

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## SMSS Basketball: Quality if not Quantity

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Boys basketball season was filled with exciting moments and buzzer beaters. The Boys Varsity won the Villa Maria Holiday Tournament (kneeling l. to r.): Angelo Nieves, Reymi Vargas, Joseph Cruz, Dima Berezniuk, Michael Amos and Timothy Stiene. Standing: Coach Mark Amos, Nick Calbo, Matthew Valentine, Steven Rice, Jimmy McGaughan and Joseph Leni. Not pictured: Coach Tom Leni, players Cesar Lugo, Angel Ramos and Nicholas Rivera.

The 2014–2015 St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball season demonstrated that even though St. Mary's elementary school has been closed for two years, the program is still thriving. The program fielded four teams (compared to seven in past years), which produced many exciting games for coaches, players and parents, according to program director Islander Anna Marie Whelan.

"Three out of our four teams advanced to the A Division Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) playoffs," Anna told *The Current*. She gives much of the credit to the great efforts and dedication of the volunteer coaches: Steven Vaughan, Cesar Sosa, Michael Whelan, Peter Russell, Tom Leni, Bill Whelan and Jimmy Mantzaris.

Anna bid a special farewell and thanks to the longtime seventh- and eighth-grade Boys Varsity coach, Mark Amos, who has volunteered since 2006. "He led the boys past and present by example and taught them the meaning of the CYO Pledge of Sportsmanship. He will be missed by all."

The program is looking for other enthusiastic volunteers to follow in coach Amos's footsteps and join the program for next season, which begins in October 2015 and ends around March 2016. "It's a great way to spend time and make the winter season pass by. And it's filled with excitement!" Anyone interested can e-mail Anna at [annawhelan19@yahoo.com](mailto:annawhelan19@yahoo.com).

A summary of each team's season follows (all of whom had better winning percentages than the New York Knicks!).

### Boys Varsity

The Boys Varsity basketball season was full of exciting moments and buzzer beaters. Their overall record was 20 wins and 11 losses, and each game was hard fought. The highlight of the season came during their invitation to the Villa Maria Holiday Basketball Tournament, which ended with a victorious finish. In addition to winning the tournament championship, Michael Amos took home the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, and Cesar Lugo was named a tournament All Star.

Throughout the season, all of the boys rose to the occasion: Jimmy McGaughan hit

a three-point game-winning shot; Joseph Leni knocked down big free throws; Matthew Valentine shot fearlessly; and seventh-graders Steven Rice, Angelo Nieves and Joseph Cruz supplied great energy on the court. A big round of applause to Timothy Stiene, Angel Ramos, Dima Berezniuk and Nicholas Rivera for all their hard work throughout the season.

Coach Amos recognized assistant coach Tom Leni for his dedication to the team and all the family and friends that helped during the long season.

### Girls Debs

The fifth- and sixth-grade girls played a hard-fought season and ended with a record of eight wins and nine losses. The season was highlighted with an impressive victory against St. Elizabeth's from Washington Heights in the first round of the B division playoffs with a last-minute basket to seal the victory.

The girls worked hard at practice on their fundamentals and teamwork. According to Coach Bob Whelan, "we had a good bunch of young ladies this season who never gave up and showed good sportsmanship throughout. Coach Jimmy Mantzaris and I hope to see all of them back again next season."

The Debs for the 2014–2015 season were Demi Mantzaris, Adriana Testa, Amanda Accocella, Jennifer Gjonaj, Alexa Forliano, Kayla Fusco, Marie Cullen, Kaltrina Rugova and Isabel Whelan.

### Boys Tyros

The 2014–2015 Boys Tyro team had a spectacular regular season. The team finished with a record of 15 wins and 2 losses. They faced talented opponents throughout the playoffs and were defeated in the A division playoff semifinals by a tough Saint Raymond's team. All players contributed to the team's success and, more importantly, learned valuable lessons about teamwork, respect and sportsmanship.

Coaches Mike Whelan and Pete Russell extended their thanks and appreciation to all of the parents who committed their time volunteering at games and supporting their

*Continued on page 5*



Coaches Bill Whelan and Jimmy Mantzaris led the enthusiastic St. Mary's Girls Debs shown above (kneeling): Jennifer Gjonaj, Demi Mantzaris, Adriana Testa and Amanda Accocella. Standing: Coach Whelan, Kayla Fusco, Isabel Whelan, Kaltrina Rugova, Alexa Forliano and coach Mantzaris. Not pictured: Marie Cullen.



Coach Stephen Vaughan returned to coaching and led the Boys Bantam team to a record of 12 wins and 4 losses (kneeling, l. to r.): Ryan Whelan, Cyrus Alston, Matthew McGaughan, Jack Phillips, Jayden Rogers and A.J. Ferrante. Standing: Coach Vaughan, Tommy Forlino, Kelvin Bacilli, Marco Mazzella, Oscar Etzel and coach Cesar Sosa. Not pictured: Patrick Livingston and Mark Lomonaco.

## Hundreds Gather to Remember Beloved Islander

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK

Over 300 people gathered at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on March 20, 2015, to celebrate the life of long-time Islander Janet Hickey, who died on March 9 following a tragic accident on March 4.

The church was packed with family, friends and co-workers from Artie's Restaurant, where Janet worked for over 20 years. Janet's "beautiful and courageous" life was eulogized by her siblings, Jackie, Jay and Jimmy.

Born on March 10, 1954, Janet was a clam digger who attended St. Mary's elementary school (see obituary page 12). Her sister warmly reminisced about Janet's "willingness to let her little sister tag along everywhere she went. She patiently taught me how to ride horses."

Janet's equestrian prowess and devotion to horses was a central theme of the eulogies. When she was young, Janet would

rise before dawn and take the bus to Pelham Bit Stable on Shore Road, where she became an accomplished equestrian. Some of Janet's classmates at St. Mary's who attended the memorial service, including Leslie Kyle, rode horseback with Janet at the Pelham Bit. Although she traveled for several years on the equestrian circuit, she moved back to City Island. Indeed, Janet was a City Islander through and through and enjoyed the biennial reunions held in August on Ambrosini Field.

Her brothers spoke of her strong work ethic, and there were many affectionate nods from the pews where the staff and Artie's owner, Spiro Chagaris, were sitting. Many residents and visitors remember Janet's welcoming smile and cheerful greeting from behind the bar whenever they walked into Artie's. "I can't believe she's gone," Mr.

*Continued on page 5*

# BRIEFLY...

**ABOUT BOATING SAFELY** is the subject of the class offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla on Tuesday nights, April 14, 21 and 28, at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue. Classes run from 7 to 10 p.m., and students must attend all three in order to take the test. The cost is \$75, which includes materials. Contact Alan Lesser at [alanlesser@gmail.com](mailto:alanlesser@gmail.com) or call 845-323-0265 to register. To apply online, go to <http://a0140504.wow.uscgaux.info>.

**CITY ISLAND YACHT CLUB SALE:** On Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the yacht club, located at 99 Pilot Street, is holding a large yard sale of boating and sailing equipment, as well as household items. Rain date is Sunday, April 26.

**PICTURE THE PARK! PHOTO CONTEST,** sponsored by the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, features five categories: Seasons, People in the Park, Wildlife, Infused by Bronx History and Scenic Vistas. Digital submissions have been made for the first three categories, but voting can take place for "Wildlife" through April 4; Infused by Bronx History submissions can be made from April 5 through 11 with voting April 12 through 25; Scenic Vista submissions can be made April 26 through May 2, with voting from May 3 through 16. All images must be submitted via e-mail to [friendsofbbp@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbbp@yahoo.com) during the period of submission for each photo category. Photos will be posted on the Friends Facebook page, where visitors will be able to vote for their favorites in each category. Winners and runners-up will be exhibited at the City Island Nautical Museum this summer. For contest rules and more information, visit [www.friendsofpelhambaypark.org](http://www.friendsofpelhambaypark.org) or go to the organization's Facebook page.

**TIM MOSES ART EXHIBIT:** The Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade in Pelham Manor will mount an exhibition of work by an artist who has lived and made art on City Island for 27 years. Much of his work reveals a love of the sea and reflects his many years as a boat owner and certified dive master; also included are his images of nearby Pelham Bay Park. The exhibition will include new and old work, formal paintings and sketches. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 3, from 4 to 6 p.m., and will be open to all. Call 914-738-1528 for more information.

**CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE:** Opening day ceremonies will take place on Saturday April 11, at 10 a.m. on Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175.

**ST MARY'S GIRLS SOFTBALL** for seventh- and eighth-grade girls will hold a registration on Friday, April 10, at St Mary's School Gym from 6 to 7:30 p.m. They are in need of a head softball coach for the girls. The season begins soon after registration and ends by the second week of June. For more information, please e-mail [annawhelan19@yahoo.com](mailto:annawhelan19@yahoo.com).

**"TWELVE ANGRY MEN"** by Reginald Rose will be presented by the City Island Theater Group over two weekends at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 30, May 1 and 2, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 3 at 3 p.m. For reservations, please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). To purchase tickets on line, go to [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com). Senior, students, Bronx Cultural Card holders, reserved seats and tickets purchased on line are \$20. Tickets at the door are \$22.

# 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

Police provided details on the follow-

ing incident for the period from February 20 to March 20, 2015.

2/20 – Police are investigating a burglary at a gas station on City Island Avenue at 2:30 a.m. Two unknown males in masks pointed a gun at the attendant and then removed cash from the counter.

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# Long Islanders Join Effort to Save Stepping Stones Lighthouse

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of the GREAT NECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On March 1, 2015, at the City Island Nautical Museum, members of the Great Neck Historical Society presented their plan to keep Stepping Stones Lighthouse, which is in severe disrepair, from being demolished.

