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One Dollar

New Leadership Continues Winning SMSS Basketball Tradition

By KAREN NANI



Photo by JIMMY MANTZARIS

Great news for the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Debs! Their hard work, dedication and sacrifice paid off. They entered the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball playoffs and battled their way to the Junior Varsity B Division Championship. The proud girls, shown above, hoisted the trophy in victory.



Photos by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

St. Mary's Boys Tyros basketball team ended the regular season strong with a record of 20 wins and 1 loss in the eastern division, tied for first place. The proud boys are shown above (sitting, l. to r.): Thomas Forliano, Ryan Whelan, Michael Gierum, Oscar Etzel and Mark Piri. Kneeling: Hazir Novaj, Ben Nicoletti, James Shaw, Marco Mazzella and Sazan Rexhepi. Standing (front): John Russell, Patrick Livingston, Thomas Whelan, Aiden Hanley-Piri, Julian McElroy and Ryan Amos. Standing (back row): Coaches Mark Amos, Michael Whelan and Peter Russell.

The 2015–2016 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball season was a great success for City Island's St. Mary, Star of the Sea teams, known as the Sharks. The program fielded four teams, including Bantams, Debs, Tyros and Boys Varsity.

First-year moderator of the program Bill Whelan proudly told *The Current*: "Three of our four teams made it to the championship round in the CYO playoffs! I applaud the time and dedication of all the coaches."

He thanked Anna and Bob Whelan for their time and dedication to the City Island youth basketball program for the last 10 years. "There were many ups and downs and uncertainty with the program continuing after the school's closing, but somehow they made it work," Bill acknowledged.

Bill also praised this season's players and parents who made it a great program for the youth of City Island. "The coaches and I hope to continue this tradition to give the youth of our community a safe environment to learn how to interact with their peers and develop teamwork and bonds to last a lifetime. We will do everything in our power to keep the basketball program going."

The wrap-up of each team's season follows (all of whom once again had a better record than the New York Knicks!).

Boys Tyros

The Boys Tyro team, made up of fifth- and sixth-grade boys, ended the season with a spectacular record of 25 wins and

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BELDEN POINT BEAUTIFIED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN

The pocket park at Belden Point, the southernmost tip of City Island, was finally completed in March, much to the delight of residents and visitors alike.

Islanders concerned about the temporary bridge and the heavy traffic were greeted with a piece of good news when the Belden Point pocket park was finally completed this winter after a decade in the works.

Funding allocated to the project amounted to \$420,000, which involved cleaning up the unsightly area between Johnny's Reef and Tony's Pier, installing decorative pavers and rails, designing and implementing a landscaped area, and providing access and a seating area for pedestrians. Money was originally allocated by then Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., and the New York State Department of State and preserved through the efforts of Senator Jeff Klein, who made sure that the funding, allocated in 2005, was not eliminated from the state budget. Additional funds were contributed by present Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and the mayor's office.

Delays were blamed on the fact that several different entities had to work together—the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Department of Transportation, Con Edison and the two restaurants, but ground was finally broken in April 2015 by Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver, after considerable pressure from the City Island Civic Association (CICA) and Senator Klein.

The two restaurants have agreed to help maintain the area, and they have also



worked with Senator Klein to remove unsightly graffiti from the landfilled areas beyond the park. Remnants of the large pier that once extended from the point are still visible, but their removal involves working with the Department of Environmental Conservation, which has not yet been involved in the project.

Belden Point is named for William Belden, a disgraced financier who left Wall Street and purchased the property that is now owned by the Morris Yacht & Beach Club. He operated a resort until 1900, when the property ended up in the estate of railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington, who had bankrolled Belden's investment. At about that time, the city of New York constructed a massive pier that extended beyond the beach that once existed at the southern end of the Island, and this was used for many years as a landing place for

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BRIEFLY...

BOATING SAFETY CLASS will be sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla on Tuesday nights April 12, 19 and 26, at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. Classes run from 7 to 10 p.m., and students must attend all three in order to take the test. The course will include getting to know your boat and operate it safely; the legal requirements of boating, boat emergencies and enjoying water sports. New York State law requires that operators born on or after May 1, 1996, are required to successfully complete an approved course in boater education in order to operate a motorboat. Those taking the course must be at least 10 years of age; operators may not operate a personal watercraft unless they are 14 years of age and hold a boating safety certificate. Cost is now \$50, which includes materials. Coffee and tea will be available. Contact David Mooney at uscgaux0140504@gmail.com or call 646-573-9573 to register. You may also apply online at <http://a0140504.wow.uscgaux.info>.

FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK FUNDRAISER. This festive annual event will be held this year on Thursday, April 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Pelham-Split Rock Golf Clubhouse, 890 Shore Road. Tickets at the door are \$75, which includes appetizers, beer, wine, soda, giveaways, raffle prizes and good company. Help support all of the wonderful activities in the Park, including landscape maintenance, park ranger tours, education exhibits and more. For information, call 718-430-4685, or visit friendsofpehambaypark.org.

PROHIBITION ON CITY ISLAND is the subject of a fascinating talk by Tom Vasti, Bronx historian, to be held at 4 p.m. at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, April 24. Al Capone is not known to have worked here, but the Island boat yards were kept busy building rum runners and the local bartenders did a good business in spite of the FBI.

THE GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON this year will take place on Thursday, May 19, at noon at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. Everyone is welcome to attend. The cost is \$55, and you can make a reservation by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442. Our theme this year is "Lilacs," and there will be door prizes, gift baskets and gift certificates.

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY will be on Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. Elected officials will be in attendance and the American Legion Post will supply the color guard. After the opening ceremonies, there will be one game and hot dogs and sodas will be provided.

THE PELHAM LARKS concert on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m., at the Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham, is free and open to all. This is an accomplished group of 22 women from Pelham and surrounding communities, who sing a cappella and with musical accompaniment under the direction of Jeffrey Hoffman, choirmaster of Christ Church in Pelham. All audiences enjoy the group's varied repertoire, which features a wide range of musical genres.

THE 45TH PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will honor Islander Brenda Prohaska this year at its annual breakfast, which will be held on Wednesday, May 11, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway. Other honorees include Archbishop Angel Rosario (Church of God's Children, CEO Bronx Clergy Task Force), Lynn Gerbino (Throggs Neck community activist), Hanna Acampora (Westchester Square community activist), Father Grippo of St. Theresa Church, and Al Carena (Country Club community activist). To make a reservation, send a check for \$15 payable to the 45th Precinct Community Council to Annie Boller, c/o Abalon, 717 South 3rd Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. For information call: Robert Bieder at 718-828-4400 or Joe Boiko at 718-320-3300, ext. 3409.

ACT/REACT: Re-Imagining the Past. On Friday, April 8, at 7 and 8 p.m. and on Saturday, April 9, at 5 and 6 p.m., Bartow-Pell Mansion will present, together with the City Island Theater Group and the Supporting Characters, a unique immersive theatrical event with short, site-specific performances that bring the period rooms of the mansion to life. Follow the actors from room to room as you step back in time. Registration required. Free.

WARRIORS FOOTBALL LEAGUE is sponsoring a free speed and agility program starting April 5 for boys and girls ages 6 to 14. Under the direction of Joe De Simone and Jerry Demers, activities will be held at Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. until the end of June. All boys and girls are welcome, regardless of participation in Warrior Football. Come out and get in shape. For additional information, call Joe at 347-242-1423 or Jerry at 718-839-7574.



Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN
Two vehicles were involved in a head-on collision on the City Island Bridge on March 7, 2016. One of the drivers, who had been driving off the Island, fled the scene on foot. The accident caused long traffic delays in both directions over the bridge.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2016. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 3 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Feb. 21 to March 20, 2016.

2/21 – An Island male reported an incident of petit larceny at 10 a.m. The owner of the vehicle told police that his license plate had been intentionally removed while it was parked on City Island Avenue.

2/28 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating an assault on Marine Street reported at 6:50 p.m. An off-Island

male reported that a co-worker struck him on the arm with a metal object.

3/3 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, an off-Island male reported an assault at 9:01 p.m. The victim claims that an unknown female punched and bit him during a physical confrontation.

3/7 – On City Island Avenue, an incident of grand larceny occurred at 11:15 p.m. An Island female reported that her handbag was stolen from a commercial establishment, including credit cards and other items.

3/7 – Police responded to a traffic accident on the City Island Bridge at 5:40 p.m. Two vehicles were involved in a head-on collision and one of the drivers, who had been driving off the Island, fled the scene on foot. The other driver, an Island male, remained at the scene but refused medical attention. The accident caused long traffic delays in both directions over the bridge. Police are searching for the driver who left the scene of the accident. Police confirmed that the vehicle he was driving is registered to an off-Islander.

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This year's Bantam team included boys and girls in the first through fourth grades (kneeling, l. to r.): Will McGonegal, Sophia Amos, Jake Penny, Lea Acocella, Joseph Secola and Matthew Schaller. Standing (front row): Lorelei Cullen, Joshua Soto, Alyssa Fusco, Kelvin Bacelli, Cyrus Alston, Antalya Rodriguez and Sarah George. Back row: Coaches Lawrence McGonegal and Corley Schaller. Not shown: Joseph Penny and Coach Lorenzo Secola.



With an impressive record of 14 wins and 4 losses, the St. Mary's Varsity Boys attained a high seed in the A division playoffs. Shown above are the heroes of the varsity season (kneeling, l. to r.): Carmine Testa, Joseph Cruz, Joseph Goonan, Sebastian Rodriguez. Standing: Coach Bill Whelan, Angelo Nieves, Angel Ramos, DeAndre Morgan, Steven Rice, Joshua Rosario and Coach Chris Rice. Not shown: Ginutis Sipas.



The amazing Varsity B Division Champions, St. Mary's Girls Debs, are shown above (kneeling, l. to r.): Jamie Bernardo, Demi Mantzaris, Adriana Testa and Jennifer Gjonaj. Standing, Coach Jimmy Mantzaris, Deirdre Kirwin, Jessica DesGroseilliers, Kayla Fusco, Amanda Acocella and Coach Joe Yarusso. Not shown: Marie Cullen.

Coaches Mike Whelan, Peter Russell and, back by popular demand, Mark Amos are so proud of all the boys. "This is a very special group of young boys with only a handful of losses the past couple of seasons," they told *The Current*. The entire group worked hard at enhancing their basketball knowledge and skill each season and had fun in the process. "They have a true love for the game of basketball."

Girls Debs

The third- and fourth-grade girls Debs ended the season with a 5-6 record and placed in the B division playoffs. The Debs caught fire and knocked off their opponents one by one capturing the B division championship!

The team's success was due to great team play and solid coaching by Jimmy Mantzaris and Joe Yarusso. The victorious Debs team members were Jamie Bernardo, Demi Mantzaris, Adriana Testa, Jennifer Gjonaj, Deirdre Kirwin, Jessica DesGroseilliers, Kayla Fusco, Amanda Acocella and Marie Cullen.

Boys Varsity

The Boys Varsity team ended the season with a record of 14 wins and 4 losses in the eastern division and had some exciting overtime victories. This small group of seventh- and eighth-graders were dedicated to their craft and worked hard at practice every week. This preparation allowed the boys to go on an amazing run in the A division. They won the Parish Championship with impressive victories over sister parish OLA, St. Angela Merici and Mount Carmel to go on to meet St. Raymond's in the League Championship. It was a hard-fought game, but St. Ray's depth was too much.

The coaches proudly presented first-year player DeAndre Morgan with the

Most Improved Player Award. DeAndre struggled early but worked hard to become a fluent scorer and rebounder.

In a rare situation, two Most Valuable Player awards were presented this year. Angelo Nieves, a high IQ point guard, distinguished himself as one of the best guards in the Bronx. Steven Rice, who plays forward on defense and guard on offense, distinguished himself as a premier rebounder with the team-oriented skills. Both MVPs showed the abilities to hit the clutch shot along with great leadership skills.

