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One Dollar

P.S. 175: Ready, Set, Go!

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

P.S. 175 sixth-graders competed at the Bronx District 11 Soap Box Derby competition on May 6, 2023, on Baychester Avenue (top photo). The New York City Schools Chancellor, David Banks, pulled the starting lever for several races, including one featuring a P.S. 175 car (photo above right). The City Island School's principal, Julie Porras, shown above with organizer Claudia Conover (left) and Chancellor Banks, led the cheering for the City Island student racers.

Speedy sixth-graders from P.S. 175 competed under sunny skies at the Bronx District 11 Soap Box Derby competition on May 6, 2023, on Baychester Avenue. More than 40 cars designed and built by students from 24 schools competed in the event, cheered on by enthusiastic parents, teachers, principals and the New York City Schools Chancellor, David Banks.

Last year, members of the eighth-grade class at P.S. 175 won the District Soap Box Derby race and went to the international Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. For those readers not familiar with Soap Box Derby, it is a youth car racing program that has been run in the United States since 1933. World Championship finals are held each July at Derby Downs in Akron. Cars competing are unpowered, relying completely upon gravity to move.

District 11's STEM-based Education Program uses the tools and values of Soap Box Derby racing to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to students in an enjoyable, engaging way. These four fields share an emphasis on innovation, problem-solving and critical thinking.

"What a perfect day! We have a winning strategy here," exclaimed the Chancellor before starting one of the races between cars from two different schools. "I congratulate the principals and teachers who have reimagined learning beyond the four walls of their classrooms. The kids build the cars and learn how to drive them, encouraging school spirit and creativity."

P.S. 175 science teacher Karen Heil became interested in Soap Box Derby in 2022. She participated in a training program hosted by NYC School District 12 and arranged for the purchase of a car kit (each kit costs around \$1,500). Last year, the first derby competition was held in the Bronx, and 20 cars competed.

"Although we did not win this year, we were able to participate, win several heats, and it was a great day overall," Ms. Heil told *The Current*. She proudly congratulated the members of the 2023 P.S. 175 Soap Box Derby team. Drivers were sixth-graders Peyton Sims, Dylon Vazquez and Lucas Sipas. The Derby Crew included seventh-graders Gabriella Alvarez-Middleton, Ashly Garcia and

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25 NEW TREES ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MATT PANZA and RON TERNER

In spite of the rain, Islanders came out to plant 25 young trees along City Island Avenue on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Some of the hard workers included (l. to r.) Eran Strauss, Cathy Cepek, Navé Strauss, Matt McGaughan, Jim McGaughan, Hailey Clancy, Kim McGaughan, A. E. Neuman, Davy Jones and Peter Hickey. Navé Strauss of the Parks Department worked with Bill Clancy of the Civic Association to get the trees to City Island and to supervise the planting.

The City Island Civic Association, led by officer Bill Clancy, completed the first phase of its tree-planting program along City Island Avenue, in spite of the heavy rain, on Saturday, May 20. The ambitious effort involved working with the Department of Parks & Recreation, which provided the young native species of trees, and with elected officials, specifically Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez, to obtain funding for the program.

Members of the Civic put together a map of the avenue that identified empty tree pits (where a tree died), tree stumps (which could be ground out), grassy areas between the sidewalk and the street curb, and concrete areas where a new tree pit might be created. Forty-five possible spaces were identified, and 25 of them were filled with new trees on May 20.

The Parks Department agreed to provide the trees at minimal cost if the community was willing to step up with volunteers for the initial planting and for ongoing care and watering. The Civic Association fronted an initial investment of about \$10,000 when the cost of the trees and some planting expenses were factored in.

Mr. Clancy engaged Boy Scout Troop 211 to help with the project, which was

spearheaded by Life Scout candidate Matthew Clancy, and many scouts volunteered, along with their parents and other volunteers from the Island. Two staff members from Marjorie Velázquez's office pitched in, as did the Parks Department director of street tree planting, Navé Strauss, who brought his father along to help, and Judy Judson, president of the Garden Club of City Island. Trees planted included Amelanchier Crabapple, Flowering Crabapple, Hackberry and Syringa (a type of lilac tree).

The next step will be to get volunteers to help with various chores, specifically watering the trees, each of which will need about 30 gallons a week. So far, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Johnny's Reef and Trinity Methodist Church have agreed to take on responsibility for watering the trees in front of their establishments. As Bill Clancy told *The Current*, "We are committed to this public/private partnership, not just for the initial 2023 planting, but to ongoing maintenance and watering."

Anyone who wishes to become involved in the program is invited to e-mail city_island.civic@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY...

ANNUAL SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place along the sidewalks of City Island Avenue on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4. More than 50 artists and craftspeople will display and sell their works, including painting, photography, jewelry, soaps, personal care products, crocheted goods, gems and minerals, face painting/airbrush tattoos, great food, ice cream and more. There will be live music daily in Hawkins Park beginning at 3 p.m. For more information, call 718-885-9100.

THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET will be hosted by the City Island Sail & Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post on Sunday, June 25, at 1 p.m. at the dock at Barron's Boatyard, 350 Fordham Place. VHF Ch 71 (from 12:30 p.m.). For more information, call 646-258-4250.

PRIMARY VOTING: This year there will be Democratic, Republican and Conservative primaries for City Council and Bronx District Attorney. Primary Day is Tuesday, June 27, and early voting will be from June 17 to June 25 at 3335 Country Club Road; P.S. 175 will be the voting site on June 27. Rank choice voting may kick-in because of the large number of candidates. Running for City Council on the Democratic ticket are Marjorie Velázquez, Irene Estrada, Bernadette Ferrara and John Perez; Republican and Conservative candidates are George Havranek, Kristy Marmorato and Hasine Samantha Zherka. Running for Bronx District Attorney are Darcel Clark and Tess Cohen.

MICROPLASTIC MADNESS: Inspired by the recent Teach-In for Environmental Justice program held at P.S. 175, the school will be screening an award-winning documentary called "Microplastic Madness" for Islanders of all ages at the school on Tuesday, June 13, at 6 p.m. The film features experts along with Brooklyn fifth-graders who are taking the lead to stop plastic pollution.

ORCHARD BEACH FIREWORKS will be held this year on Thursday, June 29, from 6 to 10 p.m. sponsored by Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez, who told *The Current*: "Our community looks forward to this every year, and it's a wonderful feeling to be able to keep this tradition alive. The annual fireworks display is perfect for the entire family!"

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and May 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from April 20 to May 24, 2023.

4/20 – An incident of grand larceny occurred on City Island Avenue at 4:30 p.m. Complainant states he was working on a delivery, and before he went inside the location, he left his computer tablet on the rear bumper of the business truck. When he came out, the tablet was gone. He told police that whenever the tablet is picked up a picture is taken, and he received a picture of an unknown male.

5/3 – On Minneford Avenue at 7:15 p.m., an Island female reported harassment by a male Islander. Complainant states that her landlord was upset because she was two weeks behind on rent. The landlord was yelling and knocking on her door. He wanted to gain access to the apartment, causing complainant to feel annoyed and alarmed.

5/4 – At 6 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, an off-Island male returned to his parked vehicle and found that his rear windows were broken and property, including a lap-

top, tools and clothing, had been removed in an act of petit larceny.

5/4 – An off-Island female reported an incident of grand larceny on City Island Avenue at 8:30 p.m. Complainant states she was at a commercial establishment when she went to use the restroom and didn't realize she left items in the restroom. Upon return her credit card, debit card, insurance cards and driver's license were missing. Unknown person(s) did use one of her credit cards and tried to use her Citibank card.

5/14 – On Bridge Street at 7 p.m., an Island female told police that an unknown perpetrator removed her vehicle's rear license plate without authority or permission.

5/14 – An Island female reported a burglary on Pell Place at 9:30 p.m. She told police that an unknown perpetrator entered her home without permission or authority and removed items, including a laptop, cell phone and car keys. The perpetrator possibly entered through a rear door.

5/15 – On Schofield Street at 2:55 a.m., an Island female reported that her vehicle was hit by an unknown vehicle, which then fled the scene of the accident.

5/19 – An assault was reported by an off-Island female on Pilot Street. Complainant states she got into a verbal dispute with another female, who then punched her in the face with a closed fist causing swelling and pain.

Note: Police and postal workers have received reports of mailboxes on City Island that have been tampered with. Sticky glue-like substances have been applied to the openings, which prevents mail from properly dropping into the box. Islanders have been told that the safest mail drop off location is inside the post office on City Island Avenue at Winters Street.

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DERELICT BOAT REMOVAL

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by CATHY CEBEK

Bronx Parks Commissioner Jessenia Aponte and Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez (above, center) joined with members of the City Island Civic Association, the Parks Department and members of the boat-salvage team to celebrate the removal of eight derelict boats from Eastchester Bay on April 21, 2023.

On April 21, 2023, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation removed eight vessels and several container loads of marine debris from the shoreline of Rodman's Neck, thanks to funding provided by Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez at the request of the City Island Civic Association's Municipal Services chair, Cathy Cebek. This effort included the removal of a rotted hull that sank several years ago next to Catherine Scott Promenade.

Under the direction of Nate Grove, chief of Waterfront and Marine Operations for the Parks Department, hundreds of derelict vessels and other marine debris have been removed from Parks shorelines citywide. As Mr. Grove, who was profiled in the May 8 issue of The New Yorker

magazine, explained: "Derelict abandoned vessels and other marine debris are environmental hazards and create navigational and property damage risks, particularly when becoming dislodged during heavy weather events. In addition to leakage of fuel and oil, these derelict vessels release fiberglass fibers and other microplastics as they deteriorate, which imperil the city's marine ecosystem."

The Parks department is always working to identify and remove additional hazards. Mr. Grove is currently working with the firm Custom Marine to perform the removals, which are made possible by funding secured through competitive federal grants, as well as via funding provided by members of the City Council.

Richard DePierro Way

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER

On May 6, 2023, neighbors and family members gathered to celebrate the naming of west Hawkins Street in honor of Richie DePierro, as requested by the City Island Civic Association and approved by Community Board 10 and the City Council. In the front row (photo above) are Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez with Richie's sister, Barbara, and Tom Smith of the Civic Association and CB 10; behind them (l. to r.) are Mary Colby, Calliope Rigos (owner of the Black Whale), and Civic board members Barbara Dolensek, Bill Stanton, Stu Sorell, Fred Ramftl and Cathy Cebek.

On Saturday, May 6, a small crowd gathered at the corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue to attend a ceremony led by Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez to honor the late Richard DePierro, known to many as Richie, by putting up a sign reading "Richard DePierro Way" across the street from the Black Whale, which he founded over half a century ago.

Councilwoman Velázquez began by describing some of Richie's accomplishments on City Island, followed by Tom Smith, officer of the City Island Civic Association and member of Community Board 10, which approved the naming of the street in Richie's honor and encouraged the City Council to do so as well. Barbara DePierro, Richie's sister, spoke briefly about her brother's legacy, as did Bill Stanton, president of the City Island Civic Association, before the sign was raised as the crowd cheered.

Richard DePierro grew up on City

Island and as a young man worked as a gardener, a spinnaker cutter at Ratsey and Laphorn and a wood steamer at Nevins Yacht Yard, but he was best known on the Island as the owner of the Black Whale. At first, the Whale was an antique store and coffee shop and later became a desert shop and then a restaurant, but it was unique on the Island as a space that welcomed free thinkers, people of color and the LGBTQ community. Over the years, Richie also purchased several other commercial buildings on City Island and managed to create the City Island Diner and to restore the row of shops between Hawkins and Carroll Streets.

Although Richie DePierro grew up on Bay Street and lived on Rochelle Street, it is entirely appropriate that his name will forever be connected to Hawkins Street, where the Black Whale carries on his legacy to the City Island community.