Members of the Great Neck Historical Society braved the snowstorm on March 1, 2015, to present their plan to save Stepping Stones Lighthouse at the City Island Nautical Museum. About 75 residents and other concerned preservationists crowded into the museum's library to listen and to support the effort to keep the historic lighthouse from being demolished.



Completed in 1877 based on a design by Mead Schaeffer, the lighthouse warns mariners of a shoal and extensive rocks that extend into Long Island Sound northward from Kings Point. Built on 900 tons of boulders barged to the site, Stepping Stones is actually a "sister" lighthouse to one off Athens, NY, in the Hudson River. For many years, a series of lighthouse keepers lived in the Stepping Stones building with their families.

1932 its original Fresnel lens was replaced with an electric system that was manually lit by the keeper, and in 1964 the lighthouse keeper was replaced with an automatic green flasher. In 2005 the structure was listed on the National Registry of Historical Places, and the flasher is now solar powered.

The lighthouse guides ships safely into the entrance to New York Harbor and has gone through several reincarnations. In

1995 author Katherine Kirkpatrick published "Keeping the Good Light," a historical novel about the daughter of the lighthouse keeper who went to school on City Island. Ms. Kirkpatrick, who lived on City Island for several years, carefully researched the history of Stepping Stones for her novel, copies of which are in the Nautical Museum library.

ated by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2006 the signal was designated a critical navigation aid, and the USCG declared that there would always be a navigation light on the site. However, as Bob Lincoln of the Great Neck Historical Society explained to the crowd at the Nautical Museum. "the Coast Guard is no longer in the lighthouse business."

Stewardship of the lighthouse was granted to the town of North Hempstead on Long Island in 2008 as part of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and efforts to save the lighthouse intensified when the Great Neck Historical Society partnered with the town in 2013. "If the structure is not stabilized and restored, the Coast Guard will demolish it and install a metal beam with a flashing signal on it," Mr. Lincoln warned those concerned about the fate of the little red structure that many residents, visitors and sailors treasure as part of southern Long Island Sound.

Stepping Stones was originally supposed to have been built off Hart Island, but eventually it was located .9 miles off the Long Island coast. According to legend, the Native Americans chased the devil out of what is now Westchester County onto City Island and surrounded him at Belden Point. The devil picked up some huge boulders, tossed them into Long Island Sound and used them as stepping stones to make his escape to Long Island, hence the origin of the lighthouse's name.

In 1995 author Katherine Kirkpatrick published "Keeping the Good Light," a historical novel about the daughter of the lighthouse keeper who went to school on City Island. Ms. Kirkpatrick, who lived on City Island for several years, carefully researched the history of Stepping Stones for her novel, copies of which are in the Nautical Museum library.

Sadly, the lighthouse itself is in poor condition and certain repairs need to be made quickly. There is a hole in the roof and the foundation; the west wall is crumbling and the brick needs repointing. Most of the interior has been ripped apart and the paint is peeling (see photos). The dock that provides access to the lighthouse needs to be rebuilt so that contractors can have access; the only access now is via a ladder.

It has been estimated that the cost of a full restoration is in the range of \$4 million, but the Great Neck Historical Society has set a preliminary goal of \$50,000 for repairs that need to be made quickly. The well-organized group has already raised \$15,000 from individual donations and t-shirt sales and applied for a grant of \$165,000. Those interested in more information should visit their website ([www.greatneckhistorical.org](http://www.greatneckhistorical.org)) and watch a YouTube video about Stepping Stones. The group plans to run boat tours of the lighthouse once it is restored. In the meantime, there are copies of the original plans for the lighthouse at the Nautical Museum, along with other documents, images and information.

But the lighthouse restoration needs help! Matching funds will be required if the grant is awarded. Alice Kasten of the Historical Society told *The Current* that she and Mr. Lincoln would be delighted to come to any City Island yacht club or organization to discuss their plan to save Stepping Stones.

Residents and sailors who want to preserve the charming red lighthouse off the south end of City Island need to step up and be heard. Visit the Great Neck Historical Society's website and help out if you can. If it's not saved, who knows what the devil that originally inspired the name might do!



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. addressed the City Island Civic Association on Tuesday, March 24, and described the progress being made in the Bronx for both businesses and residents, citing the ice center in the Kingsbridge Armory, the completion of the Ferry Point golf course, the forthcoming ferry service to Soundview, the construction of a Marriott Hotel, increased commercial development and more. He took several questions and reassured those in attendance that he supported the City Island on many issues, including noise abatement at the Rodman's Neck firing range, commercial development and the availability of capital money for community projects.

## St. Mary's Once Again a School

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Anyone who telephones the old St. Mary, Star of the Sea School may be surprised to hear a voice answering "Holy Rosary School." Because of damage to their school building, students and faculty from Holy Rosary Elementary School off Gun Hill Road have moved temporarily into the vacant school building on Minneford Avenue.

The plan is for the students to stay until the end of the school year, although the eighth-grade graduation will take place at Holy Rosary Church in June. Until then, the building that housed St. Mary's elementary school until 2012 will once again be filled with the sounds of lively young students.

At the end of January, the extreme cold caused extensive damage to Holy Rosary when their water pipes burst. So during the first week of March, the 300 students in Grades K through 8 from the private parochial school arrived to attend class on City Island. The Pre-K children were relocated to a different site.

Meanwhile, Fr. Michael responded to queries about the long-awaited pre-kindergarten program in the St. Mary's school building. "We are hoping to have a Pre-K program in September, but it depends on whether or not the Holy Rosary students will be able to return to their school," he told *The Current*.

"I am sure you will join me in making the faculty, staff and students of Holy Rosary School feel welcome during their time of need," Father Michael Challinor told the congregation at St. Mary's church early in March.

For now, however, the building will be fully occupied for the rest of the school year. The St. Mary's basketball program has continued to use the gym, but the season wrapped up in March (see article this issue). At least until June, students will be taking their seats in the classrooms familiar to hundreds of Islanders who attended St. Mary's in years past.

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**Missing Janet**

To the Editor:

My dad, John Vaughan, worked on the Fordham Street Ferry, and Janet's dad, Jim Hickey, was the warden on Hart Island. They became fast friends while "Uncle" Jim traveled back and forth to Hart Island for his work.

We moved to City Island in August of 1961 to the house I still live in on Fordham Street. The Hickeys also moved onto Fordham Street. Janet was my first friend on City Island, and we attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School together for seven years. Our families spent much time together, and our moms were inseparable. "Aunt" Joyce was like a second mother to me and my brothers.

As a grown-up, I could always rely on Janet to put together wonderful parties for my family at Artie's. We would always reminisce about our moms and their antics and how much we both missed them.

Janet was a lifelong friend with a beautiful bright smile and a contagious laugh, and I will miss her dearly.

Suzanne Anderson

**Remembering Ducky**

To the Editor:

I was so sad to hear of the passing of Ducky Rauhauser in February. I cannot remember when I did not know him and his wife, Lorraine. They were wonderful neighbors on Horton Street, and it was such fun watching their children, Karen and Eric, grow up. There were so many wonderful conversations over the years between the Rauhauser and Duryea families. Nice neighbors meeting in the street, wandering into each other's yards, chatting about this and that, and helping each other out if and when the need arose.

Ducky was certainly an important part of City Island's history. I still remember seeing him at the helm of the pilot boat to put aboard or take off pilots from the passing ships going by the southern tip of City Island. My uncle, Philip Larsen, was one of the Hell Gate pilots who brought the ships safely down the East River and through the treacherous waters of Hell's Gate. Ducky was always enthusiastic and we will all miss him. His family is in my thoughts during this very sad time.

The support of friends and neighbors is what I love about living on City Island (in addition to the beautiful surrounding waters). City Island is a community, not a just a neighborhood. I hope that those who have moved here in recent years embrace it as we did growing up in such a special place.

Diane Duryea

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St. Mary's Boys JV Tyro team finished with a spectacular record of 15 wins and 2 losses. Kneeling (l. to r.): Sebastian Rodriguez, Mark Piri, Ben Nicoletti, John Russell, Hazir Novaj and Sazan Rexhepi. Standing: John Bernardo, Ginutis Sipas, Thomas Whelan, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Carmine Testa and Joshua Rosario. Coaches: Mike Whelan and Pete Russell. Not pictured: Julian McElroy and Oludotum Shodeinde.

## BASKETBALL

*Continued from page 1*

children throughout the season.

The shooting stars of the Boys Tyros were Sebastian Rodriguez, Mark Piri, Ben Nicoletti, John Russell, Hazir Novaj, Sazan Rexhepi, John Bernardo, Ginutis Sipas, Thomas Whelan, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Carmine Testa and Joshua Rosario.

### Boys Bantam

Islander Stephen Vaughan returned to coaching after a 17-year hiatus and was very happy that he did. He coached the third- and fourth-grade Bantam boys to a record of 12 wins and 4 losses. They lost to the Bronx Borough Champs, St. Margaret's, in a nail-biting game in the CYO playoffs. "We had a great team and a lot of fun, a perfect combination for CYO sports. I inherited this won-

derful team from last year's coach, Mike Whelan, which had two superstars, Ryan Whelan and Patrick Livingston." Coach Vaughan also praised the rest of the team as great, hard-working team players who got the job done.

He thanked his assistant coach, Cesar Sosa, and called him "a blessing who has the patience of a saint. Thanks go also to all the fans and mothers who worked the kitchen and the door, especially my wife, Helen." The entire team thanks Danny from Seafood City and Lisa from Ohana's for throwing great parties for the team this season.

The great team players from the Bantams were Tommy Forlino, Kelvin Bacilli, Marco Mazzella, Oscar Etzel, Ryan Whelan, Cyrus Alston, Matthew McGaughan, Jack Phillips, Jayden Rogers, A.J. Ferrante, Patrick Livingston and Mark Lomonaco.

## JANET HICKEY

*Continued from page 1*

Chagaris had told friends at Artie's after the accident. "She worked as general manager for the former owner, Artie Bimonte, for several years and for me ever since I took over the restaurant."