Coach Rice thanked program moderator Bill Whelan for giving him the opportunity to coach his son, Steven, and a great group of young men. They also appreciate the time, encouragement and commitment by the parents. Fun and improvement was had by all.

Bantams

The Bantam boys and girls shared a real learning experience this season. With a range of ages, including first- through fourth-graders, they were truly a startup team.

All the younger kids never showed a sense of fear playing against third- and fourth-graders, and it made them play with more confidence as the season went on. They had 16 losses, but they won the last game of the year 28 to 16. The kids didn't worry about the results, but focused on the fun they had and when the next practice and game was.

Bill Whelan gave special thanks to Coach Lorenzo Secola for taking over the team mid-season. A lot of patience and leadership was demonstrated, and the kids blossomed throughout the season sharpening their fundamentals and teamwork. Although losing can be discouraging, the kids never stopped loving the game and being part of the team.

SMSS Basketball

Continued from page 1

2 losses in the eastern division, tied with rival Santa Maria. The Tyros defeated Mt. Carmel in the first round of the A division playoffs, setting up a showdown with undefeated St. Margaret's in the second round. The boys were down early but came back with excellent defense in the second quarter, going on a 10 to 2 run to take the lead. They pulled out the victory and went on to face Santa Maria in the championship

game. The boys fought hard but fell in the championship game.

There were many individual performances during the season worth noting, including Sazan's behind the back pull-up jump shot; tenacious defense by Aidan, John, Mark, Ryan and James; Oscar "3-Point" Etzel; the Whelan fast break connection; Patrick Livingston's last second lay-up to beat Santa Maria and Marco's rocket passes. All of the players contributed to the team's success and, more importantly, learned valuable lessons about teamwork, respect and sportsmanship.

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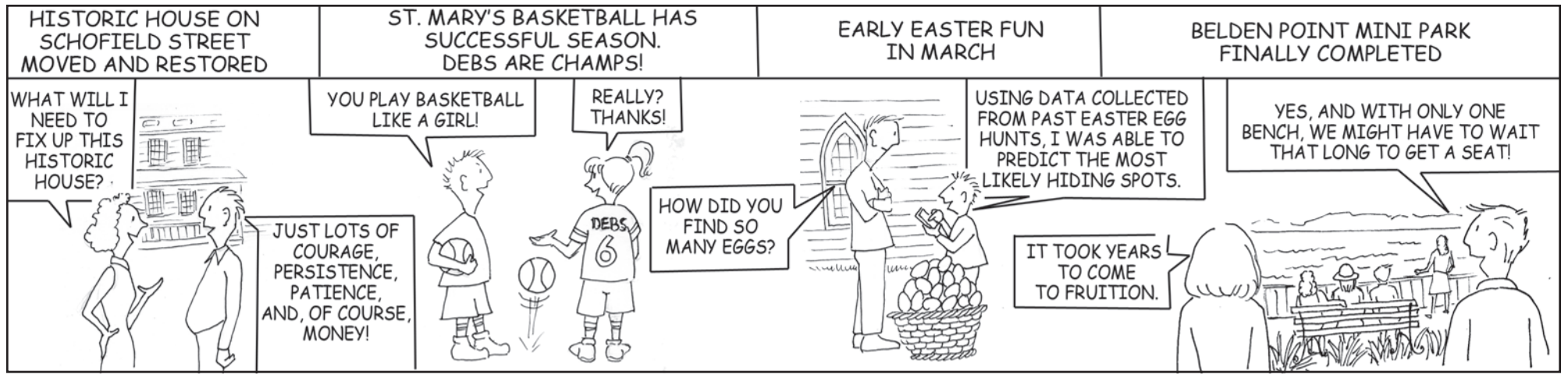
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Why Parents Refuse NYS Testing

To the Editor:

I read the article about the Common Core in the July-August 2015 issue of *The Current*. I am a former clam digger and founder of NY Guardians. Last year 240,000 children did not take the NYS math and ELA exams. Here are some of the reasons the parents of those children gave.

These standardized tests have no value for our children. The results are never given to school districts or to parents, so there is no information at all about how children did on the tests, what they learned, where their strengths are or where they need improvement.

The heavy emphasis on teaching to the test denies our children opportunities for authentic learning. Hundreds of hours are being spent preparing students for these tests while valuable subjects such as music, physical education, science and art are cut back or discontinued.

These tests do not affect your child's classroom grades or any services a child receives, yet the tests are being used to collect a staggering amount of detailed data on children without parental consent. The NYS Education Department may decide to entrust this information to a third-party vendor that cannot guarantee a child's data will be secure.

As a parent, you have the right to require that your child is given appropriate tests that measure true learning. You can refuse to allow your child to take these tests.

Instead of asking "why refuse?" we might ask "why take them?"

Deborah Torres Henning

Grateful for Surprise

What a pleasant surprise to find in the March issue of *The Island Current* that I was the recipient of the City Island Community Pride Award.

There are so many who devote time and energy to keep our island a great place to live, and I am proud to be a part of that. The volunteers on City Island share a common denominator: the feeling of home isn't just when they walk through the front door, but when we cross over that bridge.

Thank you for the recognition.

Carol Fitzpatrick

Testimony at Hart Island Meeting

To the Editor:

I disagree with the account of the meeting held in January 2016 by the New York City Council about Hart Island (see March

issue of *The Current*). The article misquotes Mark Levine when it says, "Although Councilman Levine pointed out there was no plan to make Hart Island a recreational facility and..." If you watch the video of the meeting, then you see he was for a public park where many could visit.

The article also does not report that the Civic Association has shifted its position regarding access to Hart Island. A letter from the Civic Association in 2014 states, "While we believe there are many factors that will still need to be worked out before the land can become a full-fledged publicly accessible park, the transfer of land helps the many families who have loved ones buried on Hart Island achieve a level of dignity and respect while visiting while harming no one."

The following are excerpts from my testimony at the City Council meeting. "I am speaking to you regarding transferring Hart Island to the Parks Department as a City Island resident, member of the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and visitor to Hart Island in 2015. I am opposed to Hart Island becoming a public park. I realize the community board and 44 members of the Civic (1 percent of the City Island population) have approved of this; however, most residents are not in favor of this. I am here representing the people who have signed the petition in opposition to a public park."

"The City Island community became aware of the Parks Department plan when we were urged to write to Community Board 10 in support of the transfer to prevent the city from using the land for prisons/homeless shelters/incinerators. We are a small community and when there is a major event, which would impact the residents, we usually have large public forums (e.g., the new City Island Bridge). For the Hart Island transfer, we did not have such a forum, and most residents were caught unaware."

"Articles have been published about these votes, advocating for a public park, comparing Hart Island to other former pot-

ters' fields that are now successful public parks. No, we do not want this. This is what led to the petition opposing the transfer to Parks Department since the bill has no parameters."

"The only viable access to Hart Island is via the Fordham Street ferry terminal. Fordham Street is narrow with no room for constant two-way traffic and no space for public parking. Adding traffic will jeopardize the public safety of residents and visitors alike. The amount of funds to clean up Hart Island would seem enormous. Why not put those funds into Pelham Bay Park, which is adjacent to City Island?"

"For such a small amount of residents in favor and the few requests to visit Hart Island, why would the city take on such a burden and expense of another public park?"

Cathy Cebek

Molly Schroeder, Ph.D.

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Editor's Note: To access the video of the City Council hearing, go to "legistar council nyc gov" and click on Calendar; select all meetings this year in the menu, locate the Jan. 20 meeting held by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and click on the video.

Refreshing Values

To the Editor:

It is refreshing when you come across a young individual with good values and character, as I recently did. City Island Eagle Scout Michael Bellocchio found my cell phone and tracked me down to return it. Thank you, Michael, for being who you are.

Vicki Tramontana

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Saving the Scofield House

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Italianate-style house on Schofield Street before and after restoration, a process that took several years but was worth the wait.



The beautiful Italianate-style house at 65 Schofield Street is back in the news, thanks to the efforts of its present owners, who have made a heroic effort to retain the historic elements of the house, which was built in the mid-19th century, while making it livable in the 21st century.

Nominated several years ago for designation by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the house, which was in poor condition, remained on the commission's backlog for several years. When the current owners purchased the property in 2007, they wanted to obtain the LPC designation once they renovated the historic building, one of the earliest fine houses on City Island that has survived without alteration or "remuddling."

Although the LPC announced last year that it would remove all 100 houses currently on the backlog, this year 30 of those houses were declared worthy of designation, and 65 Schofield Street was one of them.

In the meantime, the house was moved to a different location on the property, had a new foundation and basement constructed, was renovated both inside and out, with as much of the original house either preserved or duplicated—a process that took eight long years.

History of the House

The date when the house was constructed by William Scofield is not known, although the style of the house would indicate that it was built about 1850, when the Italianate style was very popular in America, thanks to the efforts of architect and author Andrew Jackson Downing. Several other houses on City Island are built in this style, including the rectory at Grace Episcopal Church, several houses on Carroll Street and Trader John's former store at the corner of Schofield.

The Schofield Street building is a remarkable example of Italianate farmhouse design, characterized by a square plan, tall windows, a flat roof with an overhanging cornice and elaborate brackets. The building's most striking features are the one-story porches that run across the width of the building.

William Scofield and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to City Island in 1827, a few years after the Island officially became part of Pelham. At that time, City Island was sparsely populated, and the principal business was oystering, which occupied about 60 families on City Island. William Scofield's son William Henry Scofield was a well-to-do oysterman, and his daughter,

Elizabeth, married another prominent oysterman, Samuel Pell (whose house at 586 City Island Avenue is a designated landmark).

William himself, however, was a farmer and owned several acres on both sides of the Island south of Prospect Street (now Carroll), where he raised crops and livestock. Records indicate that in about 1854 three farms were being operated on City Island. George W. Horton had purchased 41 acres at the southern end of the Island in 1819. David Scofield, brother of William, owned property north of Orchard Street (now Hawkins) and in fact donated the land that is now Hawkins Park for the construction of a school in 1860.

By 1867 the Scofield house was owned by William's daughter, Elizabeth, and it remained in the family for some time. Eventually parts of the farmland were sold off for residences, and when a north-south street was constructed next to the house, it was named William Avenue for Mr. Scofield, whose name was also given (with an added h) to the street on which the farmhouse sat.

Unfortunately, the house suffered from neglect over the years as it passed through several hands, and when the owner of the house died in 2005, many Islanders were worried that it would be demolished or vandalized. Peter La Scala, a neighbor on Schofield Street, founded a group called the City Island Architectural Heritage Preservation Foundation, and one of its goals was to designate the 65 Schofield Street house as a landmark to prevent its destruction.

The House Gets a New Lease on Life

Thanks to the efforts of realtor Jackie Kall, the house was not demolished and got a new lease on life in 2007, when she sold it to Sharon George of Phoenix, AZ, whose son had purchased a house on City Island. Sharon and her husband, Bill, were determined to restore the house to its original appearance, while making some changes, such as adding a garage and a modest addition at the back, in order to make it more livable. When they approached Zachary Schweter, an Island resident and architect experienced with designated and historic structures, he found the project a very compelling one. His initial idea was to save the historic street façade, which called for the building to be moved 20 feet west and south of its original location in order to accommodate a garage, the addition to the rear and side and a new basement with proper foundations.

When the building was calendared (a preliminary step before designation) by LPC, the owners and architect were obliged to work with the commission in order to get approvals for the renovation. Mr. Schweter obtained letters of support for the project as drawn and requested that designation not take place, a position supported by the City Island Historical Society, State Senator Jeffrey Klein, Councilmember James Vacca, Peter La Scala and others, because if LPC

did not approve the proposed changes, the owners might decide to abandon the project. But over the next few months, LPC met with the owners and architect several times, and the restoration continued to progress.

