with Julia; for information, call her at 917-601-5514.

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

Happy Autumn,

**Melissa Cebollero**

### Hutchinson River Restoration Project

HRRP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission of helping restore the Hutchinson River back to a healthier, more natural, biodiverse, and beautiful waterway for current and future generations. The river has long been seriously degraded by elevated levels of urban development, by faulty antiquated and leaking sewage systems, asphalt plants, heavy auto crusher facilities, metal recycling plants, fuel corporations and huge bus terminals. Storm water run-off from land alongside the river adds to the marine pollutants and garbage. All segments of the lower Hutchinson River are currently on the New York State list of impaired waterbodies and have been deemed unsafe for swimming.

HRRP is looking for enthusiastic eco-



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logical volunteers to get on the water and on the river bank for the Hutchinson River Restoration Project's annual Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary Cleanup on Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register on this link: <http://bit.ly/SanctuaryCleanup2023>. You can also register at our website [HutchinsonRiver.org](http://HutchinsonRiver.org).

We have a lot to tackle and can't wait to see all of you out there! Canoes will be provided by Pelham Bay Park Rangers on a first-come, first-served basis; a secondary cleanup location will be only on land. Please be aware that there will be designated parking and that we will share the location as soon as it becomes available. However, the easiest way to get to the site is via the BX 12 or BX29 buses or by bicycle.

For up-to-date information on future events, sign up for our listserv or send an e-mail to [hutchinsonriver@gmail.com](mailto:hutchinsonriver@gmail.com) or visit the website at [hutchinsonriver.org/contact](http://hutchinsonriver.org/contact).

**Barbara Zahm**

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 20; please be on the lookout for registration information.

All parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea parish are invited to attend an outdoor Mass on Saturday, Sept. 23. The usual 5:15 Mass at St. Mary's will instead convene in the St. Mary schoolyard (580 Minneford Avenue) behind the school building. The Mass fulfills your Sunday obligation. Our Catechists will be commissioned at this Mass. This is always a very special occasion, so mark your calendars and plan to join us. Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will officially reopen on Thursday, Sept. 21. Come and check out all the fall selections.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain. All animals are welcome!

Our monthly holy hour will resume on the First Friday, Oct. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

**Rosette Dietz**

### American Legion Auxiliary

We hope you had a wonderful summer. A new year is upon us, and we are ready to get started.

Are you ready to join one of the most amazing organizations? We would love to have you join us for the 2023-2024 year. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The September meeting will be on Wednesday, the 6th, because of the Labor Day holiday. We will be discussing the annual baby shower for Fort Drum, and there will be new information on how we will do the gifts this year.

Please e-mail all inquiries for membership or to support the American Legion family's commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to [Ala156correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:Ala156correspondence@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Service, not self.

**Michelle Del Pozzo**

### City Island Oyster Reef

The fourth annual Water Jubilee was a great success, with a tremendous turnout from the community. Thanks to more than 40 people who volunteered by donating their time and expertise to run the event. CIOR would like to extend our special gratitude to the Morris Yacht Club, the Auxiliary Coast

Guard, the Black Whale, Mark Nani of St. Marks Wine and Liquor, Jerry of JGL Wines and Liquors, Cottam Heating and Air Conditioning and City Island Pizza. Hats off to Wendy and Jim Booth, who were the only kayakers to follow the official racecourse!

Our seasonal shell collection is complete, and we recycled more than 10,000 pounds of hard clam and oyster shells that will be donated to support environmental efforts in Long Island Sound. This fall we will need help transporting the cured shell to Cornell's Cooperative Extension's Marine Center in Southold, Long Island. (Dates will be listed on our website.) In August, we took five cubic yards of shell from last year's collection efforts to Cornell. It took the combined efforts of 16 people, two trucks, and two days but we accomplished our goal.

We have been active on the CIOR skiff throughout the summer monitoring water-quality parameters, measuring oysters and identifying biodiversity. There are dates for monitoring on the water through the middle of October, so check out our website ([www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org)) to register. We have been seeing interesting examples of biodiversity, including tautogs, skillet fish, American eels, blue crabs and bristle worms.

The Viva la Sound Environmental Festival is Saturday, Sept. 30, at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175. The event is free for everyone and promises to be a great day for the entire family!

**Sally Connolly**

### PSS City Island Center

Check out all the exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer in September, located in the Grace Church parish hall at the corner of City Island Avenue and Pilot Street.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning. He is offering a series of classes on android phones and tablets at 11 a.m. and iPhones at 1 p.m. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat, etc.), please call the center at 718-885-0727.

### September Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m., BX-Caregiver Webinar on Basic Medicaid Eligibility and Homecare (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University). Call for link or visit: <https://pssusa.org/events/>

Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 11 a.m., Beyond Budgeting: Managing Cash Flow by Anthea Perkinson, CFP, EA, RMA (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University).

Friday, Sept. 22, at 12:30 p.m. Birthday Party with cake and entertainment by Mark Doyle.

Thursday, Sept. 28, at 12:30 p.m. Mini concert by Al Handfield of Shep and the Limelites.

### The Current Schedule

#### Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)

9 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11 a.m. to 12 noon Android Smartphone and Tablets

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 to 2:30 p.m. iPhone classes

#### Tuesday

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

12 noon In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1:30 p.m. Bingo (Sept. 12, 19 and 26)

#### Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)

11 a.m. Gardening Club

#### Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)

10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)

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

11 a.m. Trivia Thursdays

1 p.m. Self-Defense with Sensei Eddie

#### Friday

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

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote only)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Board Games

We will be closing early on Friday, Sept. 1, at 1 p.m.; lunch service will start at 11:30 a.m. The Center is closed on Monday, Sept. 4, to observe Labor Day.

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips with a donation, which is needed to keep this service on City Island. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot.

Stay safe and healthy. Please stop by the Center when you have a chance!

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

### Garden Club of City Island

We are lucky that the weather in August was a little cooler than in July and we had much-needed rain. However, members are still checking on our plants to make sure that they are watered when needed. This includes the new street tree in front of the Post Office, planted as part of Bill Clancy's tree project. We hope that everyone is helping to keep these new trees well watered so that they can get established. We continue to stop by the Post Office frequently to make sure that weeds are pulled and trash is removed.