On Feb. 24, Janet had successful brain surgery in which doctors removed 99 percent of a benign tumor behind her ear, according to her older brother, Jimmy Doyle. On March 4, an ambulance picked her up at New York-Presbyterian Hospital to take her to Phelps Memorial Hospital, where she was scheduled to spend a week in rehab working to regain her walking skills. "She was alert and doing great," her brother told reporters.

According to the police, the ambulance did not have lights and sirens on, but the 19-year-old driver somehow lost control and slammed into a pole on Route 9 in Sleepy Hollow. According to her family, the driver and the 55-year-old EMT technician

accompanying him had allegedly failed to strap her properly into the vehicle. Two days after the crash, Janet was declared brain dead, and she was taken off life support on March 9.

Her brothers did not want the tragedy to mar the memorial service. "I am angry about the accident, but today is about Janet and what she would have wanted," her brother Jay told the gathering.

Her siblings said they will miss Janet's Sunday phone calls, a tradition started by their mother, Joyce, who always called them while she was cooking Sunday dinner.

Janet's husband, John Kuchta, and her siblings summed up their feelings this way: "Janet was a rare and special person who touched everyone at their core and bonded friendships for life. Our lives are filled with so many people and moments, but occasionally we are blessed with a human spirit who impacts our hearts and minds in a different way, one whom we never forget, and one who challenges you to think about yourself, your actions and your purpose—one who lives on forever deep in your soul."

## NYPD TO RENOVATE RODMAN'S NECK

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Police Commissioner William Bratton has requested \$115 million in capital funding from the city to completely renovate the Rodman's Neck firing range, according to Council Member James Vacca, who attended a meeting with NYPD officials on March 25, 2015.

Many City Island residents were dismayed to learn last October that Commissioner Bratton had reversed the plans announced by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and then Police Commissioner Ray Kelly in April 2007, to move the firing range from Rodman's Neck to the new police academy in College Point, Queens.

The range is in terrible condition, according to the NYPD, with dilapidated buildings that must be replaced and a lead-abatement system that must be modernized, but the issue of greatest concern to Is-

landers, especially those living on the west side of the Island, is that of excessive noise.

Mr. Vacca was assured that sound abatement was the commissioner's highest priority in the refurbishing of Rodman's Neck, which will include the construction of fully enclosed indoor ranges and two outdoor ranges that will be fitted with sound-abatement baffles. Because this aspect of the project is the first priority for the commissioner, it will proceed even if the full \$115 million is not allocated. The city's budget will be finalized by the end of June, before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Funding has already been granted by the Office of Management and Budget for preliminary designs for the new ranges, and in due course designs will be made available for community input through Com-

munity Board 10, which has supported the community in its effort to deal with sound abatement. It is estimated that construction would begin 30 months from now and be completed within four to five years.

John Doyle, corresponding secretary for the City Island Civic Association and a member of the 45th Precinct's Community Council, was cautiously optimistic about the news. "While \$115 million to-

ward improvements is welcome news, we can't really celebrate until the work is complete and the sound has been completely muffled. When the facility was slated to be relocated to Queens, the NYPD planned to enclose the entire facility so residents nearby wouldn't be bothered, and Bronx residents, including City Islanders, deserve that same commitment and respect."

## March: In Like a Snow Leopard... Out Like the Easter Bunny



Photos by: BARBARA DOLENSEK, ANN-MARIE GOONAN, MAURA MANDRANO and KAREN NANI

The winter of 2015 would not relent and held New York City in its grip through much of March. It came in like the proverbial lion with a snowstorm on March 1 but seemed to be on the wane until a snowstorm on March 20 coated City Island once again in white. By the end of the month, residents could see their lawns and boats once again, and the daffodils finally poked their heads out. It was a winter Islanders won't soon forget.

## Summer Opening for Temporary Bridge

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Department of Transportation (DOT) was forced by the rough winter weather to push back the opening of the temporary bridge until late May at the earliest. Half of the temporary bridge spans have been erected as of press time. Seven shafts are being drilled and will be outfitted with pier caps and cap beams, so that the rest of the bridge segments can be installed. These remaining segments are being constructed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and should arrive by barge over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the contractor is building the deck on the already installed spans. Many Islanders have noticed that the deck appears to be very narrow, but Roland Regos, the DOT community liaison on the project, assured *The Current* that the width is 31 feet, enough to accommodate three lanes, although slightly narrower than the current bridge. Pedestrian /bicycle paths will be added to each side of the roadway in a cantilevered system like that on the 59th Street bridge between Queens and Manhattan. There will be a barrier between the pathways and the roadway.

The speed limit on the bridge will be 25 miles per hour, as it is for the rest of the Is-

land, and Mr. Regos believes that excessive speeds will be unlikely because the bridge is slightly curved. Although the bridge at this stage doesn't look especially strong, it has been designed to accommodate tractor trailers and buses without jeopardizing access to the fire lane for emergency vehicles.

The next community working group is currently scheduled for mid-April. DOT will be proposing a revised design for the Legion Triangle proposal that will not include the "Welcome to City Island" sign that was placed in such a way as to block a view of the memorials on the triangle.

The Turtle Cove project of replacing the culvert beneath the City Island Road is progressing. To accommodate traffic, the contractor will open up the road to its usual four lanes from May to September. It is hoped that this will take place before Mother's Day, always a heavy traffic day for City Island.

Traffic enforcement agents will be back on duty at the bridge construction site from Mother's Day through Sept. 15.

To monitor progress on the bridge, visit the Facebook page for the City Island Bridge.

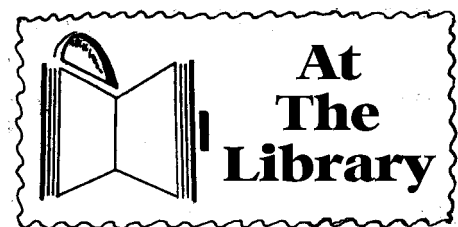


**Turtle Cove Golf Center** is offering an exciting new junior golf program designed to expose golf to juniors of all ability levels. This after-school program, featuring the PGA Sports Academy curriculum, will help children learn to play golf and have fun in the process. The series will be offered by PGA professionals in a group environment, and children will be exposed to and learn a variety of golf skills and activities.

Daily clinic hours are from Tuesday through Thursday starting May 5 and ending June 18 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$225 per week per student. A \$50 deposit is required at least one week before the clinic starts, and full payment must be remitted on first day of clinic. Students must be registered at least one week prior to start of camp. Call Joshua M. Dunn at 718-885-1129 or e-mail [info@turtlecovegolfcenter.com](mailto:info@turtlecovegolfcenter.com) or stop by the Pro Shop.

**Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), sponsored by the Idea Factory, will have its annual Young Artist Exhibition in April. The opening will be Saturday, April 11, 1 to 3 p.m. at the gallery, and the exhibition will run until the end of April. For information, call 718-885-1403.

Elliott Glick will offer two jewelry courses this April and May at **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue, 718/885-3779). The "Introduction to Jewelry Making" class will be held on Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. "Jewelry Making Part Two," which is recommended for those who have taken two previous introductory jewelry-making classes with Elliott or for those with advanced knowledge, will take place on Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28 and May 5 and 12, also from 7:30 to 9 p.m. More information may be found at [www.StarvingArtistOnline.com](http://www.StarvingArtistOnline.com), including the ability to register for these classes. And while you're at the website, check out the lineup for April 2015, which will include "An Evening of Broadway" with Hannah Glick and friends on Saturday, April 11, at 8 p.m.



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**APRIL 2015**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**SPECIAL WEEKLY PROGRAM:**

**Bi-Lingual Birdies:** This April, the Bilingual Birdies will warm up families with live music, dance parties, and theater-based games. They'll take you on an adventure to learn new vocabulary about the snow and rain, warm winter clothes, and winter sports. Children will also learn about various professions and modes of transportation. Teachers play the guitar and instruments are provided for a collective family jam! Every Monday (April 6, 13, 20 and 27) at 11 a.m.

**ONGOING PROGRAMS:**

**Circle Time:** Interactive stories, action, songs, crafts and interaction with other toddlers in the neighborhood. First

come first served. A limit of 15 children and caregivers per session. 18 months to 3 years. Every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

**Read & Play:** Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys, and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come, first serve basis the day of the program. Every Friday at 11 a.m.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in at any time throughout the day and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2-11. Friday, April 17 between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

**APRIL 2015 TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**ONGOING PROGRAM:**

**After School Lounge.** Come to the library after school for studying, relaxing and doing homework with Wii and movies on Friday. Every weekday after school Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Spring Break Lounge:** Come to the library during spring break. Play Wii, board games and more. April 6-10 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**APRIL 2015 ADULT PROGRAMS**

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

**Creating a Family Budget:** Do you dread budgeting? Never fear, we have some saving tips that may reduce your stress. This program helps participants plan ahead and budget for family expenses. Diony Cespedes, MBA, is the founder of Sole Strivers LLC, a wealth-building consultancy that helps clients increase their net worth through career strategy, entrepreneurship and changes in earning and spending habits. The Consultancy offers one-to-one coaching, workshops and publications. Saturday, April 4, at 3 p.m.

**Saturday Family Board Games:** Race boats, engage in strategy or test your reflexes with friends and family. April 11 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**ONGOING PROGRAMS**

**Computer Q & A:** Ask questions about how to use computers. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" "How do I copy and paste text and pictures?" How can I sign in to use a computer at the library with my library card?" Every Monday afternoon from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, Pilot Street. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Also, one-on-one training by appointment.

**Resume Writing Workshop and Online Job Search:** Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resume into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Tablet Group:** Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:**

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

**Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m.:** "The Hundred Foot Journey"

**Saturday, April 18, at 1 p.m.:** "The Judge"

**Saturday, April 25, at 1 p.m.:** "The Theory of Everything"



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# Pre-Kindergarten Comes to City Island

By JOHN DOYLE

After an intensive yearlong effort, Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), a signature program of Mayor de Blasio's administration, appears to be coming to City Island. The news, recently announced by the NYC Department of Education (DOE), came as a relief to many City Islanders, who saw a previous effort fall apart shortly before September 2014.