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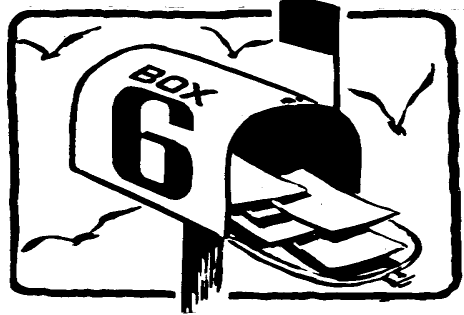
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25 NEW TREES PLANTED ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE	WEST HAWKINS STREET NAMED FOR RICHIE DePIERRO	ARTIST MARY COLBY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS ON CITY ISLAND	P.S. 175 STUDENTS COMPETE IN SOAP BOX DERBY	FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHT BETWEEN CI & ORCHARD BEACH INSTALLED
WOW! THE BOY SCOUTS ARE THE MOST IN DEMAND WORKFORCE ON CI!	YES, THEY SEEM TO BE EVERYWHERE!	I LOVE THAT IT IS RICHIE DePIERRO WAY INSTEAD OF ROAD OR STREET.	I AGREE! HE KNEW THE VALUE OF RETAINING THE QUIANT CHARACTER OF OLD CI IN HIS OWN SPECIAL WAY!	I CAN REMEMBER DRIVING PAST MARY'S GALLERY LATE AT NIGHT & SHE WOULD STILL BE IN THERE WORKING.
				SO HERE'S THE SECRET WINNING STRATEGY: 1) DISTRACT OPPONENTS WITH A COOL PAINT JOB. 2) GET OUT IN FRONT & WIN.
			APPARENTLY EVEN SHE HAS A HARD TIME KNOWING WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE!	



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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

To the Editor,

You may have heard that there was a fire on Centre Street on April 21 at 11 p.m. when a shed across the street unexpectedly caught on fire. Despite the late hour, two of my neighbors had already called the Fire Department. Bravely rushing over to help, they alerted the owners inside the house and tried to control the fire. The Fire Department arrived, and as the doors to the shed were opened, the flames just burst out, 15 feet high! Fire out and homeowners safe, a special shout out goes to the neighbors who were so quick to respond.

Name withheld by request

Thank You on Behalf of Nick

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Vaughan, Grimaldi, Byrnes and Comerford families, we extend



Neighbors and firefighters responded quickly to a fire in a shed on Centre Street on April 21.

our heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support, kind gestures and condolences extended to us during this difficult time. Your presence at the funeral, thoughtful gifts and comforting words have brought solace and strength to our grieving hearts. We deeply appreciate the love and support from this community. Thank you for standing by our side and honoring the memory of Nicholas, who held City Island close to his heart.

The Vaughan, Grimaldi, Byrnes, and Comerford families

Mermaid House of Comfort

To the Editor,

Thank you for the wonderful article last month on the City Island child with Autism Spectrum (ASD). I appreciate that we are all working on destigmatizing ASD, as I am a parent of an ASD teenager who is doing well because of NYC's early intervention program. As a family new to City Island, I have been grateful for all the kindness, empathy and inclusion. Both clam diggers and mussel suckers alike have made moving to and creating the "Mermaid House" a true joy. Thank you to everyone for this.

Many people have asked about the story behind the Mermaid House. So let me share. My son was born in 2008, and my career, fortune and marriage all collapsed about that time, so I had to reinvent myself in order to support me and my son. In 2017, he suffered a traumatic event at school from excessive bullying, and I was advised to move out of Manhattan and find a more peaceful environment for him to live in. That summer, I visited City Island for the first time and after a summer of house hunting we found a big old yellow house on the water that reminded me of my childhood.

In 2019, when we were finally closing on the house, I confided in my son, then 11, that I was scared of taking such a big step. He tried to comfort me and suggested we focus on the future theme of our home. "We should create a Mermaid House!" he said. Perplexed by his creative choice, I asked, "Why a Mermaid House?" He responded, "Because, Mommy, you are a woman in transition!"

From that point forward, I have never looked back nor doubted the love that exudes from our Mermaid House. Kids on the spectrum clearly have superpowers that we just don't understand yet. For those who want to better empathize with the parental journey, I will share a link to an inspirational poem about what it is like to become a parent of a child with ASD: <https://www.emilyperlkingsley.com/welcome-to-holland>.

Lora Lindsey



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Mary Colby: Island Artist Extraordinaire

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MITCH COLBY
Artist and studio owner Mary Colby (above) celebrated 30 years on City Island on April 22, 2023.

On Friday evening, April 22, Mary Colby opened her studio at 276 City Island Avenue to celebrate her 30 years on City Island, and many Islanders joined her to see the paintings and to congratulate her for so many successful years here.

Unlike most galleries, this is a studio where Mary both works and displays recent works on paper and canvas, along with some earlier paintings. She has been privately selling her work to decorators and private homes for decades, but it is unusual to find an artist's studio and gallery on a main street where you can visit and see work in progress.

As a child, Mary watched her mother copy paintings by Goya, Rembrandt, and Caravaggio in their kitchen; appropriately, some of her mother's work was on view at Clipper Coffee at the time of the anniversary celebration. Mary studied at Lehman College and the Art Students League in New York City and worked for many years with *Island Current* art director and artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner for Fe Fi

Faux, Mary's decorative painting business.

To the delight of Islanders and visitors who pass by and watch her at work, Mary has been painting in her storefront workshop since 1993. Her work has been in many group shows, but as the owner of her Studio/Gallery, she has been able to show and sell artwork directly to the people who have come to love her art.

Mary is also a garden designer, whose work can be seen around the Island as well as at her own home, and she has contributed a garden column to *The Island Current* for over a decade. Copies of her articles are archived at the New York Botanical Garden. Her websites, www.marycolby.com and www.theartistgardener.com, are well worth a visit.

You can visit Mary's Studio/Gallery by appointment or on Thursdays from 12 to 4 p.m. For more information, you may call her at 917-804-4509 or e-mail marycolby7@gmail.com.

Islanders Receive Scouting Awards

By DAN HICKEY



Photo by DAN HICKEY

Award recipients at the 2023 Recognition Dinner held by the Bronx Council of the Boy Scouts of America (l. to r.) Alex Linzer, Jerry Filomio and Greg Clancy.

The Bronx Council of the Boy Scouts of America bestowed the Silver Beaver Award, its highest honor, for noteworthy service of exceptional character, on fourth-generation City Islander Gregory J. Clancy at the 2023 Recognition Dinner on May 11, 2023, along with a tenure award for 30 years of service to scouting.

Also honored at the dinner were Alex Linzer and Jerry Filomio, who each received Unit Scouter awards for their service to Cub Scout Pack 211 and BSA Troop 211, respectively. Alex was noted for his dedicated service since his son, Wyatt, joined Pack 211 as a Lion Scout six years ago. Jerry has been a constant presence at Troop 211 functions, including chaperoning the annual week at summer camp. He continues to contribute even after his son, Jeremy, aged out of scouting, and Jeremy continues the family tradition of service to Troop 211 as an adult leader.

At the annual dinner, held at Rory Dolan's in Yonkers and attended by many Islanders, District Chairman Charlie Johnson explained that the Silver Beaver Award honors hard work, self-sacrifice and many years of service. It is not given to those who seek it, and Greg had no idea he was going to receive it.

Far younger than most Silver Beaver recipients, Greg has already logged a lifetime's worth of scouting achievement. A troop leader in his youth, he continued to serve after earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout in 1994. He then attended the

U.S. Naval Academy before serving in combat during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. After returning home, he took on successive roles in our local scout pack and troop as well as the Bronx Council BSA.

Greg's many hats with the scouts included Cubmaster of Pack 211, Den Leader, Pack Committee Chairman, Troop Committee member, Assistant Scoutmaster and District Merit Badge Counselor. His leadership has helped make Pack 211 and Troop 211 one of the most vibrant scouting units in the Bronx.

His contributions to scouting reach beyond the City Island community. As Bronx Council president, he spearheaded fundraising campaigns that raised over \$600,000. He has been a tireless advocate for scouting in the business community during a time when news media were pre-occupied with legacy problems in the BSA national organization.

The Silver Beaver Award also recognizes Greg's contributions to the community beyond scouting. He has been a coach at various levels of the City Island Little League, where all four of his sons have played. He has a deeply held affiliation with Leonard H. Hawkins Post 186 of the American Legion and serves as a mentor to Island youth interested in the U.S. service academies.

He and his wife, Meaghan, are raising a fifth generation of clamdiggers, all of them on the path to becoming future City Island Eagle Scouts. Congratulations to all the Clancys on Greg's prestigious honor!

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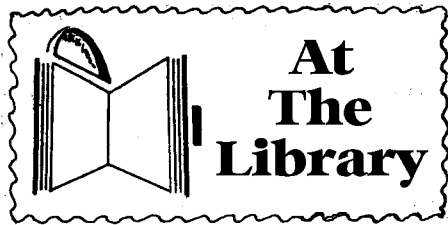
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On May 9, 2023, City Island Rising held the annual Teacher Appreciation Day breakfast for P.S. 175 teachers and staff in front of 200 City Island Avenue. The group thanked all the teachers who make a difference, day in and day out.



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JUNE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

and Saturday, June 17, at 11 a.m.

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

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

JUNE TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Manga Club: Come in and enjoy our manga collection! Different manga volumes will be available to read onsite and to check out. Read and discuss it with friends, and create anime/manga related crafts! Thursday, June 8 and 22, at 3 p.m.

Pride Crafternoon: Create art—painting, crochet, writing, drawing and more—to celebrate Pride month! Wednesday, June 21, at 3 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m.

Artivism: Create, converse and collaborate with your community through the arts! Pick up a paintbrush, pen or stencil and get started! Friday, June 2.

Pride Keychains: Celebrate National

LGBT+ Pride month by weaving together your own Pride flag keychain! Friday, June 9.

Maker's Club: Join us to see what you can make in various activities, while getting hands on practice in art, coding and technology, physics and more! Friday, June 16.

E-Readers Unite!: Getting ready for summer reading? Learn how to get set up to read books digitally with NYPL and be set for summer! Friday, June 23.

Unplug & Relax: Friday, June 30.

JUNE ADULT PROGRAMS

Creative Aging Writing Workshop: Bringing Life to Life Stories: Have you ever wanted to write a memoir but didn't know where to start? In this workshop writer and educator Frank Ingrassiotta will guide you on how to bring your life stories to the page. In this eight-session memoir writing class, we will examine various aspects of storytelling. Through writing exercises, we will explore the tools of your personal expression that brings writing to life. Tuesdays, June 6 and 13, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Introduction to Computers: Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. All work will be conducted on our library computers. Call us for details and more information. Thursday, June 8 and 22, at 11 a.m.

Adult Coloring: Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-

weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, June 1, 15 and 29, at 11 a.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, June 5 and 26, at 5 p.m.

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

Origami for Adults: Origami—the art of paper folding—originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it “engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.” Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Pride Month Movie: Boy Erased: Saturday, June 24, at 2 p.m.

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



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ISLANDER DEBUTS HER SECOND ACT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Imagine yourself with a great idea or a new product that you know is a winner, but you haven't the foggiest idea how to let the world know about it. Do you write it up and put it on Facebook, maybe with a photograph? Do you call up the local television station and tell them you've developed something that will change the world if only they were willing to feature it in a news story? Or do you have a party and hope that your friends will be impressed and buy or adopt whatever it is you are trying to promote?

Those of us who live on City Island are fortunate to have someone right in our neighborhood who can do all of that for us: Monica Yehle, better known to many as Monica Glick, wife of Elliott Glick and co-hostess of The Artist. In fact, she has been doing that sort of thing for many years, decades of which were spent managing communications (photography, newsletters, social media, etc.), fundraising, planning and management for the Pontifical Mission Societies.

For nearly 40 years, Monica worked as an administrator for the organization, eventually earning the title of chief of staff, a role she had actually been playing for many years. Then there was a reorganization, and Monica decided to leave the Mission and begin her own consult-



Photos by RON TERNER and MONICA YEHLE
Monica Yehle, above, known to many Islanders as Monica Glick, has started up a new business, M4 Consulting Services, using her 40 years of experience in communications, development, fundraising, management and planning. She is also a talented photographer who manages to capture beautiful images to share on Facebook (photos at right).

ing business. She took the skills she had in various areas—communications, fundraising, management, and planning—and decided to put them to work for small businesses and organizations. With an office in her City Island home, she threw



herself a launch party in March 2023 and went to work. “No matter the organization’s focus, the skills are transferrable,” Monica explained.

For many years, Monica has also given a great deal of her spare time to Island organizations—teaching religious classes at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, writing a comprehensive holiday column for *The Island Current*, promoting the Starving Artist Gallery (now The Artist), where she can often be found singing and otherwise entertaining the crowd. Now she will start looking around for worthy clients who work very hard and have a lot to offer but don't have skills in self-promotion.

Monica grew up in Morris Park and went to St. Francis Xavier School and Preston High School, all in the Bronx. She graduated *summa cum laude* from St. John's University in 1983 with a degree in communication and a minor in business. She worked for a Catholic newspaper as an executive assistant, reporter, editor and production assistant and then went to work for W.R. Grace & Company as an editor and eventually assistant director of public relations. Soon afterward, she started with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, and then worked for all four of the Pope's mission societies. During her many years there, she had the privilege and blessing of meeting three popes—John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. Although she regrets having to leave the organization, she is very proud of all she accomplished there and is thrilled to be able to share what she learned with City Islanders who can use her help.