After the asbestos removal and the construction of a fence around the property by Manhattan Renovations, Hurricane Sandy literally dealt much of the interior a serious blow, as it was open to the elements. However, the house survived and went on to be moved, a fascinating process that was noted in the September 2013 issue of *The Island Current*. Decorative elements, windows, stairways and other pieces of the original house that had not rotted were preserved and restored, and appropriate but practical materials were used to replace walls, windows and so on. Although the project was scheduled for completion within a year, the process went on for nearly three more years, and the Georges finally moved into the building this spring.

Sharon George knew from the moment she saw the house that she wanted to save it. In fact she was surprised by "the similarity between this Italianate Victorian and my great grandparents' home in north Texas." She and Bill were prepared for a major project, but it was far more complicated and time-consuming than either of them anticipated. "We have done remodels in three municipalities in Arizona, but none was even close to the hassles with Schofield. It has been an uphill journey through the LPC and the Bronx DOB, and the permits took weeks to get approval because the house was calendared. Hanley Group held everything together on a project that has taken twice the time it should have."

She points out that although the LPC cares only about the street-facing façades, she was drawn to the fact that the house had been a private home for so many years. "That meant many interior changes had been made incorrectly and others needed to be made for it to continue as a home. My daughter, Meg [who lives in Bayside, Queens], and I approached this as a house that has evolved over 150 years. For example, she did the old turn-of-the-century bathroom using the old tub with a salvaged sink, and I incorporated a Craftsman wash stand of my mother's into the powder room. The living room and dining room are very much as built except for the dining room fireplace, which had been forfeited to steam heat. The entry hallway has the original newel post, banister and balusters. We are still working on restoring the front door damaged by vandals, who did some damage but stole nothing."

Now that the Georges have moved in, their next project is working on the landscape outside the house, presumably like icing on the cake that will take far less time to accomplish. And they hope that the Landmarks Preservation Commission will soon grant the final designation within the next few weeks, ensuring that the house will be preserved and given the respect it deserves.

Belden Point

Continued from page 1

fishing boats, ferries and other vessels.

Belden Point was taken over by the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II, and after the war, the Duryea family established a restaurant where the Lobster Box is now. The dock became known as Duryea's Pier, and it was a popular destination

for both Island residents and visitors, who could buy bait, eat ice cream or take a ride on one of the sightseeing boats. Storms caused considerable damage, however, and the pier was finally demolished in the 1960s. The beaches are long gone, thanks to the landfill created by the restaurants to accommodate their parking lots, but the new pocket park has restored some of the beauty of the southern tip of the Island.

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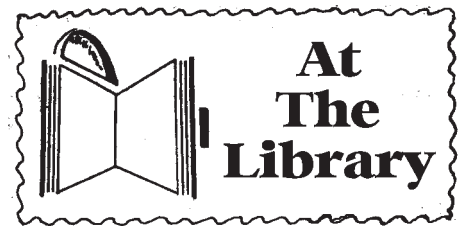
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As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City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

| Address | Closing Date | Sale Price | Type |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 190 Schofield Street | 12/17/15 | \$220,000 | condo |
| 416 King Avenue | 1/12/16 | \$405,000 | 1 family |
| 155 Horton Street | 1/14/16 | \$388,000 | 1 family |
| 50 Fordham Street | 1/15/16 | \$200,000 | 1 family |
| 511 Minneford Ave. | 1/29/16 | \$699,000 | commercial |
| 93 Hawkins Street | 2/8/16 | \$450,000 | 1 family |
| Bowne St. Marina | 2/11/16 | \$305,475 | marina |
| 71 Reynolds Street | 2/19/16 | \$300,000 | 1 family |
| 36 Fordham Street | 2/29/16 | \$570,000 | multi-family |



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APRIL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Seeking Our Senses: Sniff out the science of your five senses and explore the world around us as you learn to be a sense-ative person! Test your vision with our mind-boggling illusions. Use your hearing for fun and games. Put your fingers to the test with our Braille cards, and tease your tongue with our very own taste test. For children ages 5 years old and older. Presented by Mad Science. Monday, April 18, 3:30 p.m.

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

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

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 1-4. April 15 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

APRIL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Circuits on Paper: Participants create an LED-illuminated greeting card or work of art that they take with them at the end of the program. Presented by Robodyssey. For ages 12 to 18 years old. Friday, April 8, 3 p.m.

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

Friday After School Activities: 3 p.m. Friday, April 1, April Fool's Day Quiz; Friday, April 15, Agar.io Competition; Friday, April 22, Disneynature Earth; Friday, April 29, Wii and Board Games.

Homework Help: Every Wednesday,

from 3 to 5 p.m. John Konrath will be available to assist students with basic tutoring. There will be two one-hour sessions; each with a limit of four students. Registration required in person.

APRIL ADULT PROGRAMS

P.S.S. Circle of Care: Are you a Caregiver of someone 60 years of age or older? Please join us for our new Circle of Care Lounge, hosted by Presbyterian Senior Services, a six-week support group for family caregivers. Participants will share tips, ideas, and challenges while offering each other encouragement. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Monday, April 4 and 11, at 1 p.m.

Animals and the Law: The Committee on Animals and the Law has a presentation packed with useful information on animal laws in New York. The presentation is intended as a general overview and the presenter cannot give legal advice. Presented by Amy Sheridan. Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m.

Animal Care Center Mobile Adoption Event: Adopt a cat, or a dog, take home a new friend. Saturday, April 9, from 12 to 4 p.m.

Spring Writing at the Library: Writing is Good Communication. Explore a different style of writing each week. Are you writing a short story or a comic farce, a letter of consolation or a how-to-do-it manual? Our twin goals for all writing are to grab a person's attention, and be understood clearly. Communicate to others with a smile for yourself. Open to all. Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. starting April 7. Led by Gail Hitt.

Afternoon Computer Lab: These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics and are ready to begin tackling more specific questions. Every Thursday from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Island Writers-Creative Writing Group. This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out. It's free, special and open to all! Meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Computer Q & A: Tuesday mornings are all about the basics. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I use a mouse?" "How do I get on the Internet?" If you've asked yourself any of these questions, then we can help you! Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

One-On-One: Computer and Tablet Assistance. Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

Saturday Afternoon Movies/Lectures: 1 p.m.; April 2 "Suffragette"; April 16 "The 33"; April 23 "Black Mass"; April 30 "Everest".

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

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Future of St. Mary's Discussed at Town Hall Meeting

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

A town hall meeting was held on March 6, 2016, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church to address the concerns of parishioners regarding the future of the parish. Fr. John Knapp, pastor of St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) in Pelham Bay, spoke candidly to about 90 people who attended the meeting.

The two main topics discussed were finances and church attendance. Fr. Knapp explained in detail the financial report that was included in a recent church bulletin, and he also explained how the parish bills are paid and how it is taxed by the archdiocese based on income.

Fr. Knapp said that the financial problems at St. Mary's, mostly incurred by the school, which closed in 2013, were the contributing factor that led to the merger. Right now the two parishes have already been joined canonically but will be merged legally in September 2016. At the present time, each church has its own set of books, but by September all accounts will be combined.

"The financial report that Fr. Knapp published for the parishioners was a surprise, I suspect, not only to my family and friends but to many people in our church as well," said parishioner Judy DiMaio. "We were unaware that we are dependent on the archdiocese for so much financial support. Now that we know the facts, I believe that we as a parish must work together to try to turn the situation around, so that we can once again be a flourishing and vibrant parish."

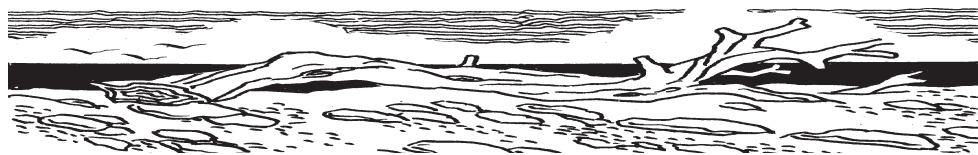
In regard to church attendance, Fr. Knapp said that very few Catholics on the Island attend Mass at St. Mary's." Where are the Catholics on Sunday?" he said. "You support your parish by your presence and your presents. If everyone attended Mass, we probably wouldn't have a problem." Parishioner Angela Mueller said, "I can only hope that by increasing the number of people attending church services, as well as raising our contributions, we will have a chance to regain our status as a separate parish."

Many in attendance found it disheartening to hear Fr. Knapp say that he doesn't expect St. Mary's will ever be on its own again, and also that the archdiocese will never allow the school to reopen. He answered questions regarding the Mass schedules, youth programs, Easter Vigil Mass, the formation of a joint Parish Council and the possibility of leasing the school building. He said he would consider leasing the former school building to a charter school, but the location may pose a problem.

Deacon Bill Mueller said he was a little disappointed with the turnout, but was pleased with the input and the interest of those who were present. "This is our parish, and we must do everything possible to see to it that St. Mary's will be here for our spiritual needs and for the young people of City Island, who are the future of the church."

More town hall meetings will be held throughout the year, at both St. Mary's and OLA. "It's a beginning," said parishioner Barbara Hoffman. "It's a beginning."

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Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

Holy Week activities arrived early this year with Easter coming on March 27 (the earliest it has been is March 22). Luckily, after a relatively mild winter, springlike weather also showed up to warm the many events. The congregation at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church blessed and processed with palms on Sunday, March 20 (top photo). City Island's Boy Scout Troop 211 held their annual plant sale from March 23-25 under mostly sunny skies (second photo), followed by the Easter Egg Hunt at Grace Church on March 26 (third photo). Deacon Bill Mueller of St Mary, Star of the Sea Church took part in the Easter Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery, organized and led by George Cavalieri, Lay Servant at Trinity United Methodist Church. Twenty five people braved the chill to witness the sunrise at 6:45.

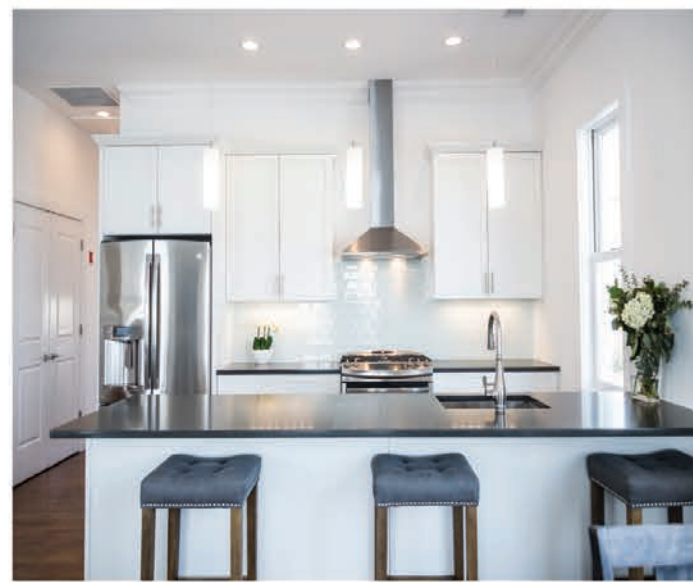
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A Current Review "The Diary of Anne Frank"

By BRUCE A. WEIS

The City Island Theater Group opened its 2016 season with a dramatic and moving production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," which was adapted by Wendy Kesselman in 1995 from the original stage play presented in 1955 by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

The story behind "The Diary of Anne Frank" is well known. During the 1930s Anne and her family left Nazi Germany for Amsterdam, where Mr. Frank set up a flourishing business. However, after the German invasion of the Netherlands in 1940, the persecution of the Jewish population promptly began. In July 1942, the Frank family and several friends were forced to move into a hidden annex of the building where Otto Frank's business was located.

Anne Frank was 13 years old when her family went into hiding, and during the two years they lived there, Anne kept a Dutch-language diary of her daily thoughts and experiences, describing the terror, boredom, angst and occasional humor of a life lived in constant fear that the SS might come through the front door. At the same time, with considerable literary skill, she speculated what life might be like after the war, if they were not discovered. Anne's luck ran out, however, on August 4, 1944, when the Nazi police stormed the hiding place, captured the families and transported them to concentration camps. Anne and her sister, Margot, were eventually transferred to Bergen-Belsen, where they died (likely of typhus) in late February or early March 1945, just weeks before the camp was liberated.