The City Island Civic Association encouraged the Archdiocese of New York to resubmit UPK plans, and State Senator Jeffrey Klein's office supported the request, as City Island was one of the few communities in the Bronx that did not have convenient access to this program. Last year 53,000 children signed up for UPK, and the number is expected to increase to more than 70,000 for the upcoming school year.

The planned UPK program will be located in the school building of St. Mary, Star of the Sea and will be operated by the Archdiocese to accommodate 36 full-day seats, beginning in September. Those looking to enroll their children may call 718-935-2067 or visit the DOE website, <http://schools.nyc.gov>. The deadline is Friday, April 24, and Islanders are encouraged to sign-up soon! According to recent news reports, nearly 37,000 families signed up for UPK during the first week of registration.

City Island's lack of UPK services was a source of frustration for parents looking for affordable childcare options for their children. It was also a source of concern for residents who feared that St. Mary's school building might be sold by the Archdiocese for future development.



## Bartow-Pell Events

**First Friday!** Music & Trolley returns on Friday, April 3, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Back by popular demand is the folk trio Hawthorne featuring Nat Osborn, Aimee Bayles and Karina Ray. Explore the museum, stroll the garden and enjoy light refreshments. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students; members free.

An **Urban Park Ranger Nature Exploration Hike** will take place on Tuesday, April 7, at 2 p.m. Discover the plants and animals

that inhabit the urban forest around the mansion on this vigorous hike with an Urban Park Ranger. Comfortable shoes or boots, water, and a light snack are recommended. Meet at the parking lot. Free.

**Yoga in the Orangerie**—Spring Series on Fridays, April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and June 5, 12. 7–8:15 a.m. Intermediate Level; 8:45–10 a.m. Gentle Level One. The benefits of yoga are well known: de-stress, get strong and flexible, and have fun! Deepen your practice in a steady, mindful approach at the intermediate level or learn the basics in the beginner class. Taught by certified yoga teacher Ann Casapini in a serene, sunlit space. Ten-class series; class size limited to 12. Please bring your own mat. Registration and pre-payment required. Cost \$190 for series; members \$165.

An **Exhibition Talk** by collectors Bill and Sally Gemmill will take place on Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. The subject is early 19th-century schoolgirl art works and the female academies that produced them, based on the exhibition now on view in the library. There will be a reception in the Orangerie after the presentation. Registration requested. Free.

*Continued on page 11*

## A Current Review

# “Outside Mullingar”

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by NICK SALA

The City Island Theater Group's production of John Patrick Shanley's "Outside Mullingar" was a pre-St. Patrick's Day treat for enthusiastic audiences. The cast included Camille Kaiser (seated), and (l. to r.) Con Grondahl, Steven Bendler and Susan Rauh.

The City Island Theater Group opened its 2015 season with "Outside Mullingar" as an early St. Patrick's Day gift to City Island. The play, set on two adjoining farms in Ireland just outside the village of Mullingar, is the work of John Patrick Shanley, inspired by a visit to his family's farm in Mullingar. Winner of Academy, Pulitzer and Tony awards, Mr. Shanley has had an enormously successful career as a writer and has lived a varied and interesting life. For more details about what led him to write this moving play, see the March issue of *The Island Current*, which published an article about his growing up in the Bronx and his appreciation of the Irish command of language.

The play premiered in a limited engagement at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre in Manhattan in January 2014, starring Brian O'Byrne, Debra Messing, Dearbhla Molloy and Peter Maloney. "Outside Mullingar" received nominations for both Drama Desk and Tony awards. The CITG production marked the first staging of the show by a community theater organization, thanks to Mr. Shanley's generous support. In 2007 he awarded the same privilege to the group for its production of his play "Doubt."

Winston Churchill once said that Russia was a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. There are similar onion-like layers to the story told in "Outside Mullingar." At first we encounter routine concerns with the passing of time and how that affects the lives of each of the play's characters, who live on two adjoining family farms. Gradually, as events progress, we learn more details about just how life has changed, who fought with whom and why, and what will be the future cost of past actions. As these details emerge, family secrets are exposed and eventually manage to both explain and resolve the difficult issues facing both families. At each level, humor manages to lighten the emotional weight of the drama, which moved many in the audience to both tears and laughter.

Con Grondahl, who plays the irascible Tony, head of the Reilly household, is deeply concerned about the future of the family farm. Although many of the problems he faces are of his own making, he seems more than ready to leave the farm to an American nephew rather than to his son, Anthony, who has worked the farm for 20 years. With an impeccable Irish accent, Con stepped from behind the curtain, where he once built sets for the theater group, and into the center of the show, where he was convincing and very moving. We look forward to seeing him in front of the curtain in the future.

Camille Kaiser, as Tony's neighbor Aoife Muldoon, who has just lost her husband, spends the evening as Tony's active foil. Although willing to listen as he complains about the past and frets over the future, Aoife has lived the history of the family farm with Tony and is more than willing to confront

him when he reinvents history to suit his purposes, pointing out how he contributed to the problems he now laments. A veteran CITG performer, Camille contributes both humor and pathos to this production, as she brings perspective to the family's current problems.

Susan Rauh, as Aoife's daughter, Rosemary, drives much of the action, especially in the story's deepest levels. Born and raised on the adjoining farm, Rosemary has come into possession of a tiny but vital piece of the Reilly farm, and she is determined to use this to drive a wedge between Tony and his plan to let the Reilly farm go to the wrong person. Rosemary has spent her life waiting for Anthony to show interest in her, and she is not about to sit by as Tony denies him the right to inherit the farm. Susan Rauh is spot on, displaying a focused, relentless determination as she fights against a bequest she believes is wrong.

Stephen Bendler is the center of the play as Tony's troubled, hard-working son. He has lived his life on the Reilly farm, doing most of the work (as Aoife corrects Tony's retelling of history), and he now faces an uncertain future as his legacy appears headed for another. What really stands in the way of Anthony's ascension to his rightful place as head of the Reilly farm, and keeps him from crossing the valley to take up with Rosemary, is the final riddle at the heart of this story. In the final scene, as Rosemary drags the secret out of Anthony, a pin dropping in the hall would have reverberated like a bowling ball. Stephen Bendler served up just the right mix of emotion as Anthony; flowing effortlessly between determination, distraction and despair as he struggles with a secret that seems to stand between him and life.

The CITG production of "Outside Mullingar" had its usual effective set. Dan Srdoc put together convincing Irish kitchens on the stage of Grace Episcopal Church; Joe Burck did an artful job as scenic and lighting designer, and Jay Langkamp served as lighting operator. Sound effects were designed by Denis Zepeda and operated by Hannah Glick. CITG's prop mistress, Barbara Dolensek, accumulated props that ranged from a kitchen stove and sink to a metal detector and an oxygen tank. Following their enormous efforts for "Evita," costume design was surely a little easier this time for Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker, who managed, as always, to get the costumes just right.

"Outside Mullingar" was Nick Sala's latest turn as director of a CITG production, and he did his usual fine job. He was assisted by production stage manager Alanna Scott and stage crew Thomas Losito.

The City Island Theater Group has finished casting for its next production, "Twelve Angry Men" and rehearsals have already begun under the direction of Elizabeth Paldino. We are looking forward to this production, as CITG continues its successful launch of its 16th year.



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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### APRIL

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., April 2, 3 and 4, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sat., April 4, **Easter Egg Hunt**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 12 noon.

Sat., April 11, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Thurs., April 16, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat., April 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Turkey or beef patties, noodles and peas in mushroom gravy.

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

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Our style of service is Jewish renewal, deeply spiritual, innovative and open-minded. The congregation is led by our clergy: Rabbi Shohama Wiener, Rabbi David Evan Markus and Reb Eva Sax-Bolder with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Saturday, April 4, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Second night of Passover. Traditional full seder. Join us in the retelling of our ancestors' exodus from bondage. Dinner included, catered, congenial and kosher. Cost \$49. For more information, call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 or e-mail [shul.bythesea@verizon.net](mailto:shul.bythesea@verizon.net).

Each Friday night Shabbat service is followed by a celebratory oneg (light refreshments).

Friday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat services.

Friday, April 10, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David for Shabbat of Passover coinciding with Shirat HaYam, the song of the sea our ancestors sang from bondage to liberation.

Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat services.

Friday, April 24, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David, Reb Eva, Your Band by the Sea as we welcome back Velveteen Rabbi Rachel for a Shabbat evening of song and poetry. This week's double portion of Torah (Tatzria and Metzora) evoke transformative rituals from spiritual illness to spiritual health. Join us as we shed pretense and open ourselves to the fullness of transformation and spring.

Course offering: Sunday, April 12, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Spirit of the Story: Jewish History in Film (part 3). Join Rabbi David in exploring Jewish history using film and documentaries. Starting with the award-winning PBS documentary "The Story of the Jews" and then a series of popular films, the course will focus over the next nine months on Jewish history from antiquity to modernity. Film viewing and discussion free to members. \$20 for non-members.

All TBE members and friends interested in praying for and supporting others who are ill and/or need home contact are requested to please join our Chessed Committee. Please send questions and comments to [ertopol@aol.com](mailto:ertopol@aol.com) (Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol). If you want prayers for yourself, family members or friends, please send an e-mail. We welcome any member, friend and family of the

City Island community to contact us to be placed on our prayer list as well.