Monica often came to City Island as a child and has fond memories of the places she visited as an adult, including Matty's Bar and Grill (which became the Island Pub), but it wasn't until she met Elliott Glick in 1989 that she decided to move here. They were married in 1995 and two years later the couple opened the Starving Artist, which combined Elliott's jewelry design with his skills as a musician. Their daughter, Hannah, was born in August

1998 and has become a notable Islander in her own right. Her former bedroom in the Glicks' home is now Monica's office.

She named her new company M4 Consulting Services because she specializes in four areas of service—communications, development, management/administration and planning, but each of these areas involves specific skills, such as copywriting, editing, websites, advertising, fundraising, grant writing, community outreach, team building, event planning, strategic planning and more. Monica's first client was the City Island Chamber of Commerce, whose website needed updating and overhauling in order to help clarify the benefit of the Chamber for City Island businesses. Now it will offer more, including “Behind the Business” profiles of City Island business members, as well as an integrated social media strategy. As Chamber President Paul Klein noted in a message to City Island businesses, by working with Monica, the Chamber will be “implementing a multi-platform marketing plan, utilizing its website, and social media and introducing structured email communications.”

One of Monica's happy new clients is Anne Booth, who runs a catering service and is steward / chef at the Harlem Yacht Club. Anne is very pleased with her new website additions, including “Team” profiles and her social media footprint, which are richly illustrated with beautiful photographs. She is particularly delighted with the blog “Savoring the Moments,” which is something she always wanted to write but never had time for. Thanks to Monica, it is finally happening. One amazing connection: Anne graduated from The Culinary Institute of America in 2000, one year after Jennifer Glick, Elliott's daughter, graduated as a pastry chef—and who is now working alongside Anne in that capacity.

Although Monica is highly skilled in many areas, one of her great talents is photography. In March 2020, she began posting a daily photograph on her Facebook page with this caption: “During life in the time of #Coronavirus, posting a photo a day, an image of hope, to send healing and strength to all coping at home and around the world. Pass it on... #HopeToCope.” And since then, without interruption, she has posted an image every day, including flowers, plants, animals, scenes of water and sky, views of City Island and those from vacations abroad, and more. Not one of the photographs includes a person, however, which she feels would diminish the universal nature of pictures that are intended to offer something to everyone. And it is in that spirit that Monica reaches out to offer something to anyone who could use her services.

Be sure to visit her website, www.M4ConsultingServices.com. To reach her, you can e-mail monica@M4ConsultingServices.com or call 917-439-2034.



Photo by KAREN NANI

For the first time in history, there is a traffic light on Park Drive between the City Island circle and Orchard Beach. According to the Department of Transportation, it is an “actuated signal” that enables cyclists and pedestrians using the bike path to stop traffic and cross the road safely.



Photo courtesy of Marianna Afentouli

Artist Marianna Afentouli debuted her first solo fine arts exhibition titled “From Antiquity, to Byzantium and to the Present” on May 7, 2023 at Clipper Coffee Gallery on City Island. Shown above at the opening are (l. to r.) BronxNet's Executive Director, Michael Max Knobbe, Dr. Despina Afentouli, Rev. Economos Vasilios Louros and Marianna Afentouli.





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VENERABLE VETERANS



Photos by RON TERNER and BARBARA DOLENSEK

The parade marched on led by members of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion. The 2023 Memorial Day parade up City Island Avenue on May 29 included 15 sailors and 15 Marines from the USS Wasp, five members of the US Coast Guard First Response Cutter Warren Deyampert, 10 submariners from Submarine USS Oregon, the New York Metro Pipe Band, Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. Legion commander Pete Del-Debbio, Sons of the American Legion president Vic Anderson, Auxiliary president Laura Booth and Chaplain Joe Goonan led the tributes and were joined by the City Island Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts; the Legion Youth Band and the City Island Little League among other marchers who were thrilled to be marching under sunny skies and the stars and stripes.



P.S. 175 principal, Julie Porras (above right), lent hands-on assistance to science teacher Karen Heil at the Soap Box Derby on May 6.

Soap Box Derby

Continued from page 1

Emma Riordan.

Using standardized wheels with precision ball bearings, the gravity-powered racers start on a ramp on top of a hill, attaining speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. Rally races and qualifying races in cities around the United States use advanced timing systems that measure the time difference between the competing cars to the thousandth of a second to determine the winner of a heat. Each heat of a race lasts less than 30 seconds. The total weight of each car, including the driver, has to be 240 pounds, which is confirmed the day before each car races.

In the Bronx District competition, cars from different schools raced against each other two at a time for the first heat. They then exchanged wheels and track positions for the second heat, eliminating any advantage from pole position and different wheels from different kits.

Despite the many competing cars and wheel changes, the event was well organized by the District STEM instructional lead, Claudine Conover, who has an interesting connection to City Island.

“I attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School from kindergarten through eighth grade,” she explained. “When Superintendent Vaughan decided to make District 11 a STEM district, I reached out to Staten Island, which had a nine-year history of Soap Box Derby.” Thanks to her efforts, the first derby was held in the Bronx in 2022.

Meanwhile, on race day, Ms. Heil was given hands-on assistance by the P.S. 175 principal, Julie Porras, who was there cheering on the drivers and even helping carry the cars to the starting line! Ms. Porras echoed the enthusiasm of the chancellor and Superintendent Vaughan: “The kids build the cars themselves, including the steering and brakes, and designed their own logos painted on the cars. It is total collaboration. We are proud to have one of the best science teachers in the district, Karen Heil, who makes this possible and makes STEM learning engaging for our students.”

The possibilities are endless. Maybe one day, a P.S. 175 graduate will be designing cars for Ferrari or racing in the Indianapolis 500. Either way, the students and their parents had an exciting day in May.

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Memory Wall Honors Islanders Who Have Passed Away

By BILL STUTTIG



Photos by SCOTT RUDERMAN

Island photographer and gallery owner Ron Terner (above) has created a memory wall on City Island Avenue between Cross and Beach Streets, in honor of many residents who have passed away. The project began with images on rocks behind P.S. 175 (below right) placed during the 2012 City Island Reunion.

If a photographer could be a community's poet laureate, then Ron Terner would be that person for City Island. Owner and operator of the Focal Point Gallery for nearly 50 years, Ron is well known to most Island residents. He has taken photos of many Islanders during his coverage of public and private social gatherings, and many people have had photographic portraits done of themselves and their families.

In fact, hundreds of soul-revealing portraits have been created by Ron. Unfortunately, over the past several years, some of the portrait subjects have passed away. Rather than keep those photos in an unseen file, since 2012, Ron has posted and varnished them on a wooden fence on the west side of City Island Avenue just north of Beach Street.

"I call it the Memory Wall," Ron said during a recent interview with *The Current*. "Some people call it the wall of death. That hurts my feelings. It's a memorial wall. You don't call it a graveyard. It's a lot better than that, because when you go there you are looking at a face that brings back memories. You're not looking at a cold stone that doesn't do anything for you. This wall serves a purpose for most people as it brings back memories of their friends and loved ones."

One person who agrees with Ron on this is Helen Boudreau, a lifetime City Islander who has four family members among the more than 200 portraits that grace the wall.

"It means so much to me," Helen said. "I take my granddaughter there every weekend so she can see her great-grandparents and learn about them and get to know their faces. My granddaughter wouldn't have that without the wall. It's great for me as well. Ron has done a fantastic job."

Ron said his calling to be a memory keeper came to him more than 40 years ago on a camping trip he took with his young family to rural Mexico. "I took a camera that could make contact prints, so I could give photos of themselves to the people of rural Mexico. I was photographing some of the people as the sun was setting, and I suddenly felt eyes staring at the back of my head. I turned and saw an amazing image of an old lady with a child, so I swung my camera around and took the shot. I knew I had something important, a very strong image. I was very happy with it after I printed it."

The next morning, Ron went back to the village with the image to give it to the old lady but couldn't find her. He ran into a man and a woman during his search. He recalls that "My Spanish was bad but they said 'muerte' which I knew meant death, so I naturally pointed to the old lady and they said no, no, the child died. The couple then told me that they were the parents, and they were heartbroken. I gave them the picture and they said it was the only picture that they had of their child. They hugged and kissed me and told me how happy they were that they had a picture to remember their child by. I knew from that point on that this was my purpose, that this was what I was here to do. That I would become the memory keeper."

Ron still keeps a copy of the image in his gallery to remind him of the story. In the decades since that trip to Mexico, Ron's art and business grew and thrived. To take a break from the pressures of his business, he said he would frequently sneak through the fence behind the Little League field with his dog and sit by the waterside among the rocks and contemplate life. As he sat there looking at all the rocks, he began to think about the many lives of City Islanders who had passed away. Many of them had become Ron's friends; he thought how nice



it would be to sit there among his friends just to remember them. As he recalls, "At that point in my career, I had developed a photo transfer technique and was able to put my photos on almost any surface. I didn't tell anyone about this. I was doing it for myself." So Ron sat there by the water with his friends whose images were transferred onto the rocks. "There were maybe more than 50, and nobody knew they were there," he said.

Later that year, 2012, Ron heard about the City Island reunion that was being planned for August on the ballfield behind him. He thought that maybe he was being a little selfish, because these were the faces of relatives and friends of many Islanders, and that maybe those residents might feel the same connection with the photos that Ron did."

In the days leading up to the reunion, Ron posted the location of the photos on Facebook. "I took a chance," he recalled, "a chance that maybe some people would not be happy that I put their brother or sister or father on a stone," he said. "A lot of people went back there right away that day," he continued. "It was an overwhelming response. People were hugging me. They were thanking me. We were crying together, thinking about our memories of the people. It was a very positive response. Nobody was upset."

But Ron also knew at that point that his photo gallery of beloved City Islanders was temporary. "I didn't protect them from the elements. They began to slowly disappear. And people were also upset that they couldn't get to them. The Parks Department locked them out."

At that point he approached Haim Joseph, who owns the marina fronting City Island Avenue that has a big fence that didn't have anything on it. He got Haim's permission to put the photos on the fence. He recalls, in fact, that Haim was very pleased with the idea, so he started putting the pictures up. He didn't prep the wall, an old wall with peeling paint. As he told *The Current*, "By now, the pictures are holding the fence up."

Ron doesn't post a photograph on the wall without the express permission of the family of the deceased. Although the family and friends of those who have passed love the preserved images, he realizes that there is some controversy in the community about it. People are either happy or unhappy about it.

More than 200 of Ron's portraits now



occupy the wall. "When Memorial Day comes," Ron said, "I see flowers next to the pictures. Some people come and thank me very much, and other people see me with my camera and say 'Don't take my picture!'" as if the project has made him the community's grim reaper.

One former City Islander whose late husband's image is posted said, "It's personal to me because it represents the community that I knew when I was there. The Island has grown into an even more diverse community since then, and the wall represents that." She added that she knows of no other project like this anywhere else. Ron also does not know of any similar project elsewhere, but notes that "You are never alone. I really can't say."

Despite its significance to many Islanders, Ron knows the wall will not last indefinitely, although he continues to add photographs. "It will come to a natural end," he said. "My guess is that there will be a hurricane that knocks the wall down or the property will be sold and come down as a part of a construction project. So far, they have stayed. It is very kind of Haim Joseph not to replace it."

As far as recreating the wall somewhere else if the property is ever sold, Ron realizes that replicating the wall would be a tremendous project. He started it in 2012 and now it is 2023. When he was asked if he has one request for the community-at-large regarding the wall, he said "I would like some people to stop calling it the 'Wall of Death.' That's not what the wall is. It's a Memory Wall."



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Photo by PAUL NANI

Since 1918, the Brothers of the Bronx Masonic Charities have made the pursuit of charity one of their most important Masonic endeavors. They raise funds through their charity ball journal. This year's Partner Appreciation Night was on April 26, 2023, at the City Island Masonic Temple on the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue. The Masons presented checks to City Island Girl and Boy Scouts, the City Island Community Center, Grace Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist Churches, and Temple Beth-El (photo above).

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.

AARP Chapter 318

Our next meeting will be on June 15 at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, located at 113 Bay Street. The doors will open at 12 noon, with the meeting to follow at 1 p.m. Bingo will follow the meeting. New members are always welcome!