In August, Garden Club members went on a docent-led tour of Untermyer Gardens Conservancy in Yonkers. It is a 43-acre public park that was once part of Samuel Untermyer's estate and features beautiful gardens that have recently been restored. We had a great time looking at the garden design, plants and views. Following the tour, we had a lovely lunch at the Harlem Yacht Club. Future tours are in the planning stage.

Members are looking forward to our fall meetings, which will feature presentations that are open to the public. Mary Colby will be presenting her "Tool Talk" in September, when she will show us her favorite gardening tools and how to take good care of them. In October Hailey Clancy will give a presentation on gardening with native plants, featuring her own garden. In November, in keeping with our efforts to support City Island's related projects, Barbara Dolensek will give us an update on the City Island Oyster Reef. The presentations will start around 10:15 and run for 20 to 45 minutes. All are welcome!

We thank all of you who donated to our Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

**Judy Judson**





**Teen Angst Movies of the 80s**

Teen angst is an area where many writer/directors, especially John Hughes (indicated with an \*), have been able to offer authentic film-making that captures the concerns of young people between 1980 and 1990, and is still quite relevant today. **My Bodyguard** (1980) stars Chris Makepeace as Clifford, the new kid in town, and describes how this imaginative newcomer deals with the gang of bullies who extort "protection" money from the students at the local high school. The leader of the gang is Moody (Matt Dillon), and Clifford thwarts Moody's leadership by hiring his own "bodyguard," Linderman (Adam Baldwin). This is a very poignant drama, with comic relief offered by an excellent supporting cast that includes Martin Mull as Clifford's hotel manager dad, Ruth Gordon as Clifford's high spirited, sex-crazed grandmother, and John Houseman as the hotel owner. A very young Joan Cusack is on hand as one of Clifford's friends in this fine family film.

**Fame** (1980) depicts the struggle of young men and women who audition for coveted spots at the New York High School of Performing Arts. Those who make the cut discover that it takes a lot of hard work to become a star, and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. The youngsters grapple with heavy issues such as homosexuality, abortion, attempted suicide and illiteracy. On top of their unique struggles, the students must deal with the mundane pressures of adolescence like homework, heartbreak and rejection. The auditions in the beginning are hilarious, especially watching the teachers control their faces.

Robert Redford's outstanding directorial debut, **Ordinary People** (1980), is the story of alienated teenager Conrad Jarrett (Timothy Hutton), who is tormented by guilt following the death of his older brother, Buck, in a sailing accident. The movie begins when he returns home from an extended stay in a psychiatric hospital after a failed suicide attempt. Conrad tries to deal with his mental anguish and also reconnect with his mother, Beth (Mary Tyler Moore), who has grown cold and angry, and his emotionally wounded father, Calvin (Donald Sutherland), with the help of Conrad's psychiatrist, Dr. Berger (Judd Hirsch). Elizabeth McGovern is featured as Conrad's awkward love interest Jeannine and Dinah Manoff as Karen, a friend from the hospital. The film garnered four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor (Timothy Hutton), Best Adapted Screenplay.

**WarGames** (1983) stars a young Matthew Broderick as David Lightman, a computer genius and high school underachiever, who tries to impress his classmate Jennifer Mack (Ally Sheedy) by hacking into their high school's computer from his home to change a bad grade. Thinking he has accessed a computer game company, he winds up playing "Global Thermonuclear War." However, he soon finds that he has tapped into the real thing, which makes for a hair-raising, suspenseful film. The supporting cast includes Dabney Coleman as NORAD Systems Engineer John McKittrick and John Wood as Professor Falken, designer of the military supercomputer.

**Valley Girl** (1983) features a young Nicolas Cage as Randy, a punk rocker from Hollywood who has captured the attention of Julie (Deborah Foreman), a genuine "valley girl." Her horrified friends taunt her until she goes back to her old boyfriend, Tommy (Michael Bowen), the stereotypical mindless jock. The choice she ultimately makes, plus the talent of the actors, make for an interesting and satisfying film about the person "from the wrong side of the tracks."

Worrying about the future is the theme of an excellent comedy, **Risky Business** (1983), which put Tom Cruise on the map as Joel, a high school senior trying to get into Princeton. When his parents are away, he is goaded by his friends (Bronson Pinchot and Curtis Arm-

strong) into trying the services of a prostitute, Lana (Rebecca DeMornay). When a series of catastrophes seriously threaten Joel's future, he and Lana cook up a scheme wherein they can "introduce" their friends to each other and make a considerable sum of money. The soundtrack by Queen is an excellent background for this interesting story.

**\*Sixteen Candles** (1984) stars Molly Ringwald as angst-ridden Samantha, whose household is obsessed with her sister's upcoming wedding. Samantha faces her 16th birthday with typical adolescent dread. She pines for handsome older boy Jake (Michael Schoeffling), but she worries that her chastity will be a turnoff for the popular senior. Meanwhile, Samantha must constantly rebuff the affections of nerdy Ted (Anthony Michael Hall), who is, unfortunately, the only boy in the school who seems to take an interest in her.

**The Karate Kid** (1984) stars Ralph Macchio as Daniel, who moves to Southern California with his mother, Lucille (Ranee Heller), but quickly finds himself the target of a group of bullies who study karate at the Cobra Kai dojo. One of the bullies is Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka), the ex-boyfriend of Daniel's love interest Ali Mills (Elisabeth Shue). Fortunately, Daniel befriends Mr. Miyagi (Noriyuki "Pat" Morita), an unassuming repairman who just happens to be a martial arts master himself. Miyagi takes Daniel under his wing, training him in a more compassionate form of karate and preparing him to compete against the brutal Cobra Kai.

Suburban high school stereotypes are demythicized in a teen favorite, **\*The Breakfast Club** (1985). The setting is Saturday detention and its motley crew of attendees. There is Andrew the jock (Emilio Estevez), Brian the nerd (Anthony Michael Hall), John the rebel (Judd Nelson), Claire the popular girl (Molly Ringwald) and Allison the loner (Ally Sheedy). How these students ultimately break down the walls and get to the heart of each other is poignant and enlightening.