Oneg sponsorship: Sponsoring an oneg (refreshments) for a Shabbat or holiday service is a wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life cycle event) and give back to the community. For more information, call Violet Smith 718-885-0978 or e-mail [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For further information, visit our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Ellen Ruth Topol



**Bronx Rotary's latest Gift of Life child, Enea Ejupi exhibited one of her trademark smiles that so endeared her to all she met at the Gift of Life District 7230 fundraiser.**

#### The Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is thrilled to be sponsoring our 17th Gift of Life child. Four year-old Enea Ejupi from Kosovo had her surgical procedure on the morning of March 13 and did quite well. She was operated on at Maria Ferrari Children's Hospital in the Westchester Medical Center. Enea and her mother, Ardita, and their host family mother, Zoja Rrasi, were met at the hospital by Cheryl Simmons-Oliver and Ed Hicks from the Bronx Rotary Club and Zoja's sister Rrasi and her son.

Enea went into surgery about 8:45 a.m. Those in attendance saw Dr. Erb around noon and he told them that things went well. The major problem was a valve in the upper chambers of Enea's heart that did not work, and they were able to repair this without having to perform open heart surgery. After several hours in recovery, Enea returned to the host family later the same day!

On Sunday, March 15, less than 48 hours after her procedure, Enea was having a great time playing with Zoja and Zef Rrasi's grandchildren. We couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome for this beautiful, loving child!

Giovanni's Restaurant on Arthur Avenue will be hosting a send-off party for Enea, Ardita and all Rotarians and friends involved in Enea's Gift of Life on Tuesday, March 24.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Spring is here and that means cleaning! Please think of the Budget Corner for donating those gently used items that you no longer need. The spring schedule is April 4, 7, 18, 21 and 28, and May 2, 5, 16, 19 and 30. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

#### AARP Chapter 318

AARP 318 meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. Our April 1 meeting will be a "Mad Hatter's Day" with crazy hats for April Fool's Day. A contest for the best, funniest and fanciest hats will be followed by pizza and dessert; \$5 per person. On Wednesday, April 15, at 1 p.m. we will have a group of nursing students as speakers. Please come, bring a friend and enjoy a wonderful time.

Rosetta Woods

#### City Island Nautical Museum

Although the museum has been closed to the public since late December, we have been very busy behind the scenes sorting and organizing photographs and documents in the museum's files, upgrading our Rosenfeld exhibition and getting ready for our summer exhibition of winners of the Picture the Park! photo contest being sponsored by the Friends of Pelham Bay Park (for more information, go to [www.friendsofpeham-baypark.org](http://www.friendsofpeham-baypark.org)).

The big news, however, is that we have finally obtained all the necessary permits and will begin work in mid-April rebuilding the steps leading up to the museum entrance, which have deteriorated over the years. We will reopen to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, beginning April 11, and the contractors, C.I. Construction, will work with us to make sure that visitors will have access to the front door on weekends.

As usual, those of us who volunteer can always use extra help with our various projects. We have some exciting projects in the works, and even if you have just an hour or two a week to give us, we would be happy to put you to work! Call 718-885-0507 for more information.

Barbara Dolensek

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island Avenue, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish that has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

##### Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite I, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Priest-in-Charge Ruth Anne Garcia. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Contemplative Prayer Service meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church. A quiet evening service, it includes scripture reading, reflection and meditation.

Hearts and Hands takes place on Monday, April 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This is a group of women (men are welcome, too) from Grace Church and the community who crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make small afghans or hats, which are donated to Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. We have yarn you can use, and we also welcome yarn donations. Come join us!

Maundy Thursday Service: April 2 at 7:30 p.m.. Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day when Jesus celebrated the passover with his disciples, known as the Last Supper.

Good Friday Service: April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service: April 5 at 10 a.m. Holy Communion Rite II.

Eileen Marcus

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

Since April 3, the first Friday of April, is also Good Friday, we will not have our monthly Holy Hour that day. It will resume on Friday, May 1, from 4 to 5 p.m.

After a two-week break for Holy Week and Easter, the students in our religious education program will resume classes on Wednesday, April 15.

All are invited to join us at our monthly coffee hour on Sunday, April 12, in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Our students who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation will participate in a retreat day at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point on Tuesday, April 21. This is part of their immediate preparation for the reception of the sacrament at the end of the month.

We will welcome His Excellency, Bishop John Jenik, to St. Mary's on Tuesday, April 28. He will administer the sacrament of Confirmation to 18 eighth-graders and two adults. The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. We congratulate all our confirmandi on this special event in their lives.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

#### Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Thanks to all the ladies who attended the meeting on March 10. We decided to postpone the Cancer Bingo until May 2016. Look out for a bigger and better bingo.

We are planning a yard sale/bake sale on May 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Post.

A reminder that our next meeting will be held on April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. Your input at these meetings is necessary, so try to be there.

Laura Booth

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The St. Mary's Thrift Shop collection debuted on Thursday, March 19, and our spring and summer items (new and used) will continue to be on sale during the month of April, including Easter clothing, decorations, shoes, bonnets and bric-a-brac. The shop will be open on April 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30. Come by to shop and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee with friends and neighbors. Remember that donations are always gratefully accepted.

Arlene Byrne

#### City Island Republicans

The Republican County meeting, which is open to the public, is held every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our next City Island meeting will be held in April.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

##### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

##### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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Cognitive/ Behavioral  
Psychotherapy  
**914-473-1447**  
office in New Rochelle  
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For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

Your Community Center needs your help and support! We need you to attend classes! We need you to volunteer! We need you to become members! Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We are here for you, and we cannot exist without you. To join the Center, to request our new brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityisland-communitycenter.org](http://www.cityisland-communitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

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

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**CI Rave/ DJ Mikey V and the Bomb Digz:** Friday, April 3, 7 to 10 p.m. for teens up to 17 years. Attend the Bomb Digz live performance and dance to the beats of Mikey V. Admission \$15.

**Family Bingo Night:** Friday at 7 p.m. Date to be announced. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games with outstanding prizes.

**CI Film Society:** Sunday at 1 p.m. Date to be announced. Classic and interesting flicks. For information, contact [cifilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cifilmsociety@gmail.com).

#### Weekly Schedule

##### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Art Classes for Children:** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo daVinci. For ages 7 to 12 with Lorraine Cantori. Call 914-552-5268 to register for the new series.

**Jill's Playgroup:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun with other children. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

**Irish Dance for Children:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Irish step dancing for all ages at all levels taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information or to enroll, call Kim at 718-885-3501.

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

##### ADULT PROGRAMS

**AA Orchard Beach Group:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. Open meeting. All are welcome. After the March meeting, the group will hold its meetings at the beach until the first Saturday in November.

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Belly Dance / Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin,** aka Gypsy Curves: Sundays, 4 p.m. Fee is \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcuita at 646-625-1575 for information.

**Chair Yoga with Michael:** Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Note new day. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

**Chess Club:** Every Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

**City Island CSA:** Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m. Join the Community Supported Agriculture Group now for delivery of the freshest most

delicious organic fruits and vegetables in the late spring. For information, contact [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Wednesday, 7 p.m. Have fun with other people who love to cook and Chef Michael Proietti. "Mother" Sauces: April 1 and 15. Mexican Foods: May 6 and 20. Special Salads: June 3 and 17. Coming up in June, a Community Dinner hosted by CI Culinary Club. For information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

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

**Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual** will take you to a place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Rev. RPP. CRE, Board Certified Polarity/CS, is a Shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Please bring a yoga mat to the sessions on the second and last Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. To register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or [www.TheeVitalForcefoundation.org](http://www.TheeVitalForcefoundation.org).

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

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. It is time to get healthy and to trim down. A new series begins mid-January. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 per session. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, contact Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com).

**Zumba with Julia:** Want to lose that belly fat? Well here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturdays at 10 a.m. \$10 per class. For questions, call 917-601-5514.

**Zumba with Letti:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Lettie at 917-292-4228 for more information.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. Dues (\$50) are now due.

The VA accepts only clothing donations for our veterans. No books, please. Clothing can be dropped off at the Post or taken to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed.

Thanks to Peter Zvara, Peter Booth, Jimmy Livingston and Gene Valesio, along with Marcello, for his good waiting services, and Mike Jawski, who set up early that morning. Thanks also go to Nick Lalli, who fixed the wall in the ladies' room, and Vic Anderson, who made sure that the drain is working properly on the northwest corner of the roof.

On April 18 at 7 p.m. there will be a fundraising dance sponsored by Dianne O'Sullivan. Tickets are \$15 per person, and the event is limited to 70 people. Entertainment will be by Jorge. All proceeds will go to the Post.

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

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

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

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

The NYC DOT held a meeting with Commander John Muhlfeld on Feb. 24 to make sure the Post is brought up to speed on the triangle. The monuments will be maintained by the city through a subcon-

tractor to be determined by Tutor Perini. The only concern is the placement of the "Welcome to City Island" sign in front of the monuments that pay tribute to the veterans of City Island; the Post and the City Island community would like to have this changed. The Post would like to thank the City Island community for its continued support!

**John Muhlfeld**

#### Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues (\$30) are now due. A check can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed into the SAL Box.

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

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

#### PSS City Island Senior Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m., catered by Scavello's (IGA). Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Back again in April: Calligraphy on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Acrylic Painting on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Easter Luncheon on Thursday, April 2, at 12 noon: Spiral ham, mashed sweet potatoes, sweet peas, pull-apart rolls.

Show and Tell Day on Thursday, April 2 at 1 p.m. Bring your prized possession and a little tale about it; you will have three minutes. Sign up at the center.

New York Botanical Garden Trip on Wednesday, April 15. \$15 includes admission, Orchid Show, conservatory and tram. Sign up at the Center.

Earth Day Nutrition Presentation on Wednesday, April 22, at 12:15 p.m.

"Myths of Medicaid" Presentation on Thursday, April 23, at 12:15 p.m.

**April Physical Exercise:** The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi DVD at 9:15; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi DVD at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. Yoga Stretch, Tai Chi DVD, and Arthritis Workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

**April Programs:** Mondays: German Club at 10:15; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on April 15 and 29 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Piracy Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on April 9 and Birthday Party at 12:30 on April 16; Fridays: Fun with Photography at 10:15 a.m. and Learn to Play Mah Jongg at 12:30.