Catherine Kehoe

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on the First Friday, June 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our Religious Education Program had another successful year. We thank our teachers, staff, parents and students for their time and effort. Enjoy your summer months!

On Father's Day Sunday, June 18, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lots of good stuff.

Rosette Dietz

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

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

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

Saturday's Budget Shop is fully open and fully stocked but will soon be closing for the season. When the bin is locked, please save your donations for the end of the summer. Thank you to all who donate and shop.

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

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth-El

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

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, meditation, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is recommended. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session.

All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

On June 30, Temple Beth-El says goodbye to our wonderful Rabbi, spiritual leader and friend Rabbi David Evan Markus. Rabbi David has been guiding us through our religious, spiritual and personal lives for the past 13 years. Teaching classes, leading trips, celebrating holidays, establishing relationships with other houses of worship on City Island and providing personal pastoral care are some of the many roles he has played in those memorable years. To say we will miss him is an understatement of biblical proportions.

We wish Rabbi David the best of everything as he moves on to his new congregation in Greenwich, Conn., and we hope to be in continuous communication and collaboration with him in the months and years ahead.

The following events are scheduled for June 2023:

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services: (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

June 2: with Stu and Leslie (Zoom only)

June 9: Special Shabbat – members only (at a member's home, and Zoom)

June 16: PRIDE Shabbat with Rabbi David and band (at TBE and on Zoom)

June 23: with Shari and Monty (Zoom only)

June 30: with Rabbi David (at TBE and Zoom – Rabbi David's final service!)

June 24: Lights and Flicks Havdalah with Nancy (7:30 – Zoom)

Saturday Morning SoulSpa: Spiritual Learning of Torah with Kabbalah: (10 a.m. start, on Zoom). With Rabbi David. No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

Hebrew Reading Crash Course, with Shari Berkowitz. This five-week FREE class will be fun and interactive. Class runs for five Thursdays, beginning June 29. You must register to receive the free digital materials and attend the class. Go to www.yourshulbythesea.org, click on calendar and scroll down the course information.

OFF TO ISRAEL!

Members of TBE and a sister synagogue in Brooklyn are in the historic land of Israel for a week-long adventure. Blessings will be planted at the Holy Wall.

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

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

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

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

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

Rachel Stark, President;
Shari Berkowitz, Vice President



Photo by TERI KURTZ

Congratulations to the 12 children from St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We will have our end-of-season Sidewalk Sale of everything on Thursday, June 29, and Friday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Nautical Museum

The Museum opened to the public on the May 13 weekend and will remain open on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. through the fall. Stay tuned for special events by following us on social media, and reach out if you would like to schedule a group tour by calling 718-885-0008.

Our members-only event on Friday, May 12, was very successful, as members had a chance to see the new installation of Morris Rosenfeld photographs. We will also be hosting an opening event on June 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. for the new exhibit of paintings by Island artist Liz Alderman, whose works will be on view through the summer.

Visitors will also be able to check out our oral history video project and hear stories about our boat industry, schools and community from Skippy Lane, William Clancy, Elisa Gilbert Kroepke, Fay Jordaens, Herb Hild and more!

Don't forget that the Museum's shop is full of beautiful nautical-themed gifts, so be sure to visit us for apparel and more! If you can't get to the Museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (at its new location 271 City Island Avenue, just south of the Black Whale) has some Museum gifts for sale.

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

Lauren Nye

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, June 4, at 12 noon. We will conduct the reopening of nominations for Post officers, followed by elections. Dues for 2023 (\$55) are past due. In July you will start to receive notices for payment of dues for 2024. Please drop off your dues at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party; we can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. We also have "Pull Tabs," a variety of games of chance. These games are open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

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

The following are dates and upcoming events:

June 2, Friday, 7 p.m.: The Bronx County Convention will take place at the Post.

June 6, D-Day 1944

June 14, Flag Day and U.S. Army birthday

June 18, Father's Day

June 21, First Day of Summer

June 25, Blessing of The Fleet at 1 p.m. The location will be Barron's Marina, 350 Fordham Place. This event is proudly hosted by City Island Sail & Power Squadron VHF Ch71. Participation is on the water only for this multi-denominational blessing.

All future meetings/events will be posted as soon as possible. Please visit our website, Leonardhawkinspost156.com for the latest information; you can e-mail the Post at Leonardhawkinspost156@gmail.com.

Have a great summer and we will look forward to resuming activities in September.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Quilters by the Sea QOV

We will hold our second 2023 Sew Saturday on June 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the American Legion Post. Stop by to say hello if you're curious about the local Quilts of Valor project. We make two or three quilt tops each Sew Saturday, all of which are awarded to Island veterans.

Harlan Sexton

**Be An American
Heartsaver!**
**Know the
Chain of Survival
Strengthen the
Chain of Survival**



1. Early Access (Call 9-1-1!)
2. Early CPR
3. Early Defibrillation
4. Early Advanced Care

During February, American Heart Month, strengthen the chain of survival! Learn the warning signs of cardiac arrest, heart attack and stroke. Learn CPR. Support defibrillators in public places. For more information, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1.

**American Heart
Association.**
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



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

Summer is almost here. To kick it off and celebrate the end of the school year, join us on Saturday, June 24, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Center for a fun and family-friendly summer kick-off party. Come with the kids and the family for free hotdogs, ice cream and drinks with music, dancing and games.

Also, please don't forget that our Culinary Club is launching the new Culinary Kids Club on July 15. We welcome kids to the Center to learn all about food and cooking from the members of our Culinary Club.

Our schedule of offerings continues through the spring. Below please find our Spring 2023 programming schedule:

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly at 914-262-4517.

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

City Island Civic Association: Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.
Zumba: Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

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

Melissa Cebollero

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla

May was one of the busiest months of the year for our unit. As our members begin to get more engaged and out in the community conducting early vessel exams, there are many major events that take place in the month of May. On May 19 we celebrated "Wear your Lifejacket to Work Day." Many of our members participated by taking pictures with their PFDs on during their various professions, such as bus drivers, police officers, nurses, EMT's and more.

From May 20 through May 26, we celebrated National Safe Boating Week. Our vessel examiners were out talking with boaters to make sure that all safety gear is current and accounted for. We also supported the City Island Oyster Reef Project and Captain Mike's Dive Shop at the Annual Orchard Beach Clean-up. Our members provided marine safety and environmental protection information and provided diver accountability watch, and our patrol boat kept a safety perimeter for the divers.

Fleet Week NYC 2023 was a huge success. Our members were stationed aboard the USCGC Warren Deyampert (WPC-1151) to help the ship's crew give tours to guests. We also supported our hometown by marching in the City Island Memorial Day Parade.

Our next Flotilla Meetings will take place on Tuesday, June 13, and Tuesday,

July 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our command staff and officers are available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests. Our next boating class will take place on Thursdays June 15, 22 and 29, from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are interested in joining our unit or taking a boating class, send us an e-mail at uscgaux0140504@gmail.com.

David P. Mooney

City Island Oyster Reef

Now that spring has arrived, we have started again to monitor water quality, check on our oyster stations and help clean up Orchard Beach. Our oyster skiff is back in the water, and we look forward to welcoming volunteers to help. The second sessions for evaluating water quality and oyster growth will take place on June 3 and 10, and we invite all who are interested in assisting our scientists.

Last year the founder of Patagonia, a retail company that specializes in outdoor clothing and gear, announced that it would be donating its profits to non-profit organizations. CIOR has been invited to events at the Patagonia store in Brooklyn and SoHo, and in celebration of World Reef Day, CIOR will be hosting a table at the Patagonia Brooklyn store on June 3.

CIOR is working with teachers and students at P.S. 175 in the Living Shoreline behind the school to collect data on native and invasive plants that are growing there. The students have been working hard to cut back the invasive species and to remove marine debris and microplastics from the shoreline. We also participated in the Teach-In for Climate Justice at the school on May 24.

We have started up this season's shell recycling program, in which we collect, cure and turn oyster shells in preparation for use in seeding oyster reefs in the waters of the Long Island Sound. Luna Placchi, CIOR's Community and Education Engagement Coordinator, oversees the collection of shells from Seafood City, Sea Shore Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Johnny's Reef, and Tony's Pier. To get involved, reach out to her at lunaplacchi@cioysterreef.org.

For more information about CIOR, go to our website at www.cioysterreef.org or join one of the volunteer sessions described above. Restoring oysters to Long Island Sound is our primary mission, but that can't be done without community involvement, and volunteers are welcome to join us for any or all of the opportunities described above. To volunteer, e-mail cior@cioysterreef.org.

Sally Connolly

PSS City Island Center

Check out all the exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer in June, including special events planned for Father's Day, Caribbean American Heritage Month and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

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

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



Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla.

lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

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

June Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Monday, June 5, at 1:15, Nautical Museum Tour: Meet us for a discounted tour!

Wednesday, June 7, 1 to 2:30 pm, Long Term Care: Your Guide to Basics (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University—call for link)

Friday, June 9, 10 a.m., Gout 101 with St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (free virtual presentation with NYC Aging Wellness—call for link or watch with us outside on the benches).

Wednesday, June 14, at 11 a.m., Cooking with NYC Aging (DFTA)—Garden Frittata-- Meeting ID: 845 9930 9153; Passcode: 123.

Friday, June 23, at 12:30 p.m., New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps—limited seating; reservation required.

Check the calendar for Father's Day party and the June birthday party. Mark Doyle will be back to provide entertainment and a magician is going to be at the Center as well.

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

The Current Schedule

Monday

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

9 a.m.–12 noon One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
1–2:30 p.m. Tablet & I-Phone Training Course (must be pre-registered)

Tuesday

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

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

12 noon In the News
12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes
1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat

Wednesday

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

11:30 a.m. Tech Byte
12:30 p.m. Knitting & Crochet Club with Evelyn—only a few more seats left! Make sure to register for the class.

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

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

10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Bingo or Mahjongg

We will be closed on Juneteenth, Monday, June 19.

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

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

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club's annual Spring Luncheon was held this year at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club on Thursday, May 25. The Garden Club created many wonderful gift baskets and solicited gift certificates from generous local merchants that were raffled off at the luncheon. This year Mary Colby, local artist and gardener, donated a beautiful painting that was included in the raffle.

The Garden Club's annual Beautification Fund Drive is in full swing. By now, every residence and business on the Island should have received our fund-drive letter. The funds we collect go toward our beautification projects. We thank all of you who donated last year and hope that you will do so again this year. Donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Garden Club members are busy with their spring community projects. They are tending the lavender pansies and white alyssum in our new and old containers along City Island Avenue and have weeded, fertilized, and watered the Post Office garden, where they planted clematis paniculata. It should eventually grow on the chain-link fence between the garden and the loading dock and produce a profusion of small, white, fragrant flowers in the fall.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, June 5, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

City Island Civic Association

At our meeting on April 25, Bill Stanton discussed three incidents of catalytic converter theft on the Island. The metals in the converters in older cars are valuable and are at greater risk than new cars. If you don't have a driveway, try to park on a narrow side street rather than City Island Avenue. The NYPD has a program for etching catalytic converters but once they are removed and taken apart, they are no longer of value.

Cathy Cebek expressed gratitude to Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez for helping to get the abandoned boats in Eastchester Bay removed and to Nate Grove of the Parks Department for organizing the removal. She also reminded members to sign the petition requesting the city to locate a ferry stop at Orchard Beach rather than City Island.

The project to plant new trees along City

Continued on page 18



Retirement

Hollywood's senior citizens seem to age decades later than the rest of us. However, once they reach their golden years, there are some wonderful acting roles for them. Classics in this category are the Academy Award-winning performances by Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn in **On Golden Pond** (1981). This is the story of Norman Thayer Jr., a retired schoolteacher, and his wife, Ethel, who spend every summer in their cottage on a New England lake. They have a grown daughter, Chelsea (Jane Fonda), who wants to take a vacation with her fiancé, Bill, (Dabney Coleman). Chelsea and Bill visit briefly and leave Bill's 13-year-old son by a previous marriage, Billy Ray (Doug McKeon), in the care of Norman and Ethel. The relationship between Chelsea and her dad has always been strained, but when Norman becomes close to Billy Ray, somehow Chelsea is able to see her father in a new light. This is a spectacularly filmed, poignantly acted drama.