Anne's diary was found on the floor of their hiding place after the group's arrest and was kept safe by Miep Gies, who had been the Franks' link to the outside world. The pages were returned to Otto Frank, the only survivor of the group, when he returned after the end of the war. The book he published based on her diary has since been translated into more than 60 languages.

The play based on the diary by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, opened on Broadway on Oct. 5, 1955, and ran for more 717 performances. It received a Tony Award for Best Play and nominations for Best Actress (Susan Strasberg), Best Di-

rector (Garson Kanin), Best Scenic Design and Best Costume Design. The playwrights also received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Susan Strasberg won the 1956 Theatre World Award, and the play received the 1956 New York Drama Critics Circle award for best play.

A revival of the play opened in December 1997 in a revised version adapted by Wendy Kesselman, and it received Tony nominations for Best Revival of a Play and for Best Featured Actress (Linda Lavin), as well as a Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Featured Actor (Harris Yulin) and Outstanding Featured Actress (Linda Lavin).

A movie version of "The Diary of Anne Frank" premiered on March 18, 1959, and won Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress (Shelley Winters), Best Art Direction for Black and White Set Direction, and Best Black-and-White Cinematography. The film was also nominated for Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (Ed Wynn), Best Costume Design, Black-and-White, Best Director (George Stevens) and Best Original Score (Alfred Newman). Shelley Winters donated her Oscar to the Anne Frank House, in Amsterdam, where it is now on display.

Having listed all of the incredibly talented individuals responsible for earlier versions of the play, I want to emphasize here that the City Island Theater Group's production was no less outstanding. The atmosphere that the troupe managed to project throughout the show was exactly what one would have expected from a group of seven, later eight, people confined to a series of tiny connected rooms in an attic of less than 500 square feet. They suffered for two years by the need for absolute daytime silence, inadequate food supplies, an ever-present fear of detection and the knowledge of what would result if they were discovered. Couple these with normal family stresses, and the result is a tinderbox, ready to explode at any moment. This atmosphere, established early in the show, was maintained consistently throughout, thanks to the excellent direction of Nic Anthony Calabro and the talents of a brilliant cast.

Throughout the show I was struck by just how much the actions and diary comments of Anne Frank (Emma Hennessy)



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group's production enthralled sell-out audiences over two weekends in March, thanks to this talented cast (standing, l. to r.): Steven Schera, Michael Sanacore, Amanda Livingston Martin, Thomas Losito, Phyllis Lindy, Robert Mulroy, Gary Krigsman, Ann Liski and Dennis DeLeo; (seated): Danny Conover, Penelope Golden, Emma Hennessy and Lior Shaham.

would have been like those of any normal 13-year-old girl had Nazis not been trolling the streets. Emma, herself only 12, did a superb job of portraying that normal 13-year-old in shockingly abnormal circumstances, and in developing Anne to the mature 15-year-old she became.

Anne was closer to her father, Otto Frank (Robert Mulroy), than to her mother, and Robert's depiction enabled us to understand why. His Otto was the axis around which his group survived throughout their confinement, and his lament for his lost daughters at the end of the second act caused some in the audience to divert their eyes from its sheer intensity.

Otto's wife, Edith (Phyllis Lindy), perfectly displayed the horrible tension the group experienced during their two years in hiding. A supportive mother, she offered a perfect target for Anne to rebel against, and almost imperceptibly, but surely, her character unraveled emotionally over the course of the show. Her anguished plea to Miep in the second act, when she almost wished the group would be found, was very moving.

Margot Frank (Penelope Golden) was her mother's perfect daughter; the one she spent most of the play comparing to the lively and often rebellious Anne. Penelope effectively projected her character's sensitivity as she developed a closer relationship to Anne over the course of the play.

Otto Frank took his business partner, Hermann Van Dann (Dennis DeLeo), into hiding with him, along with the Van Dann family. A (slightly) larger-than-life character given to outbursts and pronouncements, Van Dann provided a counterpoint to Otto's controlled personality. Dennis overplayed the part perfectly.

Hermann's wife, Petronella (Ann Liski), was the cook of the household, stylish, argumentative and something of a flirt, and she lent an interesting and often amusing level to the tension in the hiding place. Hermann and Petronella brought their son, Peter (Lior Shaham), who at first was a shy boy who preferred to spend his time alone with his cat but eventually blossomed to become Anne's love interest. Lior managed this on-stage development well, gaining confidence carefully and believably.

Mr. Dussel (Gary Krigsman), a dentist, was brought into the hideaway on a temporary basis but remained for the duration. Excitable and prone to allergies, his presence was an imposition on the others; he shared a room with Anne and clashed with her regularly. Gary portrayed the character enjoyably and effectively, and his religious devotion gave special poignancy to the Hannukah celebration.

Miep Gies (Amanda Livingston Martin) was a member of the team that kept the group supplied with food and other necessities while they were in hiding. Amanda

played the part well, meeting with the group repeatedly to provide food, news and sympathy as she shared in the emotional results of those in hiding.

Mr. Krale (Danny Conover) was Miep's partner in hiding the Jews, which the Germans considered a crime. Guarding the entrance to their hideaway, Danny displayed the necessary concern for their safety and the appropriate anguish at their eventual loss.

The Men (Steven Schera, Michael Sanacore and Thomas Losito) provided an effective if chilling aspect of the performance atmosphere, marching through the aisles wearing Nazi armbands, announcing transportation orders and generally looking menacing.

The stage set, constructed by Dan Srdoc, did the impossible by creating three small rooms on different levels, cleverly designed and decorated by Joe Burck to reflect the confined spaces of the annex attic. Grace Church has a notoriously small stage, and the play called for the stage to be crowded with several players at once occupying the different rooms. The lighting design, also by Joe, was particularly effective during the show, drawing attention to specific parts of the stage and drawing it away from areas where actors were moving into place out of view.

Costumes for the performers were the work of Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker. Although the characters are in hiding, the show is really a 1930s period piece, with frequent costume changes that went seamlessly throughout.

A major factor in the production is to reflect the lives of people living in fear, and the sound design served to do just that, with police sirens, droning planes, mysterious crashes, air-raid warnings, bombing raids and thuds in the night, in contrast to the beautiful German music and clock chimes that helped bridge the gaps between scenes. Denis Zepeda designed this complex cacophony, and Adam Hamdy made it work at each performance.

Prop mistress as usual was Barbara Dolensek, whose admitted weakness in having difficulty throwing things away was once again a strength for this production. Sharon L. Jacob served as stage manager, and she did a great job with a complicated series of scene changes. President of the CITG, Nick Sala was production manager and handled the innumerable problems that invariably come up with the group's amazing productions but that remain invisible to the audience.

This amazing production that moved so many members of the sell-out audiences is a fine start to the CITG's 17th year. In May Joe Burck will direct the comedy "Love, Sex and the IRS," and in November Nick Sala will direct the musical drama "Sweeney Todd."

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

APRIL

Sat., April 2, **Temple Beth-El Gala Dinner Dance**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

Sat., April 9, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Thurs., April 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Greek School Cafeteria (Hellenic Orthodox School), 3575 Bruckner Boulevard South.

Tues., April 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., April 30, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Meatloaf with vegetables and potatoes.

MAY

Thurs., May 19, **Garden Club Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street, 12 noon (see *Briefly* this issue).

City Island Nautical Museum

We will open to the public starting Saturday, April 2, after a winter filled with special projects performed by our tireless volunteers. Visitors will have a chance to view our important exhibit on the history of boat and yacht building on City Island. Come see our new windows, shop for City Island gifts, and become a member to help support the museum, which is located in the old P.S. 17 school building at 190 Fordham Street.

On Sunday, April 24, Tom Vasti, Bronx historian, will give a talk at the museum at 4 p.m. on the subject of Prohibition on City Island. Al Capone is not known to have worked here, but the Island boat yards were kept busy building rum runners and the local bartenders did a good business in spite of the FBI.

Barbara Dolensek

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web, www.trinityofcityisland.org, where you will find all things Trinity, including the texts of Reverend Yew's sermons.

Trinity's Spring Fair is April 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is served from noon to 2 p.m.

"The 7 Deadly Sins" is the topic of a discussion group led by Jay Howard in Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 24 and May 22. All adults are welcome.

It's spring, and that means cleaning up and uncluttering your home. Remember to donate all that clutter and gently used items to the Budget Shop. It is open the first and third Tuesday each month and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our

deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Temple services are held on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea.

April 1: Please join us for a special Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David, who will honor our past rabbinic interns (now Rabbi Eva Sax Bolder, Rabbinic Pastor Aliza Erber, Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper). In addition, we will be honoring the Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative (BxJHI).

Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 11 p.m. Annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. A highlight of our year! Join Temple Beth-El for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea. Honorees are listed above.

April 8: Community-led Shabbat

April 15: Community-led Shabbat

April 22: Happy Passover! TBE will be closed.

April 29: Community-led Shabbat

Classes, Activities and Celebrations:

Monday evenings (April 4, 11, 18 and 25): Yoga at TBE. Daniella Haney (Patresha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes; participants can take sessions on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served after sessions. Suggested free-will offering of \$10/session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

Tuesday, April 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David for this fourth session of our 2016 Adult Education Series entitled "Mitzvah and Mysticism," a deep dive into the traditional roots and mystical wings of the mitzvot (sacred acts) of Jewish spiritual life. Employing discussion along with spiritual experience, we will explore deeply where core mitzvot of Jewish life come from and how mystical tradition reflects on and engages with those traditions. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Sessions will continue on third Tuesdays of each month (April 19, May 17, June 21).

Saturday, April 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. Come join Rabbi David and your TBE family for a joyous, celebratory community second-night seder in honor of Passover. Our festive evening will include old and new traditions, song and imagery as we honor the four promises of liberation of ancient days and what they mean to us today. RSVP to Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 or e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com by April 15. Cost \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members; includes full traditional dinner, wine and all the Passover fixings.

Seeking

Musicians. If you are an instrumental musician interested in supporting TBE's spiritual music, Rabbi David would love to speak with you. We are especially looking for high-quality string, wind, brass and percussion players. For more information or to express interest, please contact Rabbi

David via yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Computer geek. TBE is seeking a congregate or City Island resident experienced in website and database management for volunteer support. To offer assistance, please email us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com. We are also looking for someone to help us with e-mail blasts. Please volunteer your time to help us design e-mail blasts for our events.

Oneg sponsorships. Anyone with a special occasion to honor for yourself or another (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, yahrzeit or memorial) is warmly invited to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or violetsmi@aol.com.

Outreach:

Hebrew School Partnership. Enrollment continues for TBE's Hebrew School partner, Sinai Free Synagogue, in nearby Mount Vernon. To enroll a child or obtain more information, please contact Rabbi Shohama at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Ellen Ruth Topol

Pelham Bay Park News

April 2 and 16 will be trail maintenance days in the park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This day we will focus on Orchard Beach meadow restoration; meet at the southeast corner of the parking lot. Volunteers should wear appropriate footwear, a long-sleeved shirt, and bring water or a beverage and lunch. For further information, contact the Trail Committee chairperson, Clinton Robinson, at clrobin5255@yahoo.com or 347-512-5048. Check beforehand in case locations or times change or in the event of poor weather conditions.

April 17 will be the Appalachian Mountain Club canoe cleanup with the Urban Park Rangers. For details, visit the Friends website at www.pelhambaypark.org.

Earth Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 24, at the Playground for All Children. (Enter the park at Bruckner Boulevard and Middletown Road.) The day's festivities will kick off with a morning volunteer project from 10 a.m. to 12 noon that includes some gardening spruce-up. The afternoon will be packed with fun-filled activities, including live birds of prey, a children's performance and environmental exhibits and hands-on activities offered by the New York Botanical Garden/Composting Program, Girl Scouts NY, the US Department of Agriculture and much more.