The clergy are the oppressors in **Heaven Help Us** (1985), a comedy about life at St. Basil's Catholic School in 1965 Brooklyn. The film stars Andrew McCarthy as Michael, a newcomer to the school. He is befriended by Rooney (Kevin Dillon), the school tough guy, and Caesar (Malcolm Dance), the smart guy. A lovely young Mary Stuart Masterson plays Danni, who runs the local candy store. The evil priest is Brother Thadeus (Donald Sutherland), and the cool one is Brother Timothy (John Heard). Wally Shawn has a hilarious role as a priest who lectures the students on "lust," right before a dance with the local Catholic girls' high school. This is a funny and sometimes poignant reminiscence of Catholic school life.

The best of the **Back to the Future** series is the original (1985), which stars Michael J. Fox as Marty, a 1980s small-town teenager who is a friend of Doc (Christopher Lloyd), an eccentric scientist. Marty tries out Doc's time-travel car and winds up back in 1955, where he meets his parents (Lea Thompson and Crispin Glover), who were teenagers themselves. As Marty struggles to return to the future, he must be careful not to change the past, as his very existence could be put in jeopardy.

**\*Pretty in Pink** (1986) stars Molly Ringwald as Andie, an outcast at her Chicago high school who hangs out either with her older boss (Annie Potts), who owns the record store where she works, or her quirky classmate Duckie (Jon Cryer), who has a crush on her. When one of the rich and popular kids at school, Blane (Andrew McCarthy), asks Andie out, it seems too good to be true. As Andie starts falling for Blane, she begins to realize that dating someone from a different social sphere is not easy.

**Lucas** (1986) stars Corey Haim in the title role as an unusually bright teenager whose nerdy looks and meek demeanor make him a favorite target for bullies. His life at school seems to improve when he befriends Maggie (Kerri Green), a cute new girl whose love interest, Cappie (Charlie Sheen), protects him from harassment. However, despite his friend Rina's (Winona Ryder) clear affection for him, Lucas falls for Maggie, and in a final effort to impress her, he joins the high school football team.

**\*Ferris Bueller's Day Off** (1986) stars Matthew Broderick in the title role as a teenager who has an uncanny skill at cutting classes and getting away with it. Intending to make one last duck-out before graduation, Ferris calls in sick, "borrows" a Ferrari, and embarks on a one-day journey through the streets of Chicago. On Ferris's trail is high school principal Rooney (Jeffrey Jones), who is determined to catch him in the act.

In **\*Some Kind of Wonderful** (1987) Keith Nelson (Eric Stoltz), an artsy high school outcast, tries to land a date with popular girl Amanda Jones (Lea Thompson) with some help from his best friend, tomboy Watts (Mary Stuart Masterson). However, his advances draw the ire of Amanda's snobby ex-boyfriend, Hardy Jenks (Craig Sheffer), who makes plans to get even. Matters are further complicated when Watts realizes she likes Keith as more than just a friend and tries to convince him to stop pursuing Amanda.

Edward James Olmos delivers an outstanding performance as math teacher Jaime Escalante in **Stand and Deliver** (1988). Trying to teach calculus to Latino students at an East Los Angeles high school requires considerable ingenuity, and Mr. Escalante certainly has that. He dares his students to do well, assuring them that if they're not willing to try, they should "go to wood shop, make yourself a shoeshine box, you're gonna need it." Lou Diamond Phillips is excellent as the most difficult student, who is won over when the teacher sneaks him an extra set of textbooks to keep at home so he won't have to be seen carrying them in school.

In **Dead Poets Society** (1989) Robin Williams stars as John Keating, an outstanding prep school teacher who uses unorthodox methods to reach out to his students, who face enormous pressures from their parents. Outstanding performances are also given by Robert Sean Leonard as Neil Perry, a sensitive and intelligent young man who is cursed with a completely overbearing and controlling father (Kurtwood Smith); and Ethan Hawke as Todd Anderson, his shy, new-to-the-school roommate, who flowers under Keating's tutelage.

This is one of William's very best and most memorable dramatic performance, in a serious, thoughtful film about the stresses and confines of formal education.

**Say Anything** (1989) is a very sweet sleeper of a movie that became a cult classic, wherein the gorgeous class valedictorian, Diane (Ione Skye), is asked out by a rather odd, kick-boxing aficionado, Lloyd (John Cusack). Lloyd lives with his unmarried single-parent sister, Constance (real-life sister, Joan Cusack). Diane's parents are divorced, and she has chosen to live with her dad (John Mahoney), with whom she has a most special relationship in that she can "say anything" to him. Aside from the very sweet romance and lovely parent-child relationship, this film is to be congratulated in promulgating the notion of the "key master," a person at a party who doesn't drink. He or she holds the car keys of everyone else there to prevent people who are too drunk to drive home from having access to their cars.

**Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure** is a 1989 American science fiction comedy, in which Bill (Alex Winter) and Ted (Keanu Reeves) are high school buddies starting a band. However, they are about to fail their history class, which means Ted will be sent to military school. Rufus (George Carlin), a time traveler from a future where their band is the foundation for a perfect society, comes to save them. With the use of Rufus's time machine, Bill and Ted travel to various points in history, returning with important figures to help them complete their final history presentation. The leads are just goofy enough to make this silly time-travel adventure work.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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## Org News

*Continued from page 8*

converters have been stolen from some Island cars; everyone was advised to keep their vehicles in the driveway if possible. NYPD has a program in which converters can be etched for the purpose of identification if stolen.

Cathy Cebek made a proposal that a clock be installed on City Island Avenue, which was accepted; she will look into a GoFundMe page for the purpose.

It was voted that the Civic would donate \$300 toward the cost of City Island Rocks (music in Hawkins Park on Sundays from July 9 through Sept. 30).

The eviction of Consolidated Yacht Yard from its location at Pilot Street by U.S. Crane has prompted concern about the non-nautical industry on the site that has brought on many complaints from residents and the Department of Buildings. Barbara Dolensek read a proposed letter from the Civic to the Department of City Planning and elected officials about these issues and asking for support and a possible town hall meeting. It was voted to send the letter.