#### Information, Referrals and Assistance

Regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we are more than happy to provide information, referrals and assistance in filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

#### Caregivers Support

If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another,

we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

#### Transportation Services

Off island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Limited availability is open for off island Doctors appts. You must call the office 1 week prior to appointment and be approved. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**



Photo by BARBARA HARRISON

The colorful beauty of these two amaryllis received as a Christmas gift have brightened the home and the mood of your humble writer. Enjoy!

#### Garden Club of City Island

It's spring! It's spring! And, as I write this column, there's more of that white stuff out there. This writer has only three things to say:

1. Our April meeting will include a presentation on beekeeping and honey making by a local bee keeper. If gardening, gardens and a beautiful City Island are among your interests, you're welcome to attend one of our meetings held at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month at the City Island Yacht Club.

2. Save the date for the Garden Club's annual luncheon, themed "Irises," to be held on Thursday, May 21, at noon at The City Island Yacht Club.

3. Most importantly, we will be distributing letters to Island residents and businesses for our annual Beautification Fund Drive for 2015. This is our annual drive to fund the work we do to keep the Island's parks and public spaces planted and maintained. We tend the lovely planter boxes and keep them seasonally beautiful for all to enjoy. When your letter arrives, please be as generous as you've been in the past, or more so. The Garden Club of City Island receives no state or city funds to support our various projects and programs, and we rely solely on Island residents and our local businesses. In addition to the planters, we are working this spring with the board of Pelham Cemetery to enhance the gate to the site.

So I close this update with wishes for warmer weather with no more snow, for beautiful and bountiful gardens and an Avenue that's clean and bursting with color in our planters.

**Barbara Harrison**

#### City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group hit the ground running after its successful run of John Patrick Shanley's "Outside Mullingar" on Sunday, March 15, by holding its

*Continued on page 10*



### Scandinavian Gems

The Scandinavians have produced some excellent films about incredibly interesting women. The Swedish movie **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (2009) is based on the first book in Stieg Larsson's "Millennium Trilogy". It stars Noomi Rapace as Lisbeth Salander, a computer hacker with wild hair and a body covered with piercings and tattoos. An abuse survivor, Salander is hired to do background research on journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist). Blomkvist, in turn, has been hired by octogenarian Henrik Vanger (Sven-Bertil Taube) to look into the fate of his favorite niece, Harriet, who disappeared decades earlier. Vanger suspects foul play by one of his sinister relatives, some of whom were active Nazis during World War II.

The second film in the series is **The Girl Who Played with Fire** (2009). The story follows Lisbeth Salander as she returns to Sweden after spending a year abroad. She falls under suspicion of having murdered a journalist and his girlfriend as well as her own social services guardian, Nils Bjurman (Peter Andersson). Mikael Blomkvist has to do what he can to find her before the authorities do. Lisbeth's ingenuity is rather awesome, but she has to survive some graphic, difficult-to-watch assaults.

In the third film, **The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest** (2009), Salander is recovering in a hospital and awaiting trial for three murders when she is released. Blomkvist must prove her innocence, but she has to be willing to share the details of her sordid experiences with the court. There is also the problem

of a government cover-up that concerns her abusive father, Zala (Georgi Staykov). The three films in the series were also produced on Swedish television in extended versions like our mini-series. These versions are excellent and flesh out more of the actual stories. They have been available by streaming via Netflix.

**Annika Bengtzon: Crime Reporter**, a series of six 90-minute films released in 2012, features a fictional character in a Scandinavian noir book and film series created by the Swedish journalist, publisher and crime writer Liza Marklund. With this series, Marklund introduced a female tabloid journalist as the protagonist, in a genre whose main characters had often been men. Set in Stockholm, the plots cover current events, political scandals and women's issues. Bengtzon works as a journalist for the fictional Swedish newspaper *Kvällspresen* (The Evening News). She is a career woman who must juggle a family as she faces tough colleagues on the job. Working as a crime reporter, Bengtzon stumbles into one dangerous situation after another. The series stars the gorgeous Malin Crepin in the title role.

In the first of the series, **Nobel's Last Will**, Annika Bengtzon is witness to the attempted murder of a Nobel laureate and a scientist at the Nobel Peace Prize banquet. A terrorist group from Germany takes credit for the murder. Because she was a witness, Annika is prohibited from reporting the story of a lifetime, but that doesn't prevent her from investigating the crime.

In **Prime Time**, on her way to a family gathering, Annika has to leave her two children in the care of her boyfriend so she can report on the murder of a famous TV host at the mansion where the program is recorded. Ten suspects are being held there by the police, including Annika's best friend.

**Studio 69** tells the story of a young woman whose corpse is found in a public park. Annika's research reveals that the victim worked as a stripper at the club *Studio Sex*. Evidence arises that the Minister of Finance was present at *Studio Sex* on the night of the murder, and a political scandal ensues.

Set in the dark winter of northern Sweden, **The Red Wolf** involves the murder of a journalist. Annika links the killing to a terrorist attack 40 years earlier, which started with the leftists of the 1960s and spans the years into the present-day liberal government.

In **Lifetime** Annika is divorced and lonely, so she diverts her pain by diving into her work. She investigates the case of a married pair of police officers, wherein the wife is accused of killing her husband and hiding their young son.

In the final film in the series, **A Place in the Sun**, Annika travels to Costa del Sol in Spain to cover a story about a Swedish family killed during a burglary. She discovers that the murders are in fact connected to a drug trade that reaches from Moroccan hashish farms to the streets of Sweden.

In 2013 a similar series, **Dicte**, was released in Danish. It stars starring Iben Hjejle as crime reporter Dicte Svendsen who has returned to her hometown following a divorce. The series is based on a series of novels about the title character by Danish author Elsebeth Egholm. While both series are very good, I found the Swedish version more riveting.

A superior Danish production is **Borgen**, a one-hour dramatic political television series that tells the story of charismatic politician Birgitte Nyborg (Sidse Babett Knudsen), who unexpectedly becomes the first female prime minister of Denmark. "Borgen" (the Castle) is the nickname of Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, which houses all three of Denmark's branches of government: the Parliament, the prime minister's office and the Supreme Court. The series also stars Pilou Asbaek as the troubled "spin doctor" Kasper Juul; Birgitte Hjort is Sorensen, the ambitious news anchor Katrine Fonsmark, and Soren Malling plays Torben Friis, editor-in-chief for TV1 News. Hailed as the Danish **West Wing**, the series consisted of 30 episodes over three seasons (2010, 2011 and 2013). "Borgen" offers a fascinating education about the workings of a government whose leader is not directly elected by the people but is a result of negotiations among the

different political parties.

Happy spring, and until next time, happy viewing. . .

## Organization News

*Continued from page 9*

first rehearsal for "Twelve Angry Men," on Monday, March 16. Reginald Rose's classic 1954 drama tells the story of a jury of 12 men as they deliberate the guilt or innocence of a defendant based on reasonable doubt. The range of personalities adds to the intense conflict that develops during the process. No names are used in the play, as the jurors are identified only by number. In 2007 the 1957 film based on the play was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress because of its "cultural, historical or aesthetic significance."

The CITG cast includes Wylie Cohen, Phil Dante, John Garcia, John Geideman, Jay Langkamp, Dave Lazaar, Tom Lloyd, Thomas Losito, Rich Masotti, Bill Morton, Ken Sapeta, Frank Siciliano and Keith Traucenick. The director is Elizabeth Paldino.

The City Island Theater Group was pleased to receive plaques of appreciation from John Tomsen for the group's support of City Island Little League. Watch for our team again this year!

Mary McIntyre



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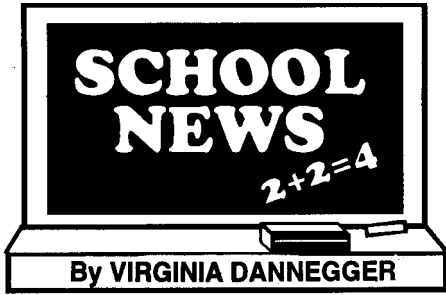
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**Public School 175**

There was a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March. Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, March 19. Students in the lower grades worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. Students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work had gone into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students also attended some exciting trips. The kindergarten and first grade went to the American Museum of Natural History to see the dinosaur exhibit and to Queensborough Community College to see the Paperbag Players; the fourth grade visited Fraunces Tavern Museum to learn more about how the local area was impacted by the American Revolution; the sixth grade visited the Hall of Science to learn more about levers, pulleys and weather and to do hands-on work in the science lab; and the seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historical sites. They also visited the Franklin Institute Science Museum, where they explored the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits.

Fifth-grade students recently finished their musical production of "Aladdin Jr." The two evening performances were a huge success, and we are sure that we have some students who are Broadway-bound. Our fabulous fifth-grade teachers, Shannon Montenare and Lizanne Espina, worked with Jessica McCuiston and Adam Rosenwach from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to put on a fabulous show. Jessica and Adam also worked with grade 3 through 8 in an after-school choral program that culminated in a wonderful performance for parents/guardians. We are grateful to Councilman James Vacca for the arts grant that helps to subsidize the work we do with the Bronx Arts Ensemble!!

## "Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow"

By JOHN SCARDINA

March brought the spring equinox, and hope springs eternal as the earth prepares to bloom once again. As we come out of yet another cold and challenging winter, how do we prepare ourselves and our children for the blessings of spring?

Learn: Our life experiences provide valuable lessons, but only if we approach them without defensiveness and shame. Reminding ourselves—and our children—of past mistakes are only useful if they

Kindergarten through third-grade students are beginning their Lincoln Center Theater study of "Sleeping Beauty," which will culminate with a fabulous performance of the show in our theater area. As always, we are grateful to our PTA for subsidizing the Lincoln Center Institute, so that it can continue to be a part of the P.S. 175 arts and aesthetics education program.