Garden Club of City Island

Garden Club members have been busy planning an exciting year ahead. In February our committees met to plan the annual Beautification Fund drive for April and the Garden Club's annual luncheon in May. Monies collected for the Beautification Fund will go toward purchasing fresh colorful flowers and plants for the planter boxes on City Island Avenue along with other projects to clean up the Avenue. Club members, along with the Garden Club Helping Hands, clean and maintain the planters throughout the growing season.

Other civic beautification projects are being planned as well. In past years, residents and local businesses have been very generous, and all contributions are greatly appreciated. They will be put to good use. Look for the Beautification Fund drive letter in your mailbox soon. February's meeting speaker was Daryl Byers, lead landscape architect for Poundridge Nurseries in Pound Ridge, NY. Daryl's presentation was on the fundamentals of gardening, which included advice on preparing your spring garden beds for the coming growing season. He suggests feeding your garden now for the best growth and blooms. We have our program committee chair to thank for this wonderful presentation.

The theme for our annual luncheon is "Lilacs," and everyone is invited to attend on Thursday, May 19, at the City Island Yacht Club. It's a fun and enjoyable afternoon, so be sure to make your reservation by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442. The festivities begin at noon and the cost is \$55. Our luncheon committee will be busy putting together wonderful themed gift baskets, prizes and gift certificates. All are welcome to enjoy the fine lunch provided by Bistro SK of City Island.

If you have an interest in civic beautification and promoting gardening, please join us on the first Monday of the month (with the exception of August) at the City Island Yacht Club at 10 a.m. and meet like-minded people. Our program chair is responsible for the wonderful presenters during the year. In addition, day trips to public and private gardens in the area are an experience you won't want to miss. Annual dues are \$35. The meeting is followed by coffee and fresh baked goods provided by our Hospitality Committee.

Carol Hansen



St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are back! We now have out our Spring and Summer Collection of new and used items (clothing, shoes, bags and bric-a-brac). Watch for our specials on T-shirts, shorts and swimwear.

Come and enjoy coffee and crumpets with good friends.

Arlene Byrne

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church on Bay Street. On Wednesday, April 6, a nursing group will speak about health issues for seniors. On Wednesday, April 20, at 12:30 p.m. we will enjoy a pizza/bingo afternoon. Be sure to sign up and pay (\$8 per person) if you have not already done so. We look forward to seeing everyone on April 6 and April 20. Come and bring a friend.

Rosetta Woods

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

On April 1, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Coffee hour will be held on Sunday, April 10, in the rectory following the 9 a.m. Mass. Join us for light refreshments.

Our Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have lots of great bargains.

Rose Dietz

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings
on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Take a peek at some of the summer programs below. Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please think about it and consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome volunteers and donations.

COMING UP

Girl Scout Cookie Sale: Saturday, April 30, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Support City Island Girl Scouts and Brownies at this walk-in-sale stocked with the full variety of traditional GS cookies.

Sign up now for City Island Community Supported Agriculture: The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables throughout the summer and fall. For information contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

Register now for Summer Art Workshop Camp for Children: July 11–15, 9:30 to 1:30 for children ages 7–12 will meet four hours a day to draw, sketch, paint on canvas and work with papier mâché with artist/teacher Lorainne Cantori. The children will explore the work of William Hopper, Mary Cassatt, and Amedeo Modigliani. There will be a special City Island landmark painting, an exhibit and reception and more. The students will bring their own lunch. The fee is \$210. To enroll or for information, call Lorainne at 914-552-5268 or e-mail her at ceasaradante@optonline.net.

Register now for Summer Broadway Musical Theater Workshop Camp: Young people have fun singing, dancing and more with Broadway dancer and choreographer Kara Tremel. To enroll or for information contact karatremel@gmail.com or call 282-799-9869.

Register now for Summer Irish Dance Workshop Camp: In August all ages and levels learn the art of Irish Step Dance with Caitlin Nora Kelly. To enroll or for information, contact caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

NEW PROGRAMS

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. In April the featured dances will be the waltz and the cha cha with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

Bollywood Dance: Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 2:30 to 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of Indian films. To register or for more information, e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

Kickbox Aerobics: Saturdays at 10:15 a.m. following Zumba. Note: Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 will resume in spring. Cardio for all levels plus an ab workout with Maria Marino. Call 347-267-0591 for more information.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays: Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail

caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com. or call 914-262-4517.

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

Hip Hop, Jazz and Ballet: Fridays, ages 4–5, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. ages 6–8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 9 and above, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Have fun with professional dancer Kara Tremel. For information, e-mail karatremel@gmail.com or call 281-799-9869.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 3:30 p.m. \$20 per class. Call Kristin Amezcuita 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Friday, 10 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

Chess Club: Meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

City Island CSA: Sign up now for Community Supported Agriculture providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: First and third Mondays at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. On Monday, April 4, bring your favorite egg recipes; then on April 18 taste some of the chosen recipes. Coming up on May 2: Spring Mystery Box Challenge. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

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

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia / Kickbox with Maria: Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3, at 11:45 a.m. Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

The Post is in need of a webmaster. Anyone interested should contact the Post.

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

Brian Sullivan is currently on sick call and is going for cancer treatment.

We are saddened to report that member Richard Heilman passed away.

Thank you to all who attended the St. Patrick's Day party. The delicious food was catered by World of Food. A big thank-you goes out to the many people who helped put this event together.

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

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

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

John Muhlfeld

City Island Republicans

Federal petitions for placing candidates on the ballot for Congress are still out. Please sign to help us get our candidates on the ballot.

The presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, April 19. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights:

PSS Circle of Care Station @ City Island. Are you caring for a frail or chronically ill family member or someone with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia? PSS Circle of Care is hosting a caregiver support group in your community free of charge. Please join us on Mondays at the City Island Library beginning March 7 at 1 p.m. Caregivers are welcome to meet with a care consultant after the group sessions for information and assistance, counseling and other resources. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727 for more information.

New: Radio Theater. Quench your interest in acting. Participate in all aspects of radio theater, such as sound effects, writing scripts for radio, auditioning for parts, rehearsing, performing and recording plays. Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.

March Events:

Information, Referrals and Assistance: Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

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

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers' Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Grace Church now holds Sunday School lessons on the first and third Sundays of the month. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and leave with their teacher for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. The classes in April will be on the 3rd and the 17th. All interested parents and children are welcome!

April 3 at 12:15 p.m. The Grace Church New Music Ministry, now called the Grace Tones, meets on the first Sunday of each month with members of the church choir and singers from on and off the Island to rehearse hymns and popular music to perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Our next show will be at Throggs Neck Extended Care on April 16. If you like to sing and want to lend your voice to this "feel good" cause, please e-mail Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com. Men and women, boys and girls of all ages are welcome. You don't have to sing like an angel; just bring your desire to lift others' spirits! Rehearsals are held at Grace Church in the sanctuary.

April 18 at 6:30 p.m. Please note the new time for Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crocheting Ministry for Calvary. Hearts and Hands is a group of parishioners who create comfort items (hats and blankets) for use by patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets the third Monday of the month in Grace Church Hall and invites other crafters interested in this project. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

Sunday, May 1, at 10 a.m. The Bishop visiting this year will be the Right Reverend Stacy Sauls, who will preach and celebrate the Eucharist.

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to these and other events. Please visit our website at www.gracecityisland.org.

Sandy Dunn

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2016 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

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

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30, is Italian Night. Stop by the Post for more details.

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

When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 5, 7 p.m. This will be our last formal meeting before our cancer bingo fundraiser on April 22. Those who have donations are asked to please get them to the Post as soon as possible. Our cancer bingo is sold out. Great prizes will be raffled off for those who have reservations, so let's be prepared for a great night of fun. Remember: all proceeds will be given to cancer research and other cancer organizations.

Our end-of-the-year meeting will be a brunch on Sunday, June 5, at the Post. Further details will be available soon.

Laura Booth



Spotlight

In October of 2015, when I saw a pre-release screening of *Spotlight*, I knew then and there it was going to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. While I rarely devote an entire column to a single film, this one is absolutely worthy of attention. It recounts the true story of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team of investigative journalists at the Boston Globe who in 2002 exposed the Catholic Church's systematic cover-up of widespread child abuse perpetrated by priests. It is important to note that the focus of this riveting film is the investigation. I realize that people may be concerned that it could be too heart-wrenching to watch. Although there are a few scenes with adult victims to demonstrate the interview process, it is a very small part of the film.

The Story

"Spotlight" refers to a small team of reporters who concentrate their efforts on stories of particular significance, spending months performing deep investigations and fact-checking. The Spotlight team depicted in the film includes projects editor Ben Bradlee Jr. (John Slattery), team editor Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael Keaton), reporters Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), and researcher Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James). On the day that newly appointed editor Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber) arrives from Miami to take charge of the Globe in the summer of

2001, he assigns Spotlight the task of following up on a column about a local priest accused of having sexually abused dozens of young parishioners over the course of 30 years. The reporters are all fully aware that taking on the Catholic Church in Boston will have major ramifications,

At first they believe they are covering one priest, but when they contact attorneys Mitchell Garabedian (Stanley Tucci) and Eric MacLeish (Billy Crudup), they discover there are multiple priests and victims involved. They meet with Phil Saviano (Neal Huff) of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests), whose claims at first seem outrageous. However, as they pursue securing the release of sealed court records, it becomes clear that there has been a systematic protection of predatory priests by the Church, and it is a problem far more widespread than any of them ever imagined.

Their investigatory efforts encounter staunch resistance from church officials, especially the Boston church attorney Jim Sullivan (Jamey Sheridan) and Boston's Cardinal Law (Len Cariou). Relentless in their pursuit of the truth, eventually the Globe published its blockbuster exposé in January 2002, leading the way for similar revelations in more than 200 other cities around the world.

The Production

The Q&A that followed the screening I attended included writer/director Tom McCarthy, co-writer Josh Singer and actor Neal Huff (who played the SNAP representative). Tom McCarthy is director of such acclaimed independent films as *The Station Agent* (2003) and *The Visitor* (2007) and Oscar nominee for his original screenplay for 2010's hit animated film *Up*. McCarthy in turn recruited former "West Wing" TV writer Josh Singer. McCarthy responded to the saga on multiple levels. "I thought it was fascinating to see how this outsider, Marty Baron, comes from Miami

and on his first day at the Boston Globe introduces this idea of investigating a possible cover-up by the Catholic Church. A very bold move." McCarthy continued, "Spotlight serves as a shining example of what professional, top-flight journalists can accomplish. I want to ring the bell about how essential this kind of journalism is, because to me, these reporters are straight-up heroes."

The efforts to accurately tell the story on film were almost as diligent as the investigative reporting itself. McCarthy and Singer spent months conducting interviews with journalists, victims and others at the center of the story. Actor Neal Huff spent countless hours with Phil Saviano, the character he played.

McCarthy also brought a personal perspective to the story. "I was raised Catholic, so I have great understanding, admiration and respect for the institution," he explains. "This story is not about church bashing. It's about asking 'How does something like this happen?' The church performed, and in some cases continues to perform, acts of institutional evil, not only as an abuser of kids but also through the cover-up of abuse. How could this abuse go on for decades without people standing up and saying something?"

Singer, who graduated from Harvard Law School shortly before the Spotlight investigation began, had generally avoided reading about the church scandal. "I remember that, during my early days working on 'The West Wing,' I never wanted to read about it in the newspapers because the idea of clergy sex abuse was so upsetting to me on so many levels. What really drew me to Spotlight was that it's a story about the reporters who uncovered this abuse. For me, that was the way in. By following these reporters, the audience gets to understand the problem in a way that's accessible."