Tom Smith called for a nominating committee to be formed for upcoming board positions: John Sheridan, Cathy Cebek, Helen Anderson, George Spence and Gloria Kenny were selected.

Stu Sorell reminded members to provide donations of nonperishable items to the food pantry at Trinity Methodist Church.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to Civic meetings, and you can e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance. If you wish to register a complaint about anything from a broken streetlight or graffiti to potholes, call 311 and get a reference number. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com).

Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Captain Johnny A. Orellana is commander of the 45th Police Precinct; City Island's Neighborhood Community Officer (NCO) is Officer Rugovac at 917-434-8847. Our community affairs officers are Hannah Rivera ([hannah.rivera@nypd.org](mailto:hannah.rivera@nypd.org)) and Wilfredo Sanchez ([wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org](mailto:wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org)). City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; 718-892-1161.

The Civic is still collecting dues for 2023 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464, or via PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the "friends and family" option so that a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

### Quilters by the Sea QOV

QOV had a full summer. In June, we held a Sew Saturday to make two quilts for local veterans, and we awarded Quilts of Valor to City Island Legionnaires Steve McKeever, Joe Sortino and Bob Mennona. We continued to award Quilts of Valor to off-Island veterans, made by upstate members of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Our group was invited to display a Quilt of Valor onboard Intrepid at the ship's 80th Commissioning Ceremony.

Our next Sew Saturday will be in early October, and we expect to award more

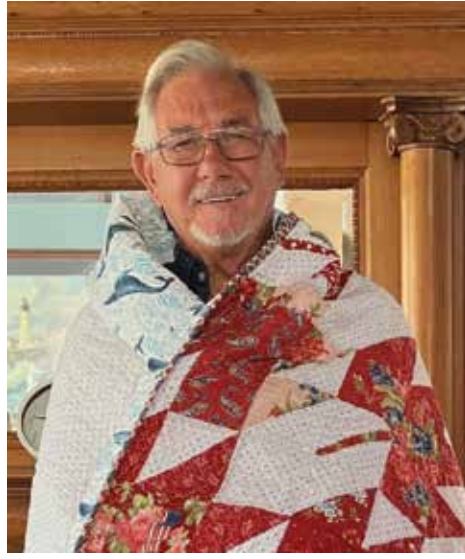


Photo by THE MENNONA FAMILY  
Steven McKeever wrapped in his Quilt of Valor at home in June 2023.

Quilts of Valor before the end of the year. Many thanks to all whose donations of time and money make our mission achievable!

Cathy Kehoe

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street.

Our priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services since last August and is very active in the Island community. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

The City Island Arts and Crafts Fair will take place on Sept. 9 and 10 starting at 11 a.m. Grace Church will have a booth and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 9, near the Lickety Split ice cream shop. Please stop by and enjoy cupcakes, cookies, banana and pumpkin breads, pies, brownies and more, baked by our parishioners and friends of Grace.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month. Several of our teenagers will attend a retreat on Sept. 9 in preparation for confirmation in October 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or email her at [karenrnl@optonline.net](mailto:karenrnl@optonline.net).

Save the Date: Everyone in the community is invited to mark Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. on their calendars for Grace Church's Halloween Party Fundraiser. There will be a live band and lots of fun. Suggested donation \$20.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service around 11 a.m. usually held on the second Sunday of the month. The next Bible reading is scheduled for Sept. 9, when we will read the Book of Tobit.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

Karen Nani

## Here Comes Something New: How to Prepare for the Next Chapter in Your Life

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

It's September, and change is in the air. Kids go back to school, teachers get back to work and families adjust to a change in routines. It might also be a bigger change for you: a marriage, a new job, a move to a new location or retirement. How do we prepare ourselves for these life events?

After 35 years of counseling with children and parents, I have a five-point process for checking in, examining the physical, cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual areas of one's life as a way of assessing the work we might do together. Here is a set of guidelines for heading into that next chapter of life based upon these five points:

- **Start taking really good care of your body now:** Sleep, diet and exercise—the "holy trinity" of physical wellness for me—all contribute to physical well-being. And, as we already know, the body/mind/spirit connection is real and inevitable. With children, start the "school day schedule" before school starts and re-vamp family activities to accommodate the sleeping/eating/routines of the school day.

- **Prepare your mind for what's to come:** If you are going back to school or

work, finish that summer reading, read some new books do some writing and math every day. Maybe keep a journal for writing or do some cooking and double the recipe for math practice. If you are making a life transition, talk through the upcoming changes with a spouse, a friend or a professional. If we can change the way we think about uncertainty—and welcome what may be coming—we will be ahead of the game. As Pasteur famously said, "Chance favors the prepared mind."

- **Your feelings are valuable and real but not the truth:** Pay attention to your emotions and welcome them all. Re-read Rumi's poem "The Guest House" as you wander through your inner world. Always remember that "this too shall pass" as each feeling washes over you.

- **We are social beings who benefit greatly from friendship and shared experiences:** There is a myth of the "rugged individual" in our culture, when in fact we have always relied on the comfort, support and love of others. Let your friends know your hopes and fears about what's coming. Ask them to be listeners, witnesses and allies. It is your journey, but there are always fellow travelers.

- **There is a spiritual dimension to everything we do and say:** Pray. Use the Serenity Prayer. Wonder. Experience awe of the natural world. Know that you will always be in the presence of a power greater than yourself.

Life is change. Uncertainty is inevitable. Doing our best with the tools we have can help move things in the right direction. Let's go!