Switching to a science fiction/comedy/drama, we have **Cocoon** (1985), which is set in a retirement community in St. Petersburg, FL. When Jack Bonner's (Steve Guttenberg) boat is rented by Walter (Brian Dennehy), Kitty (Tahnee Welch—yes, Raquel's daughter), and two others, they start hauling giant cocoons out of the ocean. They place these cocoons in the pool of the estate they have rented, which is next door to the retirement home. Disappointingly, this is the favorite swimming pool of seniors Joe (Hume Cronyn), Ben (Wilfred Brimley) and Art (Oscar winner Don Ameche). When they see the new tenants speed away in Jack's boat, they decide to swim there anyway and discover they are rejuvenated. Joe's wife, Alma (Jessica Tandy), and Ben's wife, Mary (Maureen Stapleton), are comically thrilled with their men's newfound passion, as is Art's girlfriend, Bess (Gwen Verdon). Meanwhile, when Jack becomes infatuated with Kitty, he finds her to be much more than he bargained for. This film has something for everyone, including romance, science fiction, some suspense, comedy and drama.

30+ years ago, when I first saw **That's Life** (1985) in a movie theater, I really hated it. Now as a senior citizen I can truly appreciate its capacity to capture one man's concern with aging. It is the story of successful architect Harvey Fairchild (Jack Lemmon), who is a total hypochondriac and paralyzed with fear about turning 60. He feels like a failure. His wife, Gillian (Julie Andrews), is a singer who is silently waiting over the weekend of Harvey's birthday party to find out the results of a throat biopsy. While Harvey suffers loudly about nothing to anyone who will listen, Gillian tells no one of her real fears. Their family comes to visit for the party (including Julie's real-life daughter, Jennifer Edwards, and Jack's son, Chris Lemmon), and they are as dysfunctional as any normal family, in this thought-provoking film.

The Cemetery Club (1992) is the story of three best friends: Esther Moskowitz (Ellen Burstyn), Doris Silverman (Olympia Dukakis) and Lucille Rubin (Diane Ladd), all recently widowed. They regularly visit the cemetery where their husbands are buried. During one such visit, they meet Ben Katz (Danny Aiello), who becomes interested in Esther. The ensuing romance sorely tests the women's friendship. They all struggle to come to terms with the truth about each of their lives and their perceptions of themselves, their late husbands and each other. This is a warm drama with many comedic moments.

Directed by Ron Howard, **Grumpy Old Men** (1993) is a wonderful comedy. Next-door neighbors John (Jack Lemmon) and Max (Walter Matthau) are best friends and widowers who have been arguing their entire lives. But their lives are turned upside down

when free-spirited widow Ariel (Ann-Margret) moves in across the street. A subplot includes John's daughter, Melanie (Daryl Hannah), and Max's son, Jacob (Kevin Pollak), who try to keep their dads from coming to blows. Burgess Meredith as John's father hilariously steals every scene he is in. This is a joyous, mirthful film complemented nicely by its sequel, **Grumpier Old Men** (1995). Although the original is better, Sophia Loren is actually more than a match for the radiant beauty of Ann-Margret. This is also a film about deep friendship, with "out-takes" at the end that are hysterical.

Based on a true account, **The Straight Story** (1999) chronicles a trip made by 73-year-old Alvin Straight (Oscar nominee Richard Farnsworth) from Laurens, IA, to Mount Zion, WI, in 1994 while riding a lawn mower. Alvin hopes to mend his relationship with his ill, estranged, 75-year-old brother, Lyle (Harry Dean Stanton). Leaving his mentally challenged daughter (Sissy Spacek) at home, Alvin sets out to cover the 300 miles to his brother's house. Actor Farnsworth was actually riddled with cancer during the filming, which adds a great deal of poignancy to the film.

Young at Heart (Documentary-2007) is a look at a choir for seniors from Northampton, MA, which performs rock music by artists such as James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Coldplay, Sonic Youth and other unexpected musicians. Their journey toward a big performance showcases the work behind a rocking group of older age singers. This is an inspirational journey of people who refuse to grow old in spirit.

Gran Torino (2008) is the story of retired auto worker and Korean War vet Walt Kowalski (Clint Eastwood), who fills emptiness in his life with beer, home repair and despising the many Asian, Latino and black families in his neighborhood. Walt becomes a reluctant hero when he stands up to the gang-bangers who tried to force an Asian teen to steal Walt's treasured car. An unlikely friendship develops between Walt and the teen, as he learns he has more in common with his neighbors than he thought.

Red (2010) is a rather odd depiction of what could happen to CIA retirees. After surviving an assault from a squad of hit men, retired CIA agent Frank Moses (Bruce Willis) reassembles his old team for an all-out war. Frank reunites with old Joe (Morgan Freeman), crazy Marvin (John Malkovich) and wily Victoria (Helen Mirren) to uncover a massive conspiracy that threatens their lives. Only their expert training will allow them to survive a near-impossible mission—breaking into CIA headquarters. Mary Louise Parker is on hand as Sarah Ross, with whom Frank is infatuated.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (British, 2012) is my favorite film of the bunch. It is the story of seven financially strapped men and women of retirement age who have been lured to spend their declining years at

a hotel in Jaipur, India, which is run by the young and enthusiastic Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel). The stellar ensemble cast includes Judi Dench as Evelyn Greenslade, a widow whose husband has squandered their savings; Maggie Smith as Muriel Donnelly, a racist retired housekeeper in need of a hip replacement; Tom Wilkinson as Graham Dashwood, a gay high court judge with a haunting secret; Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton as Douglas and Jean Ainslie, a bickering couple who sank their life savings into their daughter's unsuccessful business venture; and Celia Imrie and Ronald Pickup as Madge Hardcastle and Norman Cousins, adventurous older singles on the prowl for romance. The script by Ol Parker is outstanding, and combined with the extraordinary acting makes this film worth more seeing more than once.

Set in a British retirement home for aging musicians, **Quartet** (British, 2012), Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut, is a well-crafted drama that focuses on the group's mutual love of music. When once-popular opera diva Jean Horton (Maggie Smith) creates a stir with her arrival at Beecham House, no one is more affected than Reginald (Tom Courtenay), Jean's ex-husband, who still stings from her long-ago infidelity. Most of the other Beecham residents are delighted and try to convince Jean to join them in a performance of "Rigoletto." Jean, however, knows that she is long past her prime and is reluctant to sully the memory of her once-lovely voice. There is a wonderful scene in which Reginald teaches a group of young people by comparing classical music to hip hop.

Nebraska (2013) stars Bruce Dern as cantankerous old buzzard Woody Grant, who can barely walk down the street of his home in Billings, MT, without stopping for a drink. When Woody receives a sweepstakes notice in the mail and insists on making a 750-mile trip to Lincoln, NE, to collect his prize, it falls to his baffled son, David (Will Forte), to accompany him. During a stop in their Nebraska hometown, word gets out about Woody's fortune, first making him a hero and later the target of predatory people.

Our Souls at Night (2017) is touching romantic drama that stars Jane Fonda as Addie Moore and Robert Redford as Louis Waters, a widow and widower who have lived next door to each other for years. When Addie tries to make a connection with her neighbor, the two begin sleeping in bed together platonically, with the innocent goal of alleviating their shared loneliness.

Matthias Schoenaerts appears as Addie's son, Gene Moore, and Iain Armitage as Jamie, Gene's son and Addie's grandson. As their romance blossoms, complications arise around family issues.

The delightful documentary **Tea with the Dames** (2018) focuses on four exceptional women in their 80's to whom retirement is unthinkable. Dames Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright (Mrs. Laurence Olivier) and Maggie Smith let the cameras in on a friendship that goes back more than half a century. It proves that there is plenty of entertainment value to be found in rounding up a quartet of screen legends for a chat with flashbacks of stunning performances.

Queen Bees (2021) stars Ellen Burstyn as fiercely independent Helen, whose house is in dire need of repair, so her daughter, Laura (Elizabeth Mitchell), practically forces her to temporarily move into a nearby retirement community. There she encounters a clique of women including the very mean Janet (Jane Curtin), and friendly Sally (Loretta Devine) and Margot (Ann-Margret). James Caan appears as Dan Simpson, a resident with whom Helen falls in love.

Jerry and Marge Go Large (2022) was inspired by the remarkable true story of retiree Jerry Selbee (Bryan Cranston), who discovers a mathematical loophole in the Massachusetts lottery and, with the help of his wife, Marge (Annette Bening), wins millions and uses the money to revive their small Michigan town. However, when a selfish college student cheats the system, Jerry must find a way to make the game fair for everyone.

And until next time, stay safe and healthy, and happy viewing...

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What Lies Beneath the Waters around City Island?

By BERNARD WITLIEB

The following article was written by one of The Island Current's longtime historians, who wrote many stories for the paper. A recent article in the *New Yorker* magazine about Nate Grove, who orchestrated the removal of abandoned and underwater boats near City Island, prompted Mr. Witlieb to write this review of old shipwrecks that may still lie beneath the surface. We are delighted to welcome him back to The Current!

It's not called the City Island Triangle—yet—but many ships through the years have sunk in the waters off and near City Island. This is not too surprising, considering the fact that hundreds of shipwrecks have been charted in Long Island Sound. A 2010 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report identifies 847 shipwrecks and obstructions. These aren't entirely caused by navigational hazards. During a two-day period in 1811, an unrelenting, powerful storm destroyed 50 to 60 ships in the area.

On Dec. 19, 1867, the commanding general David B. McKibbin of Fort Slocum on David's Island off the coast of New Rochelle rescued captain and crew of the sloop *Maria* bound from Montauk to New York. They were clinging to the ship's masthead after a gale tossed the vessel onto its side; the covering waters led to two deaths, sweeping one seaman from the deck and forcing another to lose his grip on the mast and fall overboard.

An almost forgotten 1883 episode involving supporters of Ireland's independence from England resulted in a bizarre shipwreck. Pioneering submarine inventor John Philip Holland's early prototype *Holland III* was stolen from its Jersey City anchorage in November that year by the Fenian Brotherhood. The Fenians fled up the East River in their own boat, which was tied by rope to their previously commissioned submarine *Fenian Ram*, and they in turn were tied to the *Holland III*. They went as far as Whitestone Point, where water started pouring through the *Holland's* turret and caused it to slow down, thus stretching and tearing the *Ram* tether. The *Holland III* sank in 110 feet of water and remains lost to this day, despite modern recovery efforts.

The schooner *Mary George* from St. John, New Brunswick, became stranded on May 7, 1898, on the east side of "Hart's Point, City Island," as it was recorded in the official Canadian Register of Wrecks and Casualties, Inland Waters.

Carrying 120 passengers, the steamship *Worcester* became wedged on the rocks of Execution Shoals on Oct. 9, 1903. While hundreds watched from City Island,

the steamer *New Hampshire* made a futile attempt in the heavy sea to offload the passengers. An emergency call to Pier 18 in NYC brought out enough rescuers to avert a tragedy.

On Feb. 7, 1907, the coal schooner *Florence Russell* sank near City Island. Just a few months later, on July 15, 1907, the steamer *Shinnecock* on its regular route from Greenport to New York City beached in dense fog on Clark Island. Tugboats brought 200 passengers to City Island, according to *The Herald Democrat*, a Colorado newspaper.

An Australian newspaper, *The North Western Advocate and The Emu Bay Times* (March 18, 1908), reported that more than 600 passengers were safely removed off City Island from the *Pother*, a burning excursion steamer. Wireless telegraphy signaling for assistance enabled the rescue steamer to reach the fiery vessel in time.

A strong gale that started on Sunday, Nov. 12, 1911, wreaked havoc along the Atlantic Coast, killing three seamen off New Haven and, as the *New York Times* reported on Nov. 14, "damaged many yachts and smaller craft off City Island, several being swept from their moorings and dashed on the shore or against City Island bridge. It became necessary to open the draw to let the larger craft pass through."

Two engineers and the designer of the 500-horsepower, \$25,000 speedboat *Ankle Deep II* were rescued by a steam yacht on June 20, 1915, shortly after it was launched on City Island when a large wave capsized and sank the vessel.

After breaking up in heavy ice, the 310-foot-long, 1,505-ton wooden passenger steamship *Maine*, which was en route from New York to Bridgeport on Feb. 4, 1920, sank 100 yards north of Execution Rock. Luckily, no one died, but 20 people and a dozen horses from the nearly 30-year-old vessel were stranded at the lighthouse for three days before they were rescued.

The waters and weather conditions around City Island in 1922 seem to have been particularly troublesome. On June 29 two schooners collided, the 145-foot-long *Annie B. Mitchell*, built in Madison, Conn., in 1889, and the *Gertrude Parsons*. The damage was minimal; just a jib boom was lost. It was only a temporary reprieve for the latter vessel, which was stranded at Cobequid Bay in Nova Scotia in December 1928 and was completely destroyed by fire on Sept. 21, 1934, off Port Greville, also in Nova Scotia. On Aug. 1 that year



The steamship *Maine* sank 100 yards north of Execution Rock in 1920.