In 2015, Spotlight celebrates the virtues of investigative reporting during a

period when many fear that long-form journalism has taken a backseat to 24-hour news cycles, celebrity gossip and sensationalized Internet "click-bait." Almost 14 years after its shocking revelations, the reverberations from the Boston clergy-abuse investigation continue to resonate around the globe and within the Catholic hierarchy.

The Aftermath

In the years since Spotlight's report, sexual abuse by Catholic Church priests has been uncovered in 105 American cities and 102 dioceses worldwide. In the United States, 6,427 priests have been accused of sexually abusing 17,259 victims. (See www.bishop-accountability.org, a database compiled by Terry McKiernan). The dioceses in which abuse was committed, or in which abuse allegations were settled out of court, found it necessary to make financial settlements with the victims totaling over \$1.5 billion as of March 2006. (See Thomas J. Reese, "Facts, Myths and Questions," *America*, March 22, 2006.) The number and size of these settlements made it necessary for the dioceses to reduce their ordinary operating expenses by closing churches and schools. In many instances, dioceses were forced to declare bankruptcy as a result of the settlements. In March of 2014, Pope Francis established the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.



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AJKUN BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS

C A R M E N



in New Rochelle

at The Whitney Theater (NRHS)

on Friday, April 8 at 7pm & Saturday, April 9 at 2pm

in New York City

at the Alvin Ailey Studios

on Saturdays April 16 & 23 at 6:30pm

TICKETS:

Online at www.ajkunbt.org
By Phone 212-868-4444

SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

There was a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March! Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, March 3. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. Students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students also attended some exciting trips! Kindergarten and first grade went to Queensborough Community College for a performance of Stone Soup; the second grade visited the Transit Museum as part of their study of New York City; the third grade went to Lehman Center for the Performing Arts to see the Chinese acrobat show; the fifth grade saw "The Lion King" on Broadway; the sixth grade went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to visit the exhibit of ancient art exhibit and to the Museum of Mathematics to apply what they are learning in math class to the exhibits; seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historic sites, and visited the Franklin Institute Science Museum, where they explored the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits; the seventh and eighth grades went to the American Museum of Natural History for a fossil and evolution study and on a reward trip to see Eddie the Eagle.

Fifth-grade students just finished their musical production of "The Lion King, Jr." The two evening performances were a huge success, and we are sure that some of our students are Broadway-bound! Our fabulous fifth-grade teachers, Shannon Montenare and Noreen Lawless, worked with Jessica McCuiston and Adam Rosenwach from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to put on a fabulous show! Jessica and Adam also

worked with the grades 3 through 8 on the after-school choral program, which culminated in a wonderful performance for parents and guardians. We are grateful to Councilmember James Vacca for the arts grant that helps to subsidize the work we do with the Bronx Arts Ensemble!!

Kindergarten through third-grade classes are beginning their Lincoln Center music study of "De Temps Antan" (music of Quebec), which will culminate with a terrific performance in our theater area. As always, we are grateful to our PTA for subsidizing the Lincoln Center Institute so that it continues being a part of the P.S. 175 arts and aesthetics education program.

Our phenomenal PTA held its annual Card Party at Scavello's on the Island. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success! Many thanks to all the parents who spent countless hours preparing for it. Also, a huge thanks to all the teachers who "donated" an activity to the silent auction! We are very pleased that the funds raised will enable the PTA to continue to assist us in providing exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks also to the businesses in our community that supported the party!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2016, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten, can come into school to do so now. Please see the NYCDOE website for registration information; the eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 24, at 9 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 15, at 6 p.m.; the kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 23, at 9 a.m. and will be followed by a family celebration in the gym.

March Citizens of the Month are Terrance Howell and Cian Daly (kindergarten); Grace Riordan and Samantha Ruscigno (first grade); Donzell Mitchell (second grade); Erin Crowe and Antalya Rodriguez (third grade); Paul Goonan (fourth grade); Max Wiehler and Gwen Boyle (fifth grade); Kaia Alston and Filomena Baker (sixth grade); Maria Leni and Cole Wiehler (seventh grade); Caitlin Knapp and Jack Morrissey (eighth grade).



Photos by SUSAN GOONAN

"P.S. 175 Goes Hollywood" was the theme of this year's PTA Card Party, which took place at Scavello's on the Island on March 11, 2016. The event was a huge success, thanks to the work of dedicated parents and an enthusiastic crowd of family and friends, who enjoyed the raffles galore and the delicious food and fabulous decorations. The event raises funds for the arts and other enriching programs at the City Island School.

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Creating Healthy Boundaries

By JOHN SCARDINA

In his poem "Mending Wall" Robert Frost reminds us of the need for boundaries: "good fences make good neighbors" is spoken by his neighbor as Frost goes to fix the stone wall between their properties. Within our families we might change this to say that "good boundaries make good relationships": the ways in which we define our physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual limits allow us to be whole and unique individuals free from the ways in which others might define us.

So what do healthy boundaries look like? Here are a few: Sticking with personal values rather than pleasing others; giving to others while also taking care of ourselves; taking from others only what we truly need; defining who we are by our own thoughts and beliefs and actions rather than letting others define us; communicating what we need—without guilt—and only expecting others to fill the needs that we express; saying "no" to others without guilt; speaking up when we are treated poorly; learning how to take care of ourselves instead of falling apart so others will take care of us; taking time in new relationships and not "falling in love" with anyone who treats us kindly or reaches out to us; being clear about touching others and being touched by others: not everyone wants

a hug or a hand on the shoulder, so ask first.

How does this relate to parenting?

- Be sure your children know they have a right to personal boundaries.

- Be sure your children know that they can have needs and feelings too, even when faced with the needs and feelings of others.

- Be sure your children know how to say "no" and mean it, without guilt or hesitation, when their own beliefs, thoughts, and actions are not being respected.

- Be sure your children know that you have boundaries too; healthy relationships begin at home.

Please keep in mind that the person who knows best what you need, want, and value is you. Model this for your children. Maintain your integrity in relationships through good boundaries. Be a healthy member of communities by living your truth with healthy boundaries. It is never too late to do this. What are you waiting for?

City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, school psychologist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com and join his parent support groups at the CI Community Center (usually the last Tuesday of the month).



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By BILL STUTTIG



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Joe Burck has operated JJ Burck Hardware and Marine Supply (photo, right) at 526 City Island Avenue since 1968. His father started selling marine supplies from the store back in 1928.

The following interview is the sixth in a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support *The Island Current* by placing ads in virtually every issue for more than 20 years.

For nearly 90 years, JJ Burck Hardware and Marine Supply at 526 City Island Avenue has been supplying the tri-state area's boat owners with nearly everything they need—from motors and bottom paint to water skis and coolers

"My father started selling marine supplies from this store back in 1928. In those days it was mostly boats and motors," Joe Burck, the business's current and long-time operator, explained. "In 1968, I pretty much took over. When I was a kid, it was nothing like it is now. A lot of things have changed." Pointing to a wall filled with hundreds of modern and newly designed products, he said: "The biggest thing is that there are so many items to sell now, la-

bor-saving products that didn't exist a year ago. Sales people send new information, and I have to do a lot of homework. You have to stay on top of the new products and research if the product is effective or not. When a product does not work properly, it comes back to me."

Mr. Burck said he spends much of his time on-line doing research and also talking to sales people, who send new product information regularly. "I pay attention to the tests inside the industry. If the reports come back positive, then I put the product on the shelf. It is really a small industry," he said, "so you pay attention and stay on top of what's effective and what's selling."

Aside from a constantly evolving product lines, the customer base has changed dramatically over the years as well. "Years ago it was mostly City Island and the Bronx. Now the customers come from all over New York City, New Jersey and Westchester. I even have quite a number of customers coming from the Caribbean and Central America. They visit the city on vacation or to visit family here, and they stop by to stock up and take stuff home. We get a lot of customers from Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico."

"I do a lot of marketing in catalogues that go all over," Mr. Burck said. "And I get a lot by word of mouth. It is interesting to see how different boating is in different countries. I had customers from Honduras who would come here, load up a van with boating supplies, and then drive back to Honduras through Mexico. I was told they no longer do that because it got too dangerous."

Regarding the local customer base in recent years, Mr. Burck lamented: "The boating industry of City Island is long since gone. Look at all the boat yards that have closed. And now we are starting to lose the clubs. So many of the old customers are gone too," Mr. Burck added, "people who were not only customers but also friends."



"But," he points out, "there is always a new customer base. Nowadays, as a group, Hispanic people love boating, and it is a family event. Everyone participates from the grandmother on down, and their boats are outfitted very nicely."

Another change he has noticed is that the popularity of the sport of sailing is diminishing. "The demographics of sailing are changing, and younger people aren't going into it as much."

But despite the constant market changes over time, business still stays steady for much of the year, just as it did in the 1960s and '70s. "We are busy all year, but it starts building right now, early spring through July. You start off selling the cleaners and the paints, and later in the year you start selling the fun stuff. People plan a lot of trips and stock up. Even something like the Fourth of July fireworks brings business, because people like to take their boats out to watch the show, and they check the running lights beforehand and replace them if needed or they get grills."

He also notes that "this is a seasonal business, which depends on the weather more than anything. And the inventory is seasonal too. In the early spring you are selling cleaners, waxes and paints and lights, and when the summer moves along it is life jackets and skis and stuff like that. Some customers come in here on a moment's notice if they need to replace something quick, and others plan ahead and come in here with a whole list of items they need."

Mr. Burck explained that he has marketed "through catalogues and print, including *The Island Current*, for many years. You have to spread your name."

When asked what works best, he added: "Without a marketing survey, it is hard to judge, but it is clear that if you don't spread your name, people have short memories. The customers are always changing. Change happens in everything so you have to stay on top of things. What sells this year may not sell next year. The perfect example is that red is always the slowest selling bottom paint color. But this year so far for some reason it is the biggest selling paint. It is early in the season but how do you figure on something like that? You see the change, and you increase your product purchases. You have to go week by week."

Mr. Burck, 71, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and a retired supervising dock master for the New York City Parks Department, once worked his full-time job with the city while still operating his business full time, largely with the assistance of his son, Joe, and his late wife, who watched the store during the many hours when he was working elsewhere.

Today he operates the store largely on his own, and the business still places a big demand on his time as it remains open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week with an additional six hours on most Sundays as well, especially during the height of the boating season. But despite the stringent time demands, he said there is no thought of giving up and retiring. "After nearly 50 years of doing this I still enjoy it. I am selling fun. People come in here to buy stuff so they can go out and have fun."

"I think a business like this will be viable for a long time to come, not just on City Island but all over," he explained "City Island is now basically a bedroom community. Things change. That is inevitable. People say it is not the same City Island. Well, of course not. People move away or die. Nothing stays the same. Everything changes. Whether you like or not, it changes. And you have to adjust."

But he added that one thing which hasn't changed is that City Island still remains a great place to live and do business. "The biggest complaint is traffic, but everywhere you go there is traffic. It takes you an hour now to get across the Bronx, just seven miles. That is the way it is. But we have everything here, a drug store, markets and every kind of organization from Boys Scouts to theater groups. I might be partial to the Island, but I think it is still a great place to live."

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photos courtesy of MARY COLBY

Visiting a greenhouse garden display at the NYBG.

Notes on the Creation of the NYBG

Spring is here and with it comes our gratitude that we are graced with a world-class garden minutes from home, the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

Inspiration for the park and the conservatory stemmed from an idea of the American botanist Nathaniel Lord Britton and his wife, Elizabeth. On their honeymoon in 1888, the couple visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England and thought New York City should have something equally beautiful. Back in New York, the Brittons waged a campaign for such a garden, and in 1891, New York State passed an act incorporating the NYBG, set aside 250 acres of undeveloped city-owned land. Nathaniel Britton would become the first director in chief, a position he held until 1929. He raised money by naming plants after wealthy contributors, including Andrew Carnegie, J. Pierpont Morgan, John D. Rockefeller and Cornelius Vanderbilt, whose gifts provided the \$250,000 endowment mandated by New York City.