*If you are a man facing retirement and would like some guidance about that process, give me a call at 610-864-9505 for a free 30-minute consultation.*

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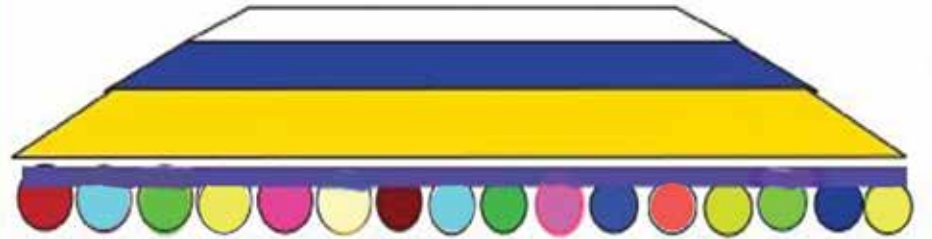
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## City Island Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat. & Sun. September 9th & 10th

Clam chowder contest Sunday Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. in Hawkins Park  
Sponsored by Councilperson Marjorie Velazquez



11am to 7pm

Live Music Gifts Great Food Face Painting



Candle Makers Folk Art

Wood Working Antiques

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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.

## Gene Marie Jones

Gene Marie Jones, who grew up on City Island, passed away in Oceanside, CA, on July 23, 2023, at the age of 103.

She was born on May 9, 1920, in Philadelphia, the only child of George and Emma Graves, who moved to Manhattan when she was 5 years old; the family moved to City Island in 1933. Her father was an iron worker and helped build the George Washington Bridge; he also helped repair other New York bridges as well as the damage caused when a plane struck the Empire State Building.

Gene Marie married City Island resident George Frederick Jones in 1943, and they had two children, George Jr. and Gene Marie, called Genie. They lived in the same house on City Island with her parents until 1966, when her husband's work for the government retrofitting battleships transferred him to San Mateo, CA, after the Brooklyn Navy Yard closed. After he retired, Gene Marie and George moved to Vista, CA, and when he passed away, she moved to Oceanside. Gene Marie herself worked as a supervisor for the New York Telephone Company.

Gene Marie's son, George Jr., was an iron worker like his grandfather; in 1968 he fell 13 stories from a building that his company was erecting and was killed. Her daughter, Gene Marie, married John Caputo in 1964 and passed away in 2022.

Gene Marie Jones was predeceased by her husband and her two children; she is survived by her son-in-law John, his children Kim, Jeff, Todd, Cori (and Warren), Debbie, Ali (and James), and eight great-grandchildren.



## Carmelia A. Ramftl

Carmelia A. Ramftl, a longtime City Island resident, passed away on July 2, 2023, at the age of 97.

She was born Carmelia Molinari on July 18, 1926, in the Fordham section of the Bronx, the second of four children. She attended Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School and St. Simon Stock High School, and spent many happy summers as a child in Oneonta, NY, with her extended family.

Carmelia married Francis "Frank" Ramftl in August 1948, and they had three children. She held many secretarial positions over the years, including at McGraw Hill Publishing Company, and she retired as administrative assistant to the corporate counsel of Joseph E. Seagram's & Sons.

In July of 1976, she moved to City Island, where she quickly made many friends. After retiring, she became involved in various local organizations. She served as first vice president of AARP Chapter 318, chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, member of the Garden Club of City Island and member of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where she volunteered at the church's thrift shop. Carmelia was an avid reader and spent many hours at the City Island Library; she also enjoyed crocheting and donating crocheted afghans to Calvary Hospital.

Carmelia was predeceased by her husband, Frank; her sister, Veronica Mennona, and brothers Peter and Joseph Molinari, as well as her son Frederick Ramftl Sr. Carmelia is survived by her two daughters, Angela and her husband, Angelo Alecea, of New Rochelle, and Diane Ramftl of Atlantic City, NJ; her daughter-in-law, Joan Ramftl; grandsons, Fred Jr. and Frank; and four great-

grandchildren: Gianna, Georgina, Frankie Jr. and Ricky, several nieces and nephews and cousins. She is also survived by her longtime guardian, friend and angel Indra Peters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.



## James S. Breen

James S. Breen (better known to many as Jim), a resident of City Island since 1976, passed away on July 27, 2023, at the age of 71.

He was born in Queens on April 17, 1952, to James and Emily Breen. In his early years he lived in Astoria, and when he was four years old, his family relocated to Douglaston. He had one sister, Frances (Missy), who passed away at the age of 19 in 1974.

James had a special gift for understanding how mechanical systems work. At the age of 12 he installed a dishwasher in his parents' kitchen, and as a teen he became adept at fixing and modifying cars. In the early 1970s he helped his closest friend, Nick, get his auto repair business up and running. James's hobbies back then also included flying recreational aircraft and riding motorcycles. Upon graduation from high school, he became a union sheet metal worker. Shortly thereafter he helped install portions of the HVAC systems in the original World Trade Center.

In 1976 he met clam digger Irene Thorsen and eventually moved into her family home on Tier Street. They enjoyed road tripping throughout the USA and soon married. In 1978 Irene gave birth to James, the first of their four children. In 1983 they bought their own home on City Island and raised all of their children there.

During this time, James and a friend had started their own general contracting company, and they worked throughout the city on residential and light commercial extensions and renovations. He had an uncanny ability to design and install electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems and solved the problems he encountered with creativity. He also used his exceptional skills to build a beautiful log cabin-style pool and deck for his family, improve their home, install playground equipment and make their slice of City Island a happy place to live.

James eventually formed his own contracting company and worked mostly in Manhattan. When his two sons, James and Tommy, bought buildings in need of renovation, he generously donated his time working side by side with them helping and advising. James also readily assisted them in their documentation of the City Island Bridge replacement. He was most happy being at home with his family and working with his sons.

James is survived by Irene, his wife of 45 years, his sons James and Tommy, his daughters Karin and Susan, and Karin's two sons, his grandchildren.

## Teresa Teto

Longtime Islander and teacher Teresa Teto (known as Terry) passed away on Aug. 4, 2023. She was 93.

Teresa Greco was born in Italy as a United States citizen on foreign soil. She was raised in the Bronx but spoke no English until the first grade. She attended St. Barnabas High School and Berkeley College. She then worked as an executive secretary at Lever Brothers Company headquarters in Manhattan.

She married Armando Teto in 1951 and had three children. With much help and support from her family, she returned to complete her B.A. degree from Hunter College and earned a teaching license from New York State at the age of 40. She then earned two Masters of Arts degrees from Manhattan College.