In 1904 the *General Slocum* finally sank off Hunts Point after being engulfed in flames resulting in the death of over 1,000 passengers.

two schooners became fouled, the *Flo R. Mader* and the *Favonian*. This too was only a temporary reprieve, for gale force winds off Nova Scotia on Oct. 26, 1923, sank the ironically named latter ship (*favonian* means "of the west wind").

As the auxiliary sloop *Sea Fox* sailed off Norwalk toward City Island on May 23, 1931, part of a rubber hose that connected the circulating water intake of the engine to a two-inch diameter seacock in the ship's hull broke. Water quickly entered the hull opening, causing the vessel to sink in 50 feet of water and all eight aboard were lost. The vessel was raised on June 25 near Captain's Island, the bodies of the victims having been recovered on both the Connecticut and New York shores.

In the last week of January 1933, the 13-year-old, 3,500-ton steel cargo ship *S.S. Malchace* ran aground at City Island and had to be refloated on Feb. 3. This was only a temporary reprieve, however, for a German submarine U-160 fired two torpedoes early in the morning of April 4, 1942, sinking the ship off Fernandina Beach, the northernmost city on Florida's Atlantic coast. Fortunately, no lives were lost.

Many millions know the story of the sinking of the *Titanic* on April 14, 1912, and the loss of more than 1,500 lives. But how many know of the last voyage of the *General Slocum* on June 15, 1904? That Sunday morning, 1,331 parishioners, most of them women and children, of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church on East Sixth Street near Second Avenue (an area known as Little Germany) boarded the 13-year-old vessel from the East Third Street pier. The sidewheel, oak- and pine-hulled, 264-foot-long, 1,284-ton steamship was bound for Locust Point in Throggs Neck, where they would celebrate their annual excursion and picnic.

As the boat traveled up the East River, at about East 90th Street or near East 132nd Street—accounts differ—a child noticed a blaze in a lamp room or paint locker or cabin filled with kerosene and hay. Even after Captain William Van

Schaick was notified in the pilot house, he ignored the fire alert; instead of immediately landing at Randall's Island, the *Slocum* proceeded up to East 149 Street, where the boat, now engulfed in flames from bow to stern, beached on North Brother Island.

The captain stayed in the pilot house until he escaped, afterwards claiming that he had tried to rescue passengers but that the falling deck prevented him from doing so. First Mate Flanagan was unlicensed, and the crew made no effort to control the panic aboard. At the inquest Flanagan said, "To the best of my recollection, I can't remember." The crew had not held any fire drills other than stretching the hose and filling water butts, because the captain claimed that a complete drill would have interfered with the boat's new paint. The old cork life preservers crumbled at the touch. The president of the Knickerbocker Steamship Company, the *Slocum's* owner, admitted that a bill of sale for new life preservers had been tampered with, substituting *Slocum* for the name of another steamship. Rotting hoses burst; rusty water buckets broke; and even more horrifically, no lifeboats were lowered. The captain claimed that doing so would be dangerous when the steamboat was moving 15 miles an hour. After 90 minutes on North Brother Island, the *Slocum* broke free, drifted about a mile and sank off Hunts Point.

Valiant rescue attempts ensued from police, firemen, tugboats, rowboat, yachts, etc. Later, some would receive Carnegie Medals for Bravery. Captain Van Schaick, the management, and government inspectors went on trial, but the only one convicted was the captain, who was sentenced to 10 years. He served more than three until he was paroled and was pardoned a few years later by President Taft. Eventually, the last survivor, 100-year-old Adella Wotherspoon would die in February 2004. The final death toll was 1,021, a New York number surpassed only 97 years later, on Sept. 11, 2001.

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Island Current							June 2023						
Tide Calendar							Tide Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 12:04A H 6:22A L 12:27P	MAY 1:11A H 7:26A L 1:19P	MAY 2:16A H 8:20A L 2:09P	MAY 3:11A H 9:07A L 2:58P	L 4:00A H 9:50A L 3:45P	L 4:47A H 10:33A L 4:32P	L 5:342A H 11:18A L 5:19P	MAY 12:04A H 6:22A L 12:27P	MAY 1:11A H 7:26A L 1:19P	MAY 2:16A H 8:20A L 2:09P	MAY 3:11A H 9:07A L 2:58P	L 4:00A H 9:50A L 3:45P	L 4:47A H 10:33A L 4:32P	L 5:342A H 11:18A L 5:19P
28 H 7:13P	29 H 7:54P	30 H 8:32P	31 H 9:12P	1 H 9:53P	2 H 10:36P	3 H 11:21P	4 H 12:04A	5 H 12:46P	6 H 1:29A	7 H 2:12P	8 H 2:55A	9 H 3:38P	10 H 4:21P
L 6:19A H 12:04P L 6:08P	L 12:09A H 7:08A L 7:00P	L 12:59A H 8:00A L 7:55P	L 1:52A H 8:56A L 8:57P	L 2:50A H 9:57A L 10:09P	L 3:56A H 11:04A L 11:32P	L 5:18A H 12:10P L 6:16P	L 6:19A H 12:04P L 6:08P	L 12:09A H 7:08A L 7:00P	L 12:59A H 8:00A L 7:55P	L 1:52A H 8:56A L 8:57P	L 2:50A H 9:57A L 10:09P	L 3:56A H 11:04A L 11:32P	L 5:18A H 12:10P L 6:16P
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
L 12:47A H 6:44A L 1:14P	L 1:54A H 7:53A L 2:14P	L 2:55A H 8:54A L 3:10P	L 3:52A H 9:49A L 4:03P	L 4:44A H 10:39A L 4:52P	L 5:33A H 11:27A L 5:38P	L 6:19A H 12:12P L 6:20P	L 12:47A H 6:44A L 1:14P	L 1:54A H 7:53A L 2:14P	L 2:55A H 8:54A L 3:10P	L 3:52A H 9:49A L 4:03P	L 4:44A H 10:39A L 4:52P	L 5:33A H 11:27A L 5:38P	L 6:19A H 12:12P L 6:20P
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
H 12:21A L 7:01A H 12:54P	H 12:59A L 7:41A H 1:34P	H 1:32A L 8:16A H 2:11P	H 1:59A L 8:43A H 2:42P	H 2:27A L 8:58A H 3:08P	H 3:01A L 9:23A H 3:38P	H 3:41A L 10:00A H 4:16P	H 12:21A L 7:01A H 12:54P	H 12:59A L 7:41A H 1:34P	H 1:32A L 8:16A H 2:11P	H 1:59A L 8:43A H 2:42P	H 2:27A L 8:58A H 3:08P	H 3:01A L 9:23A H 3:38P	H 3:41A L 10:00A H 4:16P
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
L 6:58P H 4:26A L 10:43A	L 7:30P H 5:15A L 11:29A	L 7:52P H 6:09A L 12:19P	L 8:17P H 7:07A L 1:12P	L 8:53P H 8:06A L 2:07P	L 9:35P H 9:05A L 3:04P	L 10:22P H 9:16P	L 6:58P H 4:26A L 10:43A	L 7:30P H 5:15A L 11:29A	L 7:52P H 6:09A L 12:19P	L 8:17P H 7:07A L 1:12P	L 8:53P H 8:06A L 2:07P	L 9:35P H 9:05A L 3:04P	L 10:22P H 9:16P

Island Current							August 2023						
Tide Calendar							Tide Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JULY 4:05A H 9:44A L 3:48P	JULY 5:07A H 10:48A L 4:58P	L 6:02A H 11:45A L 6:02P	L 6:52A H 12:38P L 7:01P	H 12:50A L 7:42A H 1:30P	H 1:46A L 8:31A H 2:22P	H 2:43A L 9:22A H 3:16P	JULY 4:05A H 9:44A L 3:48P	JULY 5:07A H 10:48A L 4:58P	L 6:02A H 11:45A L 6:02P	L 6:52A H 12:38P L 7:01P	H 12:50A L 7:42A H 1:30P	H 1:46A L 8:31A H 2:22P	H 2:43A L 9:22A H 3:16P
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
H 3:43A L 10:15A H 4:15P	H 4:49A L 11:13A H 5:19P	L 12:02A H 5:58A L 12:15P	L 1:07A H 7:05A L 1:19P	L 2:10A H 8:08A L 2:21P	L 3:08A H 9:06A L 3:19P	L 4:02A H 9:59A L 4:12P	H 3:43A L 10:15A H 4:15P	H 4:49A L 11:13A H 5:19P	L 12:02A H 5:58A L 12:15P	L 1:07A H 7:05A L 1:19P	L 2:10A H 8:08A L 2:21P	L 3:08A H 9:06A L 3:19P	L 4:02A H 9:59A L 4:12P
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H 1:55A L 8:09A H 2:12P	H 2:31A L 8:45A H 2:49P	H 3:13A L 9:26A H 3:32P	H 3:59A L 10:11A H 4:20P	H 4:52A L 11:03A H 5:14P	H 5:52A L 11:55P H 6:14P	H 6:52A L 12:47P H 7:22P	H 1:55A L 8:09A H 2:12P	H 2:31A L 8:45A H 2:49P	H 3:13A L 9:26A H 3:32P	H 3:59A L 10:11A H 4:20P	H 4:52A L 11:03A H 5:14P	H 5:52A L 11:55P H 6:14P	H 6:52A L 12:47P H 7:22P
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
L 2:37A H 8:19A L 2:26P	L 3:55A H 9:37A L 3:53P	L 4:54A H 10:40A L 5:02P	L 5:45A H 11:33A L 6:00P	L 6:34A H 12:22P L 6:53P	L 7:20A H 1:09P L 7:45P	L 8:07P H 1:57P L 8:37P	L 2:37A H 8:19A L 2:26P	L 3:55A H 9:37A L 3:53P	L 4:54A H 10:40A L 5:02P	L 5:45A H 11:33A L 6:00P	L 6:34A H 12:22P L 6:53P	L 7:20A H 1:09P L 7:45P	L 8:07P H 1:57P L 8:37P

Yellow = optimal swimming time

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

MAY 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET		
26	Fri	0426	6.81	1051	1.42	1732	6.68	2304	1.82	Fri 26
27	Sat	0520	6.63	1137	1.52	1825	6.76			Sat 27
28	Sun	0004	1.80	0622	6.52	1227	1.52	1913	6.89	Sun 28
29	Mon	0111	1.62	0726	6.51	1319	1.42	1954	7.09	Mon 29
30	Tue	0216	1.32	0820	6.56	1409	1.24	2032	7.34	Tue 30
31	Wed	0311	0.93	0907	6.67	1458	1.02	2112	7.63	Wed 31
JUNE 2023										
01	Thu	0400	0.52	0950	6.81	1545	0.79	2153	7.94	Thu 01
02	Fri	0447	0.14	1033	6.97	1632	0.58	2236	8.22	Fri 02
03	Sat	0532	-0.17	1118	7.12	1719	0.43	2321	8.43	Sat 03
04	Sun	0619	-0.37	1204	7.25	1808	0.36			Sun 04
05	Mon	0009	8.54	0780	-0.45	1253	7.34	1900	0.37	Mon 05
06	Tue	0059	8.51	0800	-0.40	1346	7.38	1955	0.47	Tue 06
07	Wed	0152	8.34	0856	-0.26	1442	7.38	2057	0.61	Wed 07
08	Thu	0250	8.04	0957	-0.06	1546	7.36	2209	0.73	Thu 08
09	Fri	0356	7.68	1104	0.13	1701	7.39	2332	0.73	Fri 09
10	Sat	0518	7.36	1210	0.26	1816	7.52			Sat 10
11	Sun	0047	0.56	0644	7.20	1314	0.30	1921	7.71	Sun 11
12	Mon	0154	0.28	0753	7.16	1414	0.29	2021	7.91	Mon 12
13	Tue	0255	-0.05	0854	7.18	1510	0.25	2115	8.09	Tue 13
14	Wed	0352	-0.33	0949	7.20	1603	0.22	2206	8.20	Wed 14
15	Thu	0444	-0.51	1039	7.21	1652	0.25	2254	8.24	Thu 15
16	Fri	0533	-0.56	1127	7.20	1738	0.33	2339	8.20	Fri 16
17	Sat	0619	-0.47	1212	7.17	1820	0.49			Sat 17
18	Sun	0021	8.08	0701	-0.27	1254	7.12	1858	0.68	Sun 18
19	Mon	0059	7.92	0741	0.02	1334	7.07	1930	0.90	Mon 19
20	Tue	0132	7.73	0816	0.33	1411	7.02	1952	1.08	Tue 20
21	Wed	0159	7.54	0843	0.62	1442	6.98	2017	1.21	Wed 21
22	Thu	0227	7.37	0858	0.84	1508	6.97	2053	1.31	Thu 22
23	Fri	0301	7.21	0923	0.97	1538	6.98	2135	1.38	Fri 23
24	Sat	0341	7.03	1000	1.06	1616	7.02	2222	1.42	Sat 24
25	Sun	0426	6.85	1043	1.12	1659	7.07	2312	1.41	Sun 25
26	Mon	0515	6.67	1129	1.16	1746	7.15			Mon 26
27	Tue	0007	1.34	0609	6.54	1219	1.16	1836	7.29	Tue 27
28	Wed	0106	1.18	0707	6.48	1312	1.12	1929	7.48	Wed 28
29	Thu	0210	0.93	0806	6.52	1407	1.02	2022	7.73	Thu 29
30	Fri	0317	0.61	0905	6.65	1504	0.88	2116	8.00	Fri 30



Nice Seasonal Work If You Can Get It

A lot of the work that was done in the shipyards on City Island during the good old days of boat building and repair was done by seasonal workers. These were the workers, both skilled and unskilled, who came here when the weather was warm to ply their trades and crafts. Then they moved on, to the next job at the next location. The temporary homes for these workers were some of the bungalows and cottages that are still present on City Island (although many, if not all, have long since been winterized). They also found rooms to rent in private homes, which would explain some of the chopped-up looks and feels on the inside of some of City Island's older housing stock.