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

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2015, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten, will have the opportunity to do so at school in early May. Parents/guardians should call the school at the end of April for specific dates. The Department of Education website also has registration information; <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/kindergarten>.
- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Wednesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m.
- The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 23, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

**Citizens-of-the-Month**

March Citizens-of-the-Month are Lea Acocella and Lizbeth Vazquez (kindergarten); Jordan Carreras (first grade); Matthew DeSantis and Evan Frey (second grade); Eric Lin (third grade); Peter Luderman and Kenzi St. Clair (fourth grade); Mark Piri and Michael Gierum (fifth grade); Joshua Rosario and Ava Ferro (sixth grade); Nicholas Kola and Eleni Mantzaris (seventh grade); Emma Adinolfi and Bismah Hannah (eighth grade).

allows us to act better from now on. The most important question to ask yourself or your child after a disappointing event is this: "What will you do differently next time?" Growing old is mandatory, but growing wise is up to us. Be a life-long learner about yourself and share that process with your children. Socrates said "know thyself" and he was right!

Live: Today is all we have. Being present means paying attention to where you are now and what is all around you. Take a break during the day to be mindful of yourself and your surroundings. Breathe, sit quietly and let your mind go where it may. Do this with your children too—they begin life with a natural tendency to "be here now" but that is gradually lost in all the noise of rushing about, watching television and playing video games.

Hope: Hope is more than wishful thinking; it is an optimistic faith that everything works out as it should, despite apparent difficulties along the way. Children who are hopeful aspire to their dreams and believe that many things thought to be impossible are attainable through hard work. The alternative to hope is despair, not a welcoming or productive path to travel.

So as my hero Albert Einstein says, "Learn from yesterday, live for today and dream for tomorrow."

# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



## A GARDENER'S MEMOIR, PART 2

I have been reading the new book "Sissinghurst" by Sarah Raven and aside from its being a delightful read, it has transported me back to 2000 and my visit to this unique and wondrous garden.

After seeing Hidcote, I learned of Vita Sackville West's gardens through her books. Vita was a real plants person, and her descriptions of plants set one's heart on fire. Together with the innovative books by Christopher Lloyd, the past owner of Great Dixter, it was an education in horticulture. To see these two great gardens on the same weekend was a dream come true.

Dixter was first, on a day overcast with a constant drizzle. I had no umbrella but being so elated I didn't mind the damp one bit. The ticket booth was empty save for a small sign posting the fee, and this I left on my honor. It was early May, and the meadow was bejeweled with tiny daffodils, purple orchids, checkered lilies and muscari grape. The house, which is pitched on a tilt and saturated with the color of old brick, was designed by the architectural genius Edwin Lutyens, who restored and added to its 15th-century buildings and also set the framework for the gardens.

The topiary shaped like peacocks look as if they are in conversation with one another, and around them white daisies and gladiola Byzantium tumble out onto the path. All was quiet except for a few photogs in the long border with umbrellas. I've painted this scene over and over, emblazoned as it is on my memory. In my peripheral vision, I saw Christo dart into the house; I followed and was treated to some sort of mulled wine in the great hall. Treading up the crazily crooked steps, I happened upon his study containing plenty of books, on gardening of course, many of them his. A tattered old armchair, a fire in the grate, the dachshunds curled up in their beds, all very cozy and plush. Then Fergus, the head gardener, invited us all back in August "when the exotic garden really gets going!" He said that the garden was now between seasons, which could have fooled me.

After buying some choice plants at Christo's nursery (the towering Goliath poppies), we had a nice meal at the pub, and then I washed all the soil off of the roots for legal transport. The next day dawned, and we were off to see Vita Sackville West's adored home and garden.

Once at Sissinghurst we had much better weather, sun, rain, sun, rain. The approach was dotted with sheep in a Gainsborough landscape. Vita Sackville West's garden is the most lavish I have ever seen, and to see it at rose season!! Harold Nicolson, her husband, did the layout of hedges and the hardscaping, adding to the aged brick walls of the ruined castle. Vita filled it in with such a luxuriousness of plantings that you have to rub your eyes to believe that it is all very real.

I wept when I entered the courtyard and saw the combination of architecture and plants. Moss roses and clematis, roses

**Hidcote**

threading through trees and clambering up walls. Blue ceonothus alongside crimson and apricot roses bending their arms in arcs way above and over the buildings. She had written in one of her articles for The Observer that she had the idea for a silver, gray and white garden, but she was unsure how it would succeed. Now it is one of the most famous gardens in the world. It is simple in design with rectangular beds outlined with boxwood. For the centerpiece she used a huge rosa mulliganii, supported by an iron canopy that Harold designed at his desk one evening using paper clips. This rose was blooming and perfuming the air, mingling with tall grey onopordum thistles, grey santolina and white madonna lilies. Gorgeous!

Vita grew up at Knole Castle, and since in those days property did not go to the next of kin if you were female, the inheritance went to her uncle and it devastated her. So when she and her husband saw the remains of Sissinghurst, they were quick to buy it, and Vita's romantic vision was satisfied. She filled it with poetry and her daring and beautiful combinations of plants.

Later, after her death, the estate was given to the National Trust, and it is kept so well that you believe you might see her still puttering out there with twine and secateurs just around a corner. Or you may imagine her in her study in the castle's tower writing her books and poetry. If you find yourself in England, go to Kent, and don't miss seeing these two stunning gardens. To the end of my days I will be continually inspired by them.

Recommended books: Christopher Lloyd's "The Well Tempered Gardener" and Vita Sackville West's "The Garden" and her book of poetry, "In Your Garden."

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

## Bartow-Pell Events

Continued from page 7

**Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day** on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Con Edison and New York Cares join forces to help us make the grounds beautiful. You should, too! Long sleeves, pants, and sturdy footwear strongly recommended. Light refreshments. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via e-mail at [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org). Free.

**Local Author Spotlight.** On Thursday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. William B. Helmreich, author of "The New York Nobody Knows: Walking 6,000 Miles in the City" and sociologist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, invites readers on a romp through largely unexplored neighborhoods that is as entertaining as it is enlightening," according to Sam Roberts of the New York Times. Book signing and reception after the talk. Tickets may be purchased in advance at [bpmm.org](http://bpmm.org) or at the door. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free. Registration requested.

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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.



### Janet M. Hickey

Janet Hickey, 60, a beloved clam digger and longtime resident of City Island, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2015.

The first residence on City Island of Janet's parents, Jim and Joyce Hickey, was on Fordham Street, where the sign of young Janet swimming at the beach until her lips were blue was a familiar one for friends and family. When Janet was 11, the family moved to Ditmars Street, where Janet and her husband, John, continued to live.

Janet attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and St. Helena's High School in the Bronx. As a young girl, Janet would rise before dawn to attend Mass at St. Mary's Church and then take the city bus to Pelham Bit Horse Riding Academy to fulfill one of her passions—caring for horses. It was during her time at Pelham Bit that Janet gained her knowledge of horses and became a superior equestrian. After she graduated from high school, Janet's equestrian prowess, devotion to horses, free spirit and love of travel propelled her into the professional equestrian circuit as a trainer, and she traveled with the circuit across the United States and Canada.

Janet's love of City Island, however, always tugged at her heart. She longed for the warmth and caring of the community and desperately missed her friends and family. So she returned to her roots and then embarked on a successful career in the restaurant business. She devoted many years as manager of the Lobster Box, which is where she met her loving husband, John Kuchta. For the past 20 years, Janet was general manager at Artie's Steak and Seafood. Her commitment to City Island was also demonstrated by her active membership in the City Island Civic Association. Her honesty, humor, sparkling eyes, bright smile, skill and the genuine way she connected with people drew patrons back to be in her company night after night.

Janet is survived by her husband, John Kuchta, her siblings and their spouses, Jimmy and Denise Doyle, Jay and Laura Hickey, and Jackie and Tom Budd; and her niece, Jocelyn Budd.

A memorial service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Friday, March 20, 2015, and she was laid to rest next to her parents in Pelham Cemetery.

Janet's wish was that donations be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in honor of her niece, at [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org),

or to the National Cervical Cancer Coalition at <http://www.nccc-online.org/index.php/donate>.



### Joyce Cronk Brafford

Joyce Carolyn (Cronk) Brafford of Oak Island, NC, passed away on March 15, 2015, in Wilmington, NC, at the age of 61.

Born to Ruth and lifelong Island resident George T. Cronk, Joyce grew up on City Island. After graduating from Berkley Business School, she became an office manager in the real estate profession.

Joyce was known for her singing voice. She was an active member of the Seagull Theater on City Island and on one occasion put on a one-woman show there. Having risen through all of the levels of Girl Scouts, she became a leader of Cadette Troop 1-63.

After the death in 2007 of her first husband, Joseph D'Arrigo, she married Chet Brafford, an engineer at Duke Energy.

Joyce's mother is an enthusiastic collector of Barbie dolls, and Joyce often traveled with her to Barbie conventions that were held in different states. She made many friends over the years, many of whom posted memories of her on Facebook.

At the urging of both Joyce and Chet, Ruth moved from Pell Place to her present home in Carolina Shores, NC. Joyce was predeceased in death by her father and her brother Wayne. She is survived by her husband, her mother and her brother Scott Cronk, his wife, Johanne, and their children. A memorial celebration of Joyce's life was held in Southport, NC, on March 20; in lieu of donations, her family asked that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Joyce's love of children.



### Richard Wall

Richard "Dick" Wall, a longtime resident of City Island, died in Newcastle, ME, on Feb. 13, 2015, at the age of 89.