Theresa Teto

Terry eventually became a teacher at P.S. 175 under the leadership of principal Ena Ellwanger. She became lifelong friends with Mrs. Ellwanger and teacher Adele DiChiara. She accompanied the middle-school students on their annual Greenkill trip for many years. She grew to love City Island and eventually made it her permanent home in 1993. She became a valued contributor to *The Island Current* and reviewed several City Island Theater Group productions.

Terry retired after 27 years of teaching in New York City, but she continued her passion for education by becoming a docent at the Bronx Zoo. She also taught in the Christian education program at St. Mary, Star of the Sea.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, friend and colleague. Nothing brought her more joy than spending time with her family. She was also an avid traveler, having seen most of the world, including many trips to Italy where she was born.

Terry was preceded in death by her husband, Armando, daughter Elaine and daughter-in-law Adriana. She is survived by her two sons, Christopher and Gerard; daughter-in-law, Michele; grandchildren Elaine, Armando, Nicholas and Jake; and great-grandchildren Christopher, Adriana, Grace and Andrew.

A funeral service was held for Teresa Teto at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Aug. 8. She will be missed deeply by all who knew her.



## Sister Bernadette Hannaway

Sister Bernadette Hannaway, OSU (aka Catherine Bernadette) died peacefully on Aug. 12, 2023, at Andrus on Hudson, Hastings on Hudson, NY.

She was born in New York in 1935, the daughter of Mary Callaghan and John Hannaway. She received her early education in the Bronx and then graduated from the College of New Rochelle, Catholic University, Manhattan College.

Sister Bernadette was a dedicated educator for her entire life, serving on the faculty of Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, St. Angela's Ursuline School, and St. Joseph's in Malone. She served as District Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Rockville Center, Administrator of the Mount Saint Ursula Speech Center and Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on City Island.

She served on several boards, including the Academy of Mount Saint Ursula, Mount Saint Ursula Speech Center, Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE, and the College of New Rochelle. Within the Ursuline community, Bernadette was a member of the

*Continued on page 13*



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

SEPTEMBER 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
01	Fri	0043	8.69	0720	-0.83	1309	8.72	1945	-0.85	Fri 01
02	Sat	0134	8.52	0806	-0.73	1357	8.70	2037	-0.79	Sat 02
03	Sun	0226	8.19	0853	-0.44	1447	8.51	2131	-0.53	Sun 03
04	Mon	0321	7.75	0942	-0.01	1541	8.20	2230	-0.14	Mon 04
05	Tue	0422	7.28	1037	0.50	1643	7.83	2333	0.29	Tue 05
06	Wed	0530	6.90	1141	0.98	1753	7.54			Wed 06
07	Thu	0038	0.64	0638	6.71	1249	1.33	1903	7.40	Thu 07
08	Fri	0142	0.84	0742	6.72	1355	1.47	2007	7.42	Fri 08
09	Sat	0241	0.89	0841	6.90	1455	1.43	2104	7.55	Sat 09
10	Sun	0334	0.85	0933	7.16	1547	1.28	2155	7.72	Sun 10
11	Mon	0422	0.77	1021	7.43	1634	1.09	2241	7.84	Mon 11
12	Tue	0504	0.69	1103	7.63	1716	0.90	2322	7.89	Tue 12
13	Wed	0541	0.64	1141	7.75	1752	0.74	2357	7.85	Wed 13
14	Thu	0612	0.64	1212	7.79	1820	0.61			Thu 14
15	Fri	0024	7.75	0632	0.64	1230	7.80	1840	0.50	Fri 15
16	Sat	0038	7.64	0642	0.59	1241	7.87	1859	0.38	Sat 16
17	Sun	0056	7.59	0704	0.52	1305	7.99	1928	0.30	Sun 17
18	Mon	0126	7.53	0736	0.51	1338	8.10	2004	0.31	Mon 18
19	Tue	0203	7.42	0813	0.60	1416	8.13	2046	0.44	Tue 19
20	Wed	0246	7.24	0856	0.80	1501	8.07	2132	0.66	Wed 20
21	Thu	0334	7.02	0944	1.07	1551	7.90	2226	0.94	Thu 21
22	Fri	0428	6.79	1038	1.36	1647	7.69	2328	1.18	Fri 22
23	Sat	0532	6.64	1141	1.58	1752	7.51			Sat 23
24	Sun	0051	1.25	0648	6.68	1259	1.58	1908	7.48	Sun 24
25	Mon	0234	0.97	0819	7.03	1443	1.20	2037	7.68	Mon 25
26	Tue	0341	0.48	0932	7.57	1559	0.54	2153	8.02	Tue 26
27	Wed	0436	-0.03	1027	8.12	1657	-0.14	2251	8.32	Wed 27
28	Thu	0525	-0.43	1116	8.56	1750	-0.70	2342	8.48	Thu 28
29	Fri	0611	-0.67	1202	8.83	1840	-1.03			Fri 29
30	Sat	0031	8.45	0656	-0.71	1247	8.91	1929	-1.10	Sat 30
OCTOBER 2023										
01	Sun	0118	8.25	0740	-0.54	1332	8.79	2017	-0.93	Sun 01
02	Mon	0207	7.92	0823	-0.19	1418	8.50	2108	-0.54	Mon 02
03	Tue	0257	7.51	0908	0.29	1507	8.10	2202	-0.03	Tue 03
04	Wed	0354	7.10	0958	0.82	1604	7.67	2302	0.50	Wed 04
05	Thu	0459	6.79	1101	1.33	1716	7.30			Thu 05

# SIGHTS & SOUNDS

By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

## Turning the Corner on Spotted Lanternflies???

The spotted lanternflies that many of us began to see last spring and summer were back this summer with a vengeance. Part of the problem was the way the females hid their eggs last fall before they died. Actually, they didn't have to try hard to hide them because of the way their egg masses blend in with their surroundings.