While it would be tempting to believe that the good old days are behind us now and that all that remains of those times are subtle architectural reminders or not so subtle exhibits at the Nautical Museum, the truth is that the good old days are not done yet. Things have changed, of course, but you know what they say about change: the more things change the more they stay the same.

The proof of the pudding is at a City Island yacht club or marina. If you go there or even peek in from the sidewalk or street, you may notice that a lot of the work is still being done by seasonal workers. Painting the bottom of a boat, for example,

is a messy, time-consuming business. It is not the kind of job for showing off skills, either, as a coat of bottom paint functions to protect a hull rather than make it look pretty. Many boat owners don't have the time or inclination to paint, so they hire the job out to one of the yard's seasonal workers. We recall twin cousins who made good money and good friends doing exactly this when they were teenagers. And from what we understand, there are still good times and money to be had by City Island youth at the yards.

Other, more experienced workers can be counted on to perform the more delicate, specialized tasks of maintaining a boat. For example, the standing and running rigging that allows sailboats to harness the wind is where a rigger comes in. Tending to the cables and lines that make up a boat's rigging is another one of those responsibilities for which some owners are willing to pay. So are certain restoration projects, such as those involving woodwork and hull repair. We can personally vouch for the restoration prowess of one particular seasonal worker.

The housing of workers that was required before is no longer necessary. The people who are doing the seasonal work in boatyards today either live on City Island themselves or are living permanently nearby. Some of them have vehicles that have been tricked out for the specific jobs that they do. One even rides a Harley—which brings us full circle, back to the good old days, right here on City Island, still rolling along.

SUMMERTIME TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

The end of the school year and the advent of summer vacation can be a cherished time in the life of a child. I can still picture in my mind being nine years old, on the last half-day of school, coming home at noon and realizing that I could play baseball every day until September. I was sitting in front of my house, my baseball mitt and a brand-new ball in my hands, waiting for my friends to arrive. I can still feel that sense of joyful anticipation, with a wide-open sense of possibility. It is, in fact, a feeling I still desire.

Parents may celebrate the end of the school year too, but there are also challenges for working families: childcare needs, camp costs and the logistics of getting everyone from one activity to the next. How can we make the most of this time, given the realities and stresses of our lives? How can we join our children in this celebration of summer, even in the midst of our daily responsibilities?

Here are some hopefully helpful ideas to ponder for a joyful and productive summer vacation:

- S - Spend time together that's unstructured: "wasting time" sitting outside together may be just what you need.
- U - Upbeat attitudes are contagious: more time with your kids can mean more opportunities to share positive thoughts and feelings.

M - Making time for what we value remains important: read more, learn more about your home environs, do community service, make art. Also maintain routines: kids need some structure too. And limit screen time!

M - Memories come from "stupid life stuff": simple activities (like making sidewalk art with chalk or having a water fight) can be the most fun.

E - Enter into the natural world every chance you can: we live on a beautiful planet and are surrounded by nature in all its glory. Get out there!

R - Remember that life is a journey, not a race: sometimes slow is better than fast, so we can stop along the way and smell the roses.

T - Thank the universe every day for all of your gifts: an attitude of gratitude is contagious and will get you through hard times.

I - Invest in the future by making goals now: let's read five-chapter books together; let's learn about birds; let's start a children's garden.

M - Meet new people and make better friends with those you know: it takes a community of caring individuals to create an extended family.

E - Enjoy your kids—they grow up fast, you know!



Photo by SALLY CONNOLLY

P.S. 175 science teacher Karen Heil, who organized the Teach-In for Environmental Justice at the school on May 24, 2023, talked about plastics that the students had found at one of the workshops that took place on the Living Shoreline behind the school.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Allium and tulips in a seaside garden

Color for Summer

Annuals or bedding plants can add a pop and a punch to your gardens. Plant them after the first frost in mid May. They are great for creating an unusual element to your display. Many, including zinnias and nasturtiums, grow readily from seed. You can buy them at Home Depot, but if you are looking for something out of the ordinary, try McArdle's in Greenwich or Oliver's in Fairfield, CT. These are truly wonderful nurseries to visit.

The fail-safe annuals could include portulaca, rudbeckia hirta, dahlia, cosmos and sunflowers, all of which need direct sun. Sunflowers and nasturtiums can be planted right in the ground; start them now and remember to space them correctly. Nasturtiums, like cosmos, prefer not to be fed with plant food; too much nutrient will produce only foliage. Other plants I love as filler can also be directly self sown such as oxeye daisy and verbena bonariensis, which is a delicate purple see-through plant and perennial in our zone 7.

Annuals are at their best when combined with small grasses. Stipa tenuissima (Mexican feather grass) lends a softness to the scheme, as would blue fescue grass. Calamagrostis Karl Foerster is upright and blooms early in mid June and then the larger-sized pennisetums. Do not plant miscan-

thus of any kind unless you want a five-foot wall or screen!

This year my May-into-June garden is very exciting with 50 or so allium sensations amid oxeye daisies. This fall, order some allium bulbs; they make quite a show when the garden is quiet at this time of year. Plant with oriental poppies and iris.

Roses, foxgloves and verbasum look enchanting in June. Everything is awash in color. Azaleas and rhodies are erupting in shades of pink and purple, and the viburnums are clothed in their wedding white. Roses that I love are the blush-colored Madame Alfred Carriere, buff beauty and the perfect shade of red rose, star of holland. For something that will make your neighbors curious, try rosa mutabilis, an heirloom rose. This famous rose opens with dark pink buds and fades to light pink and then to pale yellow. It is a single rose that sports all these colors at once, like a butterfly.

I feed the garden with every other watering to make sure the plants remain more disease resistant and have fabulous flower power.

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

A Current Review

“Trans Fran Sisco—Still the Same Inside”: A Music and Theatre Event



Photo by MONICA GLICK

The small stage at The Artist managed to accommodate a large cast and audience for a theatrical event called “Trans Fran Sisco—Still the Same Inside.”

“All Kinds of People,” a musical number at the start of “Trans Fran Sisco—Still the Same Inside!” underscored themes presented on April 29 at the Starving Artist (The Artist): inclusivity, acceptance, tolerance and compassion.

The dynamic performance began with scenes from “Once a Boy,” a play by Fran Sisco about her self-described “roller coaster journey from a 10-year-old cross-dressing boy to, much later in life, living full-time female as a fully-expressed transgender woman.” There are funny moments—conversations with her childhood friend Frankie—and tragically disturbing ones—when Sisco, dressed as a woman, is attacked with a baseball bat and left with her head fractured in 14 places. But that scene leads to an epiphany moment when Sisco forgives the attacker, channeling her anger, hatred and negative energy into positive creativity. Sisco’s acceptance by her friend Doreen is particularly moving. For this reviewer, the line from the play “You got to be yourself, not who you think people want you to be” is wise advice for each of us.

Also included in the event was a second play by Sisco, “It’s an Italian Thing! No, It’s a Black Thing.” This comedy with dramatic moments tells the story of Frankie, a transgender woman who falls in love with a much younger black woman who is pansexual. The play addresses prej-

udices on all sides, as it reveals changes of heart and mind born from those human relationships.

The night also showcased songs and parodies about issues involving authenticity, change and family. Sisco’s daughter, Kelly, performed a dance to “Friend like Me” from the Broadway musical “Aladdin,” reflecting their supportive relationship.

Bringing these plays to life was a large company of talented actors: Tim Brandt, Mistah Coles, Phil Dante, Donna James, Leslie Messina, Ernie Mingione, Jennifer Angarano Ricci, Fran Sisco, Kelly Sisco, Misti Tindiglia, Michael Tyrell, Linda White and Dani Zeolla. The musical numbers featured musicians Buddy Coughlin and Phil Messina, along with performers Fran Sisco and Kelly Sisco. Billie Tucker and Judy Tucker served as associate producers / directors, and on video/sound/production were Andrew Steiner and Hannah Glick. Sisco plans similar evenings at other locations (www.TransFranSisco.com).

This April show at The Artist, 249 City Island Avenue, kicked off three months of shows at the venue. May saw a return engagement for Mary Goggin’s “Runaway Princess, A Hopeful Tale of Heroin, Hooking and Happiness” (May 20 and 21). June will see another return, Cynthia Shaw’s “Velvet Determination” (June 10 and 11). Both have been reviewed by *The Island Current* and were back by popular demand,

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LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

A lot of New York teams were in the playoffs in April and early May. Which sports do you follow and which teams do you root for?



Mark Ward

I'm an avid football fan and played Little League when I was a kid. I follow the Giants, Yankees, Knicks and Rangers. My grandfather followed the Rangers for years so I'm carrying on that tradition. And I like the Knicks because they were very popular in the '70s.

Maria C. Swieciki

The two sports I follow closely are baseball and Gaelic football, which is an Irish sport that is similar to rugby and soccer. Gaelic football is really fun to watch because it's fast paced, easy to follow, and the crowds at the matches are always fun and lively. My boyfriend plays on three teams so it's great to support him and his friends. Baseball is special to me, though, because I've been following it with my dad and brothers since I was little. We're big Mets fans and we love any excuse to go to Citi Field. It's definitely a family tradition. My parents even got engaged at Shea Stadium back in the 1980s!



Fred Ramftl

My favorite sports are hockey, football and baseball. My teams are the Rangers, Steelers, Mets. Watching or attending sporting events should not only be fun but it should also keep the fans tuned into the games. The New York Rangers are what unites New York!

Peter Booth

In hockey I follow the Rangers, just like my father did. In basketball I like the LA Lakers, Boston Celtics and NY Knicks in that order. When it comes to baseball, I root for the Mets because they are the perennial underdogs and you always have to root for the underdog.



Michael Smith

My favorite sport is baseball, and I'm a big Yankees fan. In basketball I like the Knicks and have been following them for 50 years. I watch the New York Rangers but only in the playoffs.

Prohibition on City Island, Part II

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Because boats have to pass by City Island on their way to New York City via Long Island Sound, rum runners who traveled by boat were not uncommon here during Prohibition. This speedboat called *Baby Bootlegger* was in fact a racing boat, not a rum runner, but it was built on City Island in the 1920s and is still active today. Islanders, including Bill McDaniel Sr. were often asked to provide water, ice and other commodities to the larger boats headed into the city carrying cases of booze.

Last month, *The Current* published an account of City Island's experience with Federal Agents, who closed down eight speakeasies here after a shooting incident in 1930. Not surprisingly, City Island was at the center of other activities related to prohibition, starting in 1882.

Interestingly, the raid on City Island wasn't the first run-in that drinkers had with the law. City Island was until 1895 part of the town of Pelham, which had an organization known as the Law and Order Association of Pelham. According to historian Blake Bell, the group met in a local Temperance Hall and sought to impose abstinence on Pelhamites, but in 1882, the association went too far. "Its activities set tongues wagging in the little town and brought scorn upon the organization in newspaper articles throughout the region."