Until the land was sold to New York City in 1884, the tobacco-rich Lorillard family had owned most of the land that would become the Bronx Zoo, the eastern part of Fordham University and the NYBG. The Snuff Mill (now the Lillian and Amy Goldman Stone Mill) still standing on the grounds was built by the family in 1840, and their mansion stood on a hill overlooking the river near an area devoted to roses, which were mixed with tobacco to form snuff. This spot is now the site of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden.

The layout of the garden was begun in 1891 under the direction of the landscape architect Calvert Vaux, who laid out the main buildings and connecting pathways until his untimely death in 1895. His architectural design has had lasting impact on the NYBG's sophisticated and classical layout. Vaux is best known for having worked with Frederick Law Olmsted on the design of Central Park in Manhattan. In 1923, the Olmsted Brothers, the premier landscape architecture firm of its time, continued to consult on the garden's layout.

Ground was broken in 1897 for the beautiful Beaux Arts library building designed by Robert Gibson, which was completed in 1899. The LuEsther T. Mertz Library now houses the largest and most comprehensive botanical library in the Americas, including works dating back to the medieval period in Europe.

In 1897, the contract for a great conservatory was awarded to Lord and Burnham, an American greenhouse manufacturer

in Irvington, NY. The design of this massive structure with its 90-foot-high Palm Court, was inspired by the conservatory at Kew and the famed Crystal Palace in

South London. It was completed in 1902 for \$177,000. Enid A. Haupt saved it from demolition in the 1970s with a \$10 million donation, and in 1978 it was named for her. Then in 1993 it was further restored to its original beauty, and at that time the inner workings were computerized.

There are 50 gardens to explore at the NYBG. Famous designers include Beatrix Jones Farrand (the Rose Garden), Penelope Hobhouse (the Herb Garden), Ellen Biddle Shipman (the Ladies Border) and Lynden B. Miller (the Perennial Garden), to name just a few.

In 1993, I was given a ticket by my good friend Ellen Grace to the opening of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. It was a stormy evening. The band was playing and the huge globelike chandeliers, designed by Martha Stewart, were swaying in the tents.

The greenhouse sparkled like a jewel, and the bad weather only enhanced the glory of the newly restored glass edifice. Baggpipes, men in kilts, delicious morsels passed by tuxedoed waiters gave this splendid evening a magic I will never forget.

That wonderful evening would herald a new age for the garden, which has been reimagined ever since to become one of the most striking of all gardens. Visit soon and often. Take a class, of which there are many, ranging from courses for specialists and useful classes for amateurs. Revel in springtime at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

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



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 HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

| APRIL 2016 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| DAY | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | DAY | |
| | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | | |
| 01 | Fri | 0549 | 7.32 | 1223 | 0.90 | 1831 | 6.93 | | Fri 01 | |
| 02 | Sat | 0045 | 1.09 | 0652 | 7.35 | 1330 | 0.74 | 1936 | 7.18 | Sat 02 |
| 03 | Sun | 0156 | 0.81 | 0758 | 7.51 | 1444 | 0.40 | 2041 | 7.57 | Sun 03 |
| 04 | Mon | 0312 | 0.32 | 0904 | 7.78 | 1550 | -0.06 | 2140 | 8.03 | Mon 04 |
| 05 | Tue | 0420 | -0.27 | 1005 | 8.07 | 1646 | -0.51 | 2234 | 8.46 | Tue 05 |
| 06 | Wed | 0518 | -0.83 | 1101 | 8.30 | 1736 | -0.85 | 2324 | 8.79 | Wed 06 |
| 07 | Thu | 0612 | -1.23 | 1154 | 8.41 | 1825 | -1.04 | | | Thu 07 |
| 08 | Fri | 0013 | 8.96 | 0704 | -1.43 | 1246 | 8.37 | 1914 | -1.02 | Fri 08 |
| 09 | Sat | 0103 | 8.93 | 0758 | -1.39 | 1339 | 8.17 | 2005 | -0.81 | Sat 09 |
| 10 | Sun | 0154 | 8.71 | 0855 | -1.14 | 1436 | 7.85 | 2101 | -0.43 | Sun 10 |
| 11 | Mon | 0250 | 8.34 | 0956 | -0.75 | 1541 | 7.49 | 2206 | 0.03 | Mon 11 |
| 12 | Tue | 0356 | 7.89 | 1102 | -0.33 | 1657 | 7.20 | 2320 | 0.44 | Tue 12 |
| 13 | Wed | 0521 | 7.52 | 1209 | 0.02 | 1811 | 7.08 | | | Wed 13 |
| 14 | Thu | 0032 | 0.67 | 0639 | 7.35 | 1314 | 0.22 | 1918 | 7.15 | Thu 14 |
| 15 | Fri | 0139 | 0.69 | 0745 | 7.35 | 1414 | 0.29 | 2017 | 7.35 | Fri 15 |
| 16 | Sat | 0239 | 0.56 | 0845 | 7.46 | 1510 | 0.27 | 2111 | 7.59 | Sat 16 |
| 17 | Sun | 0334 | 0.35 | 0938 | 7.59 | 1600 | 0.22 | 2201 | 7.81 | Sun 17 |
| 18 | Mon | 0424 | 0.15 | 1026 | 7.69 | 1646 | 0.20 | 2246 | 7.96 | Mon 18 |
| 19 | Tue | 0509 | 0.00 | 1111 | 7.72 | 1727 | 0.23 | 2327 | 8.01 | Tue 19 |
| 20 | Wed | 0550 | -0.07 | 1151 | 7.67 | 1804 | 0.32 | | | Wed 20 |
| 21 | Thu | 0005 | 7.98 | 0628 | -0.05 | 1229 | 7.56 | 1834 | 0.45 | Thu 21 |
| 22 | Fri | 0035 | 7.88 | 0659 | 0.03 | 1300 | 7.41 | 1849 | 0.58 | Fri 22 |
| 23 | Sat | 0048 | 7.79 | 0720 | 0.14 | 1315 | 7.27 | 1855 | 0.62 | Sat 23 |
| 24 | Sun | 0058 | 7.80 | 0728 | 0.20 | 1327 | 7.24 | 1923 | 0.62 | Sun 24 |
| 25 | Mon | 0126 | 7.87 | 0755 | 0.24 | 1356 | 7.26 | 2000 | 0.67 | Mon 25 |
| 26 | Tue | 0202 | 7.91 | 0832 | 0.31 | 1434 | 7.27 | 2042 | 0.77 | Tue 26 |
| 27 | Wed | 0244 | 7.89 | 0914 | 0.42 | 1518 | 7.27 | 2129 | 0.90 | Wed 27 |
| 28 | Thu | 0331 | 7.80 | 1002 | 0.54 | 1607 | 7.26 | 2221 | 1.00 | Thu 28 |
| 29 | Fri | 0423 | 7.67 | 1054 | 0.64 | 1702 | 7.28 | 2318 | 1.04 | Fri 29 |
| 30 | Sat | 0521 | 7.54 | 1152 | 0.67 | 1802 | 7.38 | | | Sat 30 |
| MAY 2016 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 | Sun | 0021 | 0.95 | 0624 | 7.47 | 1256 | 0.58 | 1905 | 7.60 | Sun 01 |
| 02 | Mon | 0133 | 0.68 | 0731 | 7.51 | 1406 | 0.34 | 2010 | 7.92 | Mon 02 |
| 03 | Tue | 0255 | 0.22 | 0840 | 7.66 | 1517 | 0.00 | 2113 | 8.30 | Tue 03 |
| 04 | Wed | 0407 | -0.35 | 0946 | 7.87 | 1619 | -0.36 | 2210 | 8.65 | Wed 04 |
| 05 | Thu | 0507 | -0.87 | 1047 | 8.05 | 1715 | -0.63 | 2304 | 8.90 | Thu 05 |
| 06 | Fri | 0603 | -1.24 | 1143 | 8.15 | 1809 | -0.77 | 2357 | 8.99 | Fri 06 |



And the Hits Keep on Coming

In our column for February, we wrote about some exciting sightings in our area, including the possible return of monk parakeets to City Island, an American bald eagle and a harbor seal in Eastchester Bay. Well, sometimes the hits really do keep on coming, and March was a case in point. When both Jack and Bob write to us about possibly finding the same rare bird in our area, we know we are on to something special.

While scanning the water off Hunter Island and the common goldeneyes at rest there, Jack was fairly certain he scoped a Barrow's goldeneye. Veteran birders, Mike and Brendan, who were at his side tended to agree, but, alas, a photograph to help seal the deal was not to be. Still, a sighting such as this can't help but make the rounds among the people interested in this sort of thing, and so it was that "Birding Bob" was made aware and then he let us know. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a Barrow's goldeneye is "primarily a duck of the western mountains of North America," and so you can see why a birder with his eye trained on the waters of the East Coast might get excited and want to share.

Although we did not have the good fortune to observe for ourselves the goldeneye in our area, we were privy to another interesting, though less uncommon, duck in our area. It began in the dark with a sound totally unfamiliar to us. Because of the unseasonably warm temperatures at the time, we assumed it to be early spring migrants passing overhead in the night, on their way north. When the next afternoon brought the same call, however, we were able to quickly identify its maker with the aid of our binoculars and bird book: it was a

long-tailed duck.

This specimen was evidently male, as



Photo by WOLFGANG WANDER

it is the male long-tailed ducks that make the kind of racket this one was making. The scaup with whom our long-tailed duck was mingling did not seem too pleased with their noisy interloper. Whenever he tried to get close, they would swim off with a splash. A little while later, he was gone, which was just as well. According to Bob, he was not early but late leaving for his spring and summer home in the Arctic, and so he was probably having himself a last meal or two before going off again to catch up with his own kind.

It isn't always so easy to tell the uncommon from the common visitor to our area. They are usually a lot more inconspicuous than our long-tailed duck. How to tell the common goldeneye from the Barrow's goldeneye, for instance, or the fish crow from the American crow or the raven, for that matter, takes time, patience and a willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. We don't always like to admit our mistakes, but our hobbies teach us that they are okay to make, natural, and maybe even part of the fun.

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Patricia Milligan

Patricia "Pat" Milligan, who grew up on City Island, died on Feb. 13, 2016, at home in New Rochelle, at the age of 88.

She was born in New York in 1928 to Robert Galt Milligan and Martha McInnes Milligan, and she spent her childhood on City Island, New York. Although she spent most of her life in New Rochelle, she never really left the Island; she greatly enjoyed swimming off Earley Street and enjoying visiting with her family by boat. She was a member of the City Island Yacht Club for many years.

She graduated from P.S. 17, Columbus High School and Hunter College with a strong education and friendships that spanned a lifetime. Her early career was with Bell Telephone.

Pat later decided that teaching was her calling and rose to become assistant principal at James Monroe High School in the Bronx. In the 1980s, she was intrigued by the idea of a second career in law, took the LSATs and was admitted to Pace University's Law School. Her graduation and the fact that she was sworn in before the U.S. Supreme Court, were sources of family pride.

Pat was predeceased by her parents; her brother Alexander Milligan and close friend and sister-in-law Sibyl Rowland Milligan; and Irene Land Milligan. She is survived by her brother Robert Malcolm Milligan; nieces Alexandra M. Allen and Noni Patricia Heinemann and their husbands, William F. Allen and Paul Anton Heinemann; nephews Robert Malcolm Milligan Jr. and Charles Land Milligan.

A funeral service was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, CT., on March 5, and her ashes were committed at Pelham Cemetery.



Vera Wright Thompson

Former City Islander Vera Wright Thompson died in Florida on March 2, 2016, at the age of 95.

Vera lived on City Island for more than 40 years and then moved to Orlando, FL, in 1969 with her husband, Wilfred (Bill) Wright; their daughters Teresa Wright and Marilyn Chase, and granddaughters Kathy and Alison Chase. After Bill's death from

cancer in 1977, Vera married Lloyd (Red) Thompson in 1980. They traveled the world for almost 25 years, until age and illness slowed them down in their mid-80s. Red and Vera moved to an assisted-living residence in Sanford, FL, in 2013.