Look for these nondescript, mudlike smudges in and around your yards this fall. Every eradicated egg is one less adult spotted lanternfly next summer to contend with. As for this summer's mature adults, some City Islanders have gotten quite creative in their efforts to stem the spotted lanternfly tide. Here is a homemade trap that we have seen for ourselves:



one swat with a fly swatter or an open shoe is likely to kill two or three, or maybe more, at a time. Slowing them down also gives homeowners a chance to catch their breath on those warm sunny days when the air is still, which is when the lanternflies seem to be at their most active. In addition to traps, we also understand that City Islanders are introducing live praying mantises into their yards in the hope that they will develop into the kind of aggressive natural predator that is going to be necessary to deal with this problem for the long term.

As the story goes, these insects were unknowingly shipped from parts of China to Pennsylvania, and for this reason began their lives here without enemies. Over time, however, that may be changing. There have been reports out of Pennsylvania that birds have learned to hunt lanternflies and that the problem is improving. On a recent bird walk in Pelham Bay Park, we learned that the same may be getting ready to happen here; an acquaintance told us that he has observed certain flycatchers and cuckoos feeding on spotted lanternflies.

Don't be fooled by this insect's good looks. They are especially harmful to local trees and other plants. As adults they have the ability to bore into tree trunks and literally suck the lives out of them. At the very least, be vigilant when it comes to finding and eradicating egg masses this fall. In addition to vegetation, look for them on rocks, shovels, patio furniture, your home's siding . . . any and everywhere! The problem must be tackled from multiple fronts, and every little bit helps.

Another City Island family strategically wrapped their tree in tape with the sticky side out. It doesn't kill them, they say, but it slows them down.

When they are slowed down in this way,

## Obituaries

*Continued from page 12*

board of directors of the Marian Residence, Assistant Provincial and Director of Planning and Education for the Ursuline Province and Provincial Secretary. She held various positions within the Archdiocese of New York.

Sister Bernadette coordinated the CCD program for St. Mary, Star of the Sea, oversaw the altar servers and lectors and wrote St.

Mary's organization news for *The Island Current*. She was a beloved member of St. Mary's parish family and the City Island community.

Sister Bernadette was predeceased by her parents, her sisters, Sr. Therese, SC, and Margaret Wade. She is survived by her brother, John, and his wife, her sister, Anne Walker, and several nieces and nephews.

Gifts in her memory may be sent to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund at 1338 North Ave, New Rochelle, NY.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Japanese aster "Asteromea White Russian." Blooms late June through October.

## Editing the Garden

Throughout the gardening year I have noticed how many times I have added and subtracted plants in the gardens I've been working on, which really amounts to reshuffling the deck.

I imagine that it is very much like editing a column or a book. The editor's art is partly the task of paring a sentence down to its finest elements—adding, removing and cleaning it up just like in the garden.

Each season it is good to assess and decide which plants must be tweaked. Plants that have finished blooming can be cut back to reveal more space, and plants that have not performed well can just be tossed. Light pruning of some taller varieties can help their shape, and staking plants that tend to flop over helps with the overall effect.

Also, I really feel that a garden needs annuals inserted periodically. This adds excitement and color. Cosmos need poor soil to flower, and zinnias should be directly sown in the ground, for if you transplant them they will return to singles instead of doubles.

A garden is ever changing. A minimal garden composed of boxwood and grasses is static, but it can be visually satisfying as well as easy to maintain. No editing required.

But if your garden is filled with herbaceous plants, then you have many tasks at hand.

We all want larger gardens but really, is this a blessing or a curse? I often hear the cry

"I wish I had room for more plants." Sometimes a large tree or plant has died, and we bemoan its fate, but actually it offers an opportunity to refresh the area with something new. This is nature's way of editing. It is difficult to keep after the ever-changing seasons, but with a bit of hard work and artfulness the garden can stay good looking and interesting throughout the year.

In my early spring garden I planted white lily tulips, white orlaya (a lacy thing, a filler) and bluebells. When this was finished, I scrapped everything, revealing the phlox and rudbeckia that were underplanted among them. For September and October, the Japanese anemone and asters will take center stage, and the grass pennisetum hameln pulls it all together. Rounding out the cycle, I will be thinking about which bulbs to plant again for the return of spring.

If you don't have asters in your garden, then this is the time to plant them. They bloom from the end of August through October, giving the garden a sensational look. Not the pompom types from Home Depot but the airy, graceful asters that will naturalize and reseed. Aster violet queen, aster blue bird, aster lateriflorus horizontalis (forgive the high-falutin' Latin) and the tall purple, red beauty "andenken an alma potschke." These mix well with tall grasses like calamagrostis Karl Foerster.

The weather is changing, and this is the best time to plant shrubs. Your local nursery is loaded with beautiful things. If you have grasses, let your gardener know not to cut them until March. Their beauty is for winter as well as autumn. Also, leaving them as-is protects them from winter die-back.

So back to the edit. Should I leave the thistles for winter interest? YES!

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



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# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the Culinary Club! Wow, the summer flew by quickly! Here we are in our eighth season ready to get back into the kitchen to start cooking. This year we have some great themes coming up. For September we will explore tailgate food just in time for football season. In October we will make recipes in a bunt pan; imagine a baked ziti in a bunt pan or a meat loaf in a bunt. Fun, right? We are looking forward to an exciting new season of cooking.

We encourage anyone who has interest to please drop in and join us Monday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Happy cooking to all! Here is the recipe for a tailgate dip:

## Easy Buffalo Chicken Dip

### Ingredients

- 1 8-oz. package of cream cheese, softened
- 4 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)
- 4 oz. pepper jack cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup refrigerated bottled ranch dressing (such as Marie's)

- 1/2 cup hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot)
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 4 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup scallions, thinly sliced
- Cooking spray
- 3 oz. blue cheese, crumbled
- About 3/4 cup of carrot sticks, celery sticks and pretzel chips, for serving

### Directions

Step 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Stir together cream cheese, cheddar cheese, pepper jack cheese, ranch dressing, hot sauce, pepper and garlic powder in a large bowl until well blended. Gently fold in the chicken and half of the scallions. Transfer to 13 x 9-inch baking dish lightly greased with cooking spray. Smooth the top, and sprinkle evenly with blue cheese.

Step 2. Bake until the center is hot and the edges are bubbly, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the dish from the oven and top with remaining scallions. Serve with carrots, celery and pretzel chips.