According to one account, the purpose of the association was "to make a target of the demon alcohol wherever he shows his head, and whenever the law can be used upon the man who drinks or sells drink to apply it with vigor. The association apparently decided to use the law against poor John H. Messaker of City Island."

Described as a wealthy "older gentleman," Messaker was a respected member of the City Island community, but his occasional indulgence in a "little wine and brandy" attracted the attention of the Law and Order Association, which sought to have a sheriff's jury appointed to consider whether Mr. Messaker had the ability "to take care of his property because of his intemperate habits." The community was shocked, and many witnesses gave testimony that he was entirely competent at all times. The jurors rendered a resounding verdict of "No cause of action," and great indignation was expressed at the effort of the association to dictate to a man how he shall behave.

City Island and Rum-Running

Serving illegal liquor took place in most sections of New York City, but rum-running was a related activity that required boats and docks, both of which City Island had in large numbers. The term "rum-running" originated because the Caribbean was a great source of rum, especially during Prohibition, but other types of liquor came from foreign countries on boats traveling to New York City from abroad: whiskey from Canada, champagne from France, gin from England, and so on. Most liquor came from abroad on liners or large ships but traveled down Long Island Sound where cases were transferred to smaller vessels that could easily find safe docks along the way.

There is no evidence that City Island built rum runners for the local trade, of course, and the one boat built at the Nev-

ins Shipyard that could be associated with Prohibition was a runabout built at Nevins in 1924 called *Baby Bootlegger*. However, it had been commissioned by a man who spent the next several years racing what has been called the most beautiful wooden boat ever built and the winner of races in Long Island Sound in 1924 and 1925. (She is still beautiful and active, by the way, in upstate New York and the inspiration for many beautiful model makers.) Certainly some of the boats built here were used for transporting liquor, but think about it: If you were a shipyard on City Island building rum runners alongside Coast Guard vessels, you probably wouldn't use such an obvious name.

Clam Digger Recollections

One of the most appealing bits in the City Island Nautical Museum's oral history videos is the description by an Islander who came alarmingly close to rum runners. Herbert McDaniel, whose obituary is, sadly, in last month's *Current*, since he passed away at the age of 100 in February, was recorded in 1984 describing his father's water boat, *Arbus*. As Mr. McDaniel recounted: "Before the *Arbus*, my father had owned a schooner and had hauled sand to the boats. This was during Prohibition. I remember my father telling me about the government revenue officers boarding his schooner and shoving sticks down into the sand he had loaded on deck to see if there was any liquor hidden under the sand."

"Somewhere around 1932 my father used to get calls hiring him to be at a certain light house in Long Island Sound at a particular time with a load of fresh water. Pops and my brother Bill would arrange to be at that location as requested. When they got there, a very fast power boat would appear with no running lights lit and tie up to the *Arbus*. They kept right on full forward, towing the *Arbus* while Pop and Bill unloaded the 5,000 gallons of fresh water into the rum-runner. That's what it was, but no one ever admitted it or talked about it. The water was for drinking, bathing and cooking as they were under way for long periods of time hauling booze in and out of New York and throughout the Long Island and Connecticut coastal cities."

The huge profits involved in producing and transporting illegal alcohol naturally attracted criminals like Dutch Schultz, who became more powerful and violent through the 1920s. Although federal, state and local governments increased their ability to enforce the law, even along the coastal communities, so many people broke the law so regularly that it became impossible to enforce, and eventually the 18th Amendment was repealed in 1933, and all the "Liquor Served Here" signs went up along City Island Avenue again.

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Obituaries

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



Nicholas Vaughan

Nicholas Vaughan, a beloved City Island resident and skilled union carpenter, passed away on May 6, 2023, at the age of 35.

He was born in New Rochelle on Feb. 5, 1988, and raised on City Island, where he played numerous sports growing up and where he lived most of his life. He graduated from Iona Preparatory Upper School. He was known for his outgoing personality, his infectious energy and his unwavering dedication to his craft. As a union carpenter, he took great pride in his work, as he followed in the footsteps of his late father, Stephen Vaughan.

Nick was a talented artist, a passionate music lover and an avid golfer who especially enjoyed playing at Montauk Downs. He had a zest for life and was always up for a spontaneous trip out east, where he could enjoy the natural beauty of the ocean and indulge in his love for golf.

He loved his dogs, Benji and Mia, who brought him endless joy and companionship this past year. He also cherished his family deeply and was a devoted son to his mother, Helen Vaughan.

Nick will be reunited in heaven with his father, Stephen Vaughan, and his grandfather, Anthony Grimaldi. He is survived by his loving mother and his grandmother, Betty Grimaldi, as well as Tim Byrnes, who embodied the qualities of a father-figure to Nick; his adored girlfriend, Briana Comerford, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins whom he loved dearly.

His passing is a tremendous loss to his family, friends and the City Island community. His warmth, kindness and huge heart for those he loved will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.



Barbara Ann Waters

Barbara Ann Waters, who grew up on City Island, passed away in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on May 17, 2023, at the age of 80.

She was born on June 2, 1942, to George and Jeannette Rolfe and raised on City Island. She attended P. S. 17 and Grace Dodge High School in the Bronx. She married Ronald B. Waters on May 25, 1963, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and soon

after moved to Idaho Falls, where she raised three sons.

After raising her children, she took a job with Shopko, where she held a variety of positions before retiring after 17 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and all the activities, sunshine and friendships she made in retirement. She was many things to many people, but mostly she was a treasured wife, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to everyone she knew.

She was predeceased by her parents and survived by her husband, Ronald Waters; her brother, George (Sandy) Rolfe; her children, Michael Waters, Richard (Jessica) Waters, and Edward (Julie) Waters; her grandchildren, Michael D. (Kylee) Waters, Matthew L. Waters, James E. (Chloe) Waters, Paige N. (Kevin) Parravano and Jacob T. Waters; and her great-grandchildren, Harper M. Parravano, Nora E. Waters, and William M. Waters.

Funeral services were held on May 23 in Idaho Falls, and interment was at Fielding Memorial Park Cemetery.

Organization News

Continued from page 11

Island Avenue is underway. Twenty spots have been selected and the planting took place on May 20. Our councilwoman will fund the planting of more new trees in the fall.

Stu Sorell reminded members that the food patty at Trinity Methodist Church is open on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Donations of nonperishable items can be left on the porch at 113 Bay Street.

Two representatives of the NY Harbor Patrol were present at the April meeting and reported that they will be patrolling local waters from 12 to 8 p.m. starting in May. They reminded the group that jet skis are to be off the water by sundown. The Harbor unit has heard our concerns and ideas for a substation or harbor base on City Island or Rodman's Neck, but these have not been approved.

Tom Smith announced that Hawkins Street will be co-named in honor of Richie DePierro on May 6 at 1 p.m.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. And bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight or graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at city.island.civic@gmail.com. Additionally, remember that all our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is Captain of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO (Neighborhood Community Officer) is Officer Rugovac; his telephone number is 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

We are part of Community Board 10, which is located at 3165 East Tremont Avenue; telephone 718- 892-1161; Facebook: Bronx Community Board 10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

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

Cathy Cebek

American Legion Auxiliary

"Wow! Another year flew by! June 6 is our "End of Year" meeting/dinner, when we say so long for the summer. We hope you enjoy the beautiful summer months.

Are you interested in becoming a member? We would love to have you join us for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, September through June at 7 p.m. E-mail all inquiries for membership or for supporting the American Legion Family's commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to Ala156correspondence@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, which will be on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. Service, not self.

Michelle Del Pozzo

Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

The City Island Arts and Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. Grace Church

will have our booth and bake sale on Saturday starting at 11 a.m. near Lickety Split Ice Cream. Please stop by and enjoy homemade cupcakes, cookies, banana and pumpkin breads, pies, brownies and more baked by our parishioners and friends of Grace Church.

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

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including a Youth Sunday service on Father's Day in June. We will also begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in the fall this year. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

The GraceTones: We are happy to announce that we have resumed singing at area nursing homes and rehab centers. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

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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. Show your bridge love!

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Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The City Island Garden Club luncheon was in full bloom on May 25, 2023, at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. Dedicated board members and committee chairs are shown above (l. to r.): Francine Alheid, Melanie Benvenue, Ellen Murphy, Boo Dennis, Elena Nuesslein, Teri Kurtz, Linda Kyriakos and Judy Judson.

City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the City Island Culinary Club. May was so much fun. At our first meeting, we prepared foods that begin with the letter "M" and feasted on chicken marsala, stuffed mushrooms, mini meatballs with mozzarella, and marshmallow s'mores. Then, for the second May meeting we had a high tea in celebration of King Charles's coronation featuring tea sandwiches of egg salad, salmon and cream cheese, cucumbers, and homemade scones. We also had mini quiches, cornbread and clotted cream, and for dessert mini-strawberry shortcakes.

For June we are exploring barbecue recipes. Exciting news: On July 15 we will have a Kids Culinary Workshop for children ages 7 to 12. More information will be available in the next few weeks; please keep an eye out for our flyer and Facebook posts.

We truly encourage anyone who has any interest to please drop in and join us

on Monday, June 5 and 19, at 7 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Happy cooking to all! Here is a great recipe for a barbecue dinner:

Rib Dry Rub

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon granulated onion
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon white pepper

Directions

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Store in an airtight container. Pack the dry rub onto your next rack of ribs. It is also great on chicken.

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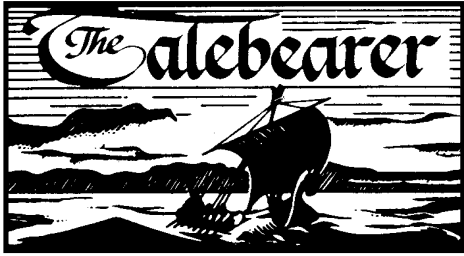
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Jojo Desantis is graduating from 8th grade and is headed for Iona Preparatory Upper School in the fall.



Zarya Nelms was born on Feb. 11, 2023. Proud grandma is Islander Leslie Kyle.



Charlotte Ann Rodstrom was born on April 25, 2023.

Belated congratulations to Islander and new grandma Leslie Kyle on the arrival of her granddaughter, Zarya, on Feb. 11, 2023. Proud parents are former Islander Merisa Ferrar and her, husband Bradley Nelms. Leslie will be traveling frequently to Georgia to see the newest family member.

Happy birthday wishes on June 23 to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families. Enjoy your special day!

Kudos to Joseph (Jojo) Desantis, who will be graduating from the eighth grade. We are so proud of you, and we look forward to sharing your new journey at Iona Preparatory Upper School. With lots of love from Mom, Dad, Karina and Matthew.

Congratulations to my grandson, Jake Penny, on his eighth-grade graduation from St. Francis Xavier Grammar School. Jake will be attending Fordham Prep in the fall. So proud of you! Love, Grandma Penny.

Birthday wishes go out to Debra Erickson, who celebrates her big day on June 19. We love you so much! Mom, Elzie and Ken.

Happy June birthdays to Judy Rauh and her brother, John Wright.

Ten students from the Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea religious education program received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph A. Espallat. May the Holy Spirit continue to shower you with His graces



Photo by TERI KURTZ

Ten students from the Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea religious education program received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph A. Espallat.

ion Rosenfeld (6/1), Ginger Dannegger (6/4), Rose Kolb (6/4), Margaret Lenz (6/7), Karen Nani (6/7), Bob McKenna (6/11) and Ann Butterworth (6/29).

Maria and Bob Swieciki are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Maria Christina, to Niall Madine of County Down, Ireland. Niall's parents, Mary and Marty Madine, surprised everyone with a quick visit to New York

in order to cheer on the happy couple. A destination wedding reception in Ireland is planned.

Congratulations to our daughter Grace Riordan, who is graduating from P.S. 175. All new adventures await you. Love always from Mom, Dad, Thomas and Emma.

A very Happy Father's Day to all our hardworking Dads and Grandfathers on Sunday, June 18.

Maria Swieciki



Clam digger Maria Swieciki and Niall Madine announced their engagement in May 2023.

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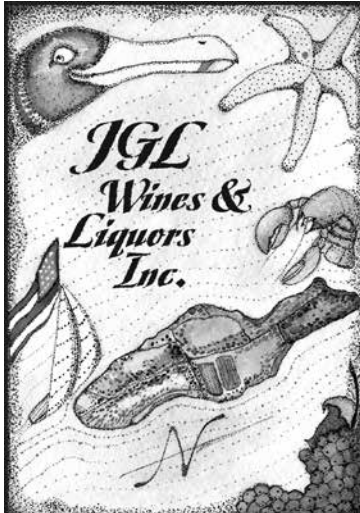
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