Vera's daughter Marilyn died in 2006, and Red passed away in 2014. She is survived by her loving children John Wright (Linda), Judy Rauh (Mike) and Teresa Wright, her stepchildren Pete (Joy), David, Wayne, Sandy Pasch (Charlie); her sister, Dorothy Bunyan; and 12 nieces and nephews

Vera is also survived by her 10 grandchildren: Kathy, Alison, Beth, Susie, Dan, Leigh Anne, Lesa, Erin, Leona Kay and Diana; her 16 great-grandchildren: Cameron, Louis, Terry, Maddie, Mark, Arlo, Jackson, Andrea, Hollis, Camille, Sterling, Laird Michael, Hunter, Hank, Jacob, and Delilah, and her great-great-grandchild, Lily.

Vera's family will be forever grateful to Joy Thompson for her loving care of Mom, especially in her later years.



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

A Self-employed Double Bonus Courtesy of the IRS

As the days count down to a precious few before the deadline to file individual taxes (April 18 this year), self-employed people have an opportunity to reduce their 2015 tax obligation and contribute to their retirement. The Simplified Employee Pension Individual Retirement Account (SEP IRA) offers a double benefit to self-employed people: it reduces current year taxes and provides for tax deferred retirement savings.

The current year benefit is immediately gratifying. Contributing to a SEP IRA should reduce your current year taxes. If

you were to contribute \$10,000 and your tax rate is 25 percent, the reduction your current taxes would subsidize your contribution to the tune of \$2,500. You would be hard pressed to find any investment that costs you \$10,000 and you immediately receive a \$2,500 benefit.

Down the road, here's the beautiful part of a tax-deferred retirement plan: your income is not taxed during the time it is growing. So a \$10,000 investment growing at 8 percent for 15 years becomes \$31,700 (rounded). If you pay tax the whole time, the same investment only becomes \$24,000 (rounded). That's a difference of \$7,700 before taxes!

Of course, because it is a federal program, there are limitations and conditions. Barring limits, the highest percentage a self-employed person can contribute is approximately 18.6 percent of your net profit. Why it is 18.6 percent is a conversation best left between you and your tax preparer. The most money you can put in is capped at \$53,000 in 2015.

Everyone's situation is different and although opening up a SEP IRA is easy, the actual amount that you can put in requires an IRS-designed worksheet that enables a good tax preparer to determine your net profit, adjust it for any self-employment taxes and enter the numbers in order to figure out your maximum contribution. We did say maximum. There is no law that says you have to put in the full amount. The less you put in the less benefit you'll reap, but money is money.

At this writing, it's late March. You have a solid three weeks to get your maximum contribution amount from your tax preparer, open and or fund a SEP IRA on or before midnight on April 18. We can't emphasize enough that although this is a very tax-advantageous strategy, it requires a detailed discussion with a qualified tax preparer to determine the correct amount for you. Things get even more complicated if you have employees. This isn't something that any tax amateur can wing. There are fairly draconian tax penalties for putting in too much.

Done right—right for you, right for your employees, and right by the IRS—you can reap immediate and long-term benefits from this strategy.

Deducting Non-Dependent Relative Medical Expenses

As taxpayers, most of us know all about dependents and what defines a dependent. The most common dependents reported have been our children, but they can be other family members such as parents, brothers, sisters, etc.

Most of us are somewhat familiar with the general rules about children dependents. The dependent must be the taxpayer's child or stepchild (whether by blood or adoption), foster child, sibling or step-sibling, or a descendant of one of these, and the taxpayer paid at least half of his or her support for the year. The child must have the same principal residence as the taxpayer for more than half the tax year and must be under the age of 19 at the end of the tax year, or under the age of 24 if a full-time student for at least five months of the year, or be permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year.

With dependents other than children, there is another hurdle, and that is they must make less than the amount of the exemption, which is \$4,000 in 2015. If someone other than a qualifying child makes more than that, no matter how much support you provide, they cannot be your dependent.

Most people don't know that there is an exception when paying medical expenses. For example, if you have a parent who makes \$7,000 on a pension (Social Security does not count in this equation), they cannot be claimed as your dependent. However, if you can prove the relationship test (which the IRS interprets fairly broadly), and you provide support over and above their pension for such items as rent, medical expenses, utilities, etc., you can then claim any medical expenses for that person. Keep in mind, however, that the deduction for medical expenses has been increased to 10 percent of your adjusted gross income in 2015, so every little bit helps.

If you have a relative (under IRS interpretation) who could be claimed as an exemption, except for the fact they make more than \$4,000 in income other than Social Security, you can still deduct their medical expenses on your tax return.

Purse/Wallet.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

What Can I Do?



Grip

Carry purses or briefcases in a manner that will allow you to let go.



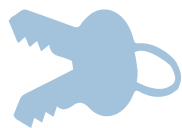
Release

If someone attempts to snatch your pocket book, let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved.



Long Strap

If there is a long strap, wrap it around the bag.



Keys

Carry your keys on your person separate from your identification.



Straps

Straps placed across your shoulder, around your neck or wrapped around your waist have caused injuries because women could not free themselves during a purse snatch.



Carry

Always be aware of your surroundings and carry your pocketbook clasp toward you, close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow as if it were a football.



Bumps

If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible.



Cash & Cards

Divide money between your purse/wallet and pockets.



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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

FOR SALE: 176 Schofield Street, newly renovated 4 BR, 2-1/2 baths, LR w/fireplace, DR, EIK w/stainless steel appliances, finished basement, huge attic, large front porch and backyard deck, hw floors and much more! Call Agent, Maria @ AER, Inc. 718-885-0088 or 718-885-0017 (cell) \$625K.

LIFE GUARD WANTED: Local beach club is seeking a waterfront certified lifeguard for the 2016 summer season (\$13 per hours). Must also have valid AED and CPR certifications. If available call 347-515-0626.

CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM GIFT SHOP: Unique nautical gifts: T-shirts, hats, trivets, magnets, and coasters and lots more. Museum open Sat/Sun. 1 to 5.

ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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CITY ISLAND NOTARY PUBLIC: Certified in New York State. By appointment only, including weekends. Call Johanna at 914-299-1414.

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43-FOOT EGG HARBOR 1983 for sale. Perfect Condition, fully ready to cruise or ideal live-aboard. Heated and Air conditioned. On City Island \$40K 917-754-0071.

CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

DRIVER NEEDED for the City Island Senior Center Van. 18-30 hours per week. This is a physically demanding job position that also requires work within the center. Send resume to pattis@pss.usa.org.

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Bartow-Pell Events

Don't miss the first First Friday of the year on Friday, April 1, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Back by popular demand is the folk group Hawthorne, featuring Nat Osborn, Aimee Bayles, Karna Ray and Stu Mahan. Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students; members free.

The spring series of Yoga for Wellness will take place on Fridays, April 8, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Ann Casapini brings 20 years of experience as a certified yoga instructor back to the Orangerie for a gentle level-one series. Each class includes an overall workout, a specific area of focus, a short meditation and deep relaxation. Class size is limited to 12. Please bring your own mat. Registration and pre-payment required. Cost \$190 for series; members \$165.

ACT/REACT: Re-Imagining the Past. On Friday, April 8, at 7 and 8 p.m. and on Saturday, April 9, at 5 and 6 p.m., BPMM will present, together with the City Island Theater Group and the Supporting Characters, a unique immersive theatrical event with short, site-specific performances that bring the period rooms of the mansion to life. Follow the actors from room to room as you step back in time. Registration required. Free.

A Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day will take place on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Con Edison and New York Cares join forces to help make the grounds of BPMM beautiful. Long sleeves, pants and sturdy footwear strongly recommended. Light breakfast available. Registration requested. Free.

Poetry in the Parlors will be presented on Sunday, April 17, at 4:30 p.m. BPMM teams up with Four Way Books to present readings in the double parlors. Poet Rachel Eliza Griffiths reads from her 2015 book "Lighting the Shadow" and novelist and poet Victoria Redel from her work "Make Me Do Things." Also included are a brief musical prelude and a reception with a book signing. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students.

On Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m., the curators of the mansion's new exhibition will present a talk on "Fashion and Femininity in Gilded Age America." Women's fashion in the late 19th century wasn't just glamorous; it was revolutionary! Styles reflected the dramatic changes taking place in American society, including changing ideas of beauty, new technologies, sports trends, immigration, and the growth of cities. Claire McRee and Sarah Pickman discuss why the Gilded Age was a turning point in how women dressed and lived. Free.

A five-part introduction to meditation will be presented on five Mondays, April 25, May 2, 9, 16 and 23. An effective treatment for stress, lack of focus, relationship problems, addiction and more, meditation leads to peace of mind and well-being, creativity and better relationships. Cost \$85 for the series; members \$75.

On Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., marking the one-year anniversary of the installation of the two proud bronze Gaston Lachaise peacocks overlooking the formal garden on loan from the Lachaise Foundation, Executive Director Paula Hornbostel discusses them and more in a talk on "Figures, Fountains, & Peacocks: Lachaise Garden Sculpture, 1920-1935." Free.

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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.

Best wishes for continued success to Whytey and the staff of Papa John's Deli, who will celebrate their 16th year of business on April 3.

Our special wishes to Elizabeth and Ken Farnum on your 25th anniversary on April 20 and Elizabeth's birthday on April 22. We love you so much, Mom and Debra.

Birthday greetings on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Happy birthday to Marine Street's David Butterworth, who will celebrate his big day on April 30 and to his aunt, Mari Doyle, on April 14.

Welcome to Fordham Street's newest residents, David Millan and his mother, Julia Millan.

Happy April birthdays to former Islanders Eric Rauhauser, who celebrates on April 2, and Carol Gauss McKenna, who will blow out candles on April 14. Leah Nani will also celebrate her big day on April 30. Wishing you

all lots of cake and presents. See you on your next visits back to City Island. Love, Karen, Paul and Mark.

Birthday wishes to Bay Street's Anne McIntyre on April 22. We love you!

Congratulations to Kurstin Laue and her husband, Amer Ishaq, on moving to City Island. They will be living in her grandparent's house, where her father, Heinz, grew up. The Laues owned the City Island Bake Shop for 20 years in the 1950s and '60s. We hope they will enjoy City Island as much as we have, especially being part of such a special and unique community. Love, Mom and Dad.

Keep up the good work to Island physician and Armory Foundation President Dr. Norbert Sander, who was recently given the Outstanding Philanthropic Achievement on Behalf of Sports and Community Development Award at the Armory Track in Manhattan. Through Dr. Sander's tireless efforts, The Armory, which was once a dilapidated homeless shelter, has become the foremost indoor track and field facility in the country. The facility boasts over 100 track and field meets with more than 125,000 young people competing each year.

Happy birthday to Frank Ramftl, who will celebrate on April 4.

And birthday greetings on April 25 to Bay Street's Maria Swieciki, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by SAMANTHA HARROLD

Life is a cabaret... or it was inside the Starving Artist Café on March 19 as Hannah Glick organized an evening of cabaret songs and style with her friends: (l. to r.) Freddie Lando, Maurice Richard, Monica Glick, Elliott Glick, Hannah Glick, Nic Anthony Calabro, Sarah Harrold, Heather Edwards and Thomas Losito.



Photo by CANDY MANCUSO

This month's Community Pride Award goes to the Medical Office of City Island for its neat and attractive appearance.

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Photo by EDDIE CASTRO

The City Island Warriors did a great job at the Fordham Prep Martial Arts Tournament on Feb. 28, 2016. Krishn Maystry (at the left) won first place in fighting and in weapons; Arjun Maystry (center) won first place in fighting and second place in weapons; Addie Maystry (right) won second place in fighting. Also competing were Jalynn Richardson, Antalya Rodriguez, Kostantine Verges and Kayla Mooney.

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