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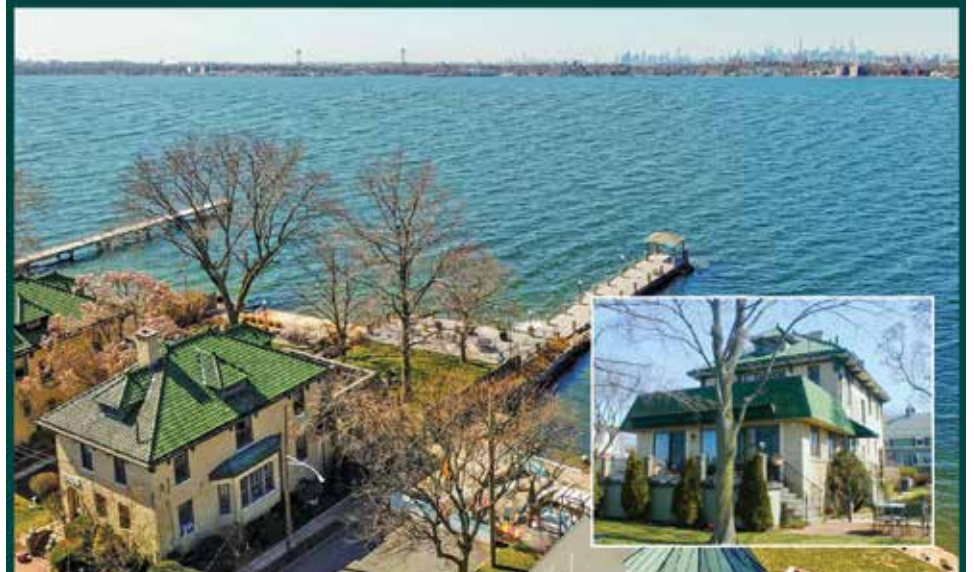
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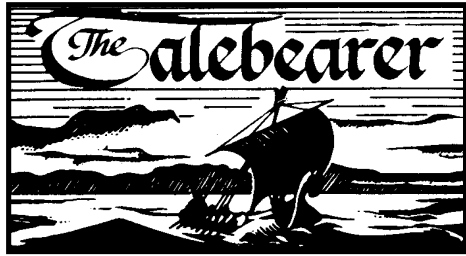
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Melissa Dzenis Garcia graduated from Fordham School of Law in June 2023.

Belated congratulations to Violet Smith, who was honored for her volunteerism at the 45th Precinct Council Breakfast on May 18. Family and friends cheered this long-time Islander on as she accepted her award at SUNY Maritime (see page 3).

Happy belated birthday wishes to Carolyn (Foley) Peters, who celebrated her ??? birthday on June 21 in Huntsville, AL. "We were all clam diggers and have many happy memories of City Island life. These ladies are very special to me."

Kudos to Andrew Dzenis, the youngest son of Dr. Peter and Estrellita Dzenis of Minneford Avenue. Andrew was honored as the Most Promising Commercial Salesperson of the Year by REBNY (Real Estate Board of New York). Andrew is currently a managing director at Savills Real Estate in New York City. His exceptional work ethic and unwavering commitment to his firm have made this recognition well deserved. The vice chair at the firm notes that Andrew excels particularly in assisting clients in the not-for-profit sector and also works as a volunteer at the Billion Oyster Project.

Happy birthday wishes to Bay Street's Ray DelPozzo, who will celebrate his big day on Sept. 3. All of our love, Tabitha, Michelle and Winston.

David and Harlan Sexton of Fordham Street are happy beyond words to announce the wedding of their daughter Emily to Christian Torres on May 25. The newlyweds live in Yonkers.

Happy birthday on Sept. 13 to Mike Rauh, who is—yes—training for his 44th



Mitchell Santiago was married to Vanessa Arredondo on Aug. 17, 2023, in Las Vegas.



Happy birthday to Bella Mejia, who turns 12 on Sept. 9.

consecutive New York City Marathon.

Frank and Cathy Cebek are pleased to announce that their son, Alexander Cebek, was married to Alison Wiedmann, daughter of Dottie Dearden, on June 21 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. A reception on June 23 was held at the Fox Hollow, where friends and family danced the night away celebrating Alex and Ali.

Happy second birthday to our adorable and spunky granddaughter Sydney Wren on Sept. 17. You bring us such joy. We love you round-the-world and back! Bpa and Mimi!

Happy birthday to Nicolette on Sept. 16. Wishing you good health and much happiness always with love from Mom and Dad.

Marcy Brennen is proud to announce that her son Mitchell Santiago was married to Vanessa Arredondo. The bride and



Clam digger Alexander Cebek married Alison Wiedmann on June 21, 2023, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Proud parents of the groom are Islanders Frank and Cathy Cebek.



Sydney Wren Pollack will turn two on Sept. 17.

groom tied the knot on Thursday, August 17, 2023 in Las Vegas with family and friends in attendance.

Parishioners and friends celebrated the 50th birthday of Father "Gus" Augustus Onwubiko on July 7 at the Harlem Yacht Club. He has served St. Mary, Star of the Sea for more than 18 years, and they are blessed to have him as their parochial vicar and friend. Father Augustus is from Nigeria, and he wore traditional Nigerian celebration garb to the party (see photo page 5).

Belated congratulations to Melissa Dzenis Garcia, who graduated from Fordham School of Law. The Talebearer inadvertently omitted the photo of Melissa and her daughter. Apologies!

The Seabreeze Deli's Adam and Vanessa Mejia would like to wish their little artist Bella a very happy 12th birthday on Sept. 9.

Happy birthday to Dan Wright on Sept. 10. He and his wife, Melissa, are also celebrating their first wedding anniversary that day.

A very happy birthday on Sept. 12 to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki, with love from



Emily Sexton married Christian Torres on May 25, 2023. Proud parents of the bride are David and Harlan Sexton of Fordham Street.



Clam digger Roger Nani and his wife, Leah, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Elise, on June 23, 2023. Proud grandparents are Islanders Karen and Paul Nani and Cleveland Fran Mentch.

your family and friends.

Wishing all our returning students a happy, healthy and productive school year. Maria Swieciki

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