Dick was predeceased by his wife of many years, Yolanda Wall, and his son, Joseph Gorgoglione. He is survived by his son Stephen Wall and daughter Lillian Kerbawy, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



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

### Annual Phone Scam and Phishing Report

IRS-impersonating phone scams and phishing continue to be a serious threat to taxpayers, topping the list of the IRS "Dirty Dozen" tax schemes once again. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration recently warned that the IRS-impersonating phone scam has claimed nearly 3,000 victims, who have collectively paid over \$14 million. Phishing email scams continue to be pervasive as well. Illegal scams like these can lead to significant penalties and possible criminal prosecution. IRS Criminal Investigation works closely with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to shut down scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

Both of these scams are on the list of the annual IRS list of "Dirty Dozen" tax schemes. Compiled annually, the "Dirty Dozen" lists a variety of common scams that taxpayers may encounter anytime, but many of these schemes peak during filing season as people prepare their returns or find people to help with their taxes.

Phone scams, which have hit taxpayers in every state in the country, have been a persistent and pervasive problem for many taxpayers for many months. Here's how it works: Callers claiming to be from the IRS tell intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. Anyone who refuses to pay is threatened with immediate arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver's license.

Scammers are able to alter caller ID numbers to make it look as if the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS badge numbers. They often leave "urgent" callback requests. They prey on the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly, newly arrived immigrants and those whose first language is not English. Scammers have also been known to impersonate agents from IRS Criminal Investigation as well.

Inspector General J. Russell George says "it is critical that all taxpayers continue to be wary of unsolicited telephone calls from individuals claiming to be IRS employees. This scam, which is international in nature, has proven to be the largest scam of its kind that we have ever seen. The callers are aggressive, they are relentless, and they are ruthless. Once they have your attention, they will say anything to con you out of your hard-earned cash."

Taxpayers should keep the following in mind:

- The IRS usually first contacts people by mail—not by phone—about unpaid taxes.
- The IRS will not ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer.
- The IRS also will not ask for a credit card number over the phone.
- The IRS will never threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Phishing is a scam that is typically carried out with the help of unsolicited email or a fake website posing as a legitimate site to lure in potential victims and prompting them to provide valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, a criminal can commit identity theft or financial theft.

It is important to keep in mind that the IRS generally does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen says: "The IRS won't send you an email about a bill or refund out of the blue. Don't click on one claiming to be from the IRS that takes you by surprise. I urge taxpayers

to be wary of clicking on strange emails and websites. They may be scams to steal your personal information."

### How to Protect Yourself

Don't be fooled. These con artists can sound convincing when they call and they may know a lot about you. According to Commissioner Koskinen, "These criminals try to scare and shock you into providing personal financial information on the spot while you are off guard. Don't be taken in and don't engage these people over the phone."

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.

- If you know that you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or at [www.TIGTA.gov](http://www.TIGTA.gov).

- If you have been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), report it by sending it to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

If you think you have been a victim of an IRS impersonation phone scam or phishing, don't hesitate to call.

### The Legend of Lady Godiva— A Tax Tale

According to legend, in the year 1057, the people of Coventry were suffering in their attempt to endure extremely heavy taxes imposed upon them by their lord, Leofric the Dane, in order to finance various battles. Leofric's sympathetic wife, a lovely Saxon known as Lady Godiva, decided to convince her husband, the noble Leofric, to reduce the overwhelming tax burden he had placed on his subjects. Leofric declared that Lady Godiva was "shameless" to plead for "whining serfs." She responded by saying that he "would be surprised to discover how honorable the serfs really were."

A deal was struck: Lady Godiva would ride unclothed through the streets of the city, clad in naught but her long tresses, and if the population remained inside shuttered buildings and did not peek at her, their tax burden would be lifted. On the following morning, Godiva made her famous ride and the citizens of Coventry, in order to spare their fair benefactor any feelings of shame, did not peek and graciously stayed inside. To wit, Leofric kept his word and promptly reduced the grateful people's taxes. And, to this very day, throughout Europe, Lady Godiva is celebrated in countless works of art—tapestries, paintings, sculptures and literature.

Now that's what I call tax planning!

Be a Godiva and do some planning of your own. Proper tax and financial planning should not be a once-a-year thing. Make April 15 a little less taxing with a resolution to start advance planning on a regular basis. Ongoing tax and financial planning sessions or consultations, with a view toward and in connection with, your annual tax preparation, could be one of the smartest investments you make this year.



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

APRIL 2015									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Wed	0456	0.39	1100	7.60	1717	0.38	2319	7.74	Wed 01
02 Thu	0536	0.24	1140	7.60	1752	0.38	2355	7.77	Thu 02
03 Fri	0611	0.16	1215	7.54	1820	0.41			Fri 03
04 Sat	0021	7.74	0638	0.11	1239	7.43	1831	0.42	Sat 04
05 Sun	0027	7.76	0653	0.07	1245	7.39	1844	0.35	Sun 05
06 Mon	0044	7.89	0711	0.00	1308	7.43	1914	0.29	Mon 06
07 Tue	0115	8.03	0744	-0.03	1342	7.46	1952	0.31	Tue 07
08 Wed	0153	8.11	0823	0.01	1423	7.44	2034	0.40	Wed 08
09 Thu	0236	8.10	0907	0.14	1509	7.37	2121	0.56	Thu 09
10 Fri	0324	7.99	0956	0.32	1600	7.27	2213	0.74	Fri 10
11 Sat	0418	7.81	1051	0.49	1657	7.18	2312	0.88	Sat 11
12 Sun	0517	7.61	1155	0.60	1800	7.18			Sun 12
13 Mon	0020	0.89	0624	7.47	1312	0.55	1912	7.34	Mon 13
14 Tue	0147	0.67	0739	7.49	1443	0.26	2029	7.67	Tue 14
15 Wed	0319	0.15	0900	7.67	1550	-0.16	2138	8.09	Wed 15
16 Thu	0424	-0.46	1009	7.93	1646	-0.55	2235	8.48	Thu 16
17 Fri	0520	-0.98	1107	8.14	1738	-0.83	2326	8.74	Fri 17
18 Sat	0612	-1.33	1200	8.22	1827	-0.94			Sat 18
19 Sun	0015	8.84	0703	-1.45	1250	8.18	1915	-0.86	Sun 19
20 Mon	0103	8.77	0754	-1.34	1341	8.00	2003	-0.61	Mon 20
21 Tue	0152	8.54	0845	-1.03	1433	7.75	2052	-0.22	Tue 21
22 Wed	0243	8.19	0937	-0.58	1529	7.45	2146	0.25	Wed 22
23 Thu	0341	7.78	1033	-0.08	1630	7.19	2245	0.70	Thu 23
24 Fri	0448	7.40	1131	0.39	1733	7.03	2349	1.05	Fri 24
25 Sat	0557	7.14	1230	0.74	1835	7.01			Sat 25
26 Sun	0053	1.24	0701	7.03	1327	0.95	1933	7.11	Sun 26
27 Mon	0152	1.25	0800	7.05	1421	1.02	2027	7.28	Mon 27
28 Tue	0247	1.12	0853	7.14	1511	0.99	2117	7.47	Tue 28
29 Wed	0337	0.91	0942	7.24	1556	0.92	2202	7.63	Wed 29
30 Thu	0422	0.68	1027	7.32	1636	0.84	2243	7.74	Thu 30
MAY 2015									
01 Fri	0502	0.47	1107	7.35	1710	0.77	2317	7.79	Fri 01
02 Sat	0538	0.30	1142	7.34	1734	0.70	2337	7.83	Sat 02
03 Sun	0608	0.16	1205	7.32	1748	0.59	2346	7.96	Sun 03
04 Mon	0628	0.03	1217	7.36	1814	0.47			Mon 04
05 Tue	0013	8.13	0652	-0.08	1244	7.46	1850	0.39	Tue 05



**Bald Eagles**

We thought we were the lucky ones when a peregrine falcon decided to take a saltwater bath in a hole in the ice at the end of Fordham Street. Typically, he opts for the puddles in the Orchard Beach parking lot, but our weather must have made fresh water hard to come by. And then there was a kestrel atop the chainlink fence, scoping out the noisy sparrows in the neighbor's privet.

Who better than us, or so we thought, until we heard about the bald eagles! On City Island!

The first report came from Rochelle Street, and then we heard from Robbin (not the bird, the person). She sent the picture at right, which she took in her own backyard. For people who care about this sort of thing, we can't imagine it getting any better than looking up into your own tree in your own backyard and seeing a bald eagle. Robbin must have been on something of a lucky streak last month, as she was also treated to a coyote crossing the road in front of her while she drove to work. Here is a link to an article from the New York Times about coyotes in the Bronx: [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/08/nyregion/that-howling-just-new-yorks-neighborhood-coyotes.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/08/nyregion/that-howling-just-new-yorks-neighborhood-coyotes.html?_r=0).

The last bald eagle report came from the Hickeys on Horton Street. Over a five-day period, the Hickeys came to know seven bald eagles as they hunted, fed and rode the pack ice between City Island and Hart Island. Through his telescope, Dan was able to capture video of an adult feeding on a duck that had been trapped in the ice. The link to this fascinating YouTube video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24fyHqSk-mA>.

Regular readers of this column may recall our advice last year for the John James Audubon exhibit at the New York Historical Society: run, don't walk. That was what we said after seeing Part II. Well, Part III, the final installment of "Audubon's Aviary: The Complete Flock" is now open and will remain so until May 10. It is the kind of show that anyone can appreciate, even if birds and birding are not your thing. The elephant-folio sized drawings are impressive enough, but it is the enormity of Audubon's vision, the adversity he faced throughout the enterprise, his



Photo by ROBBIN HARRISON

iron will to finish what he started that are inspiring for all.

So this year treat yourself and run, don't walk, to 170 Central Park West before it's too late. You won't be disappointed.

**Five Tips for Coyote Coexistence**

A coyote hasn't been seen on City Island in quite a while, but now that spring has arrived, many Islanders will be going for walks in Pelham Bay Park and park officials have distributed some advice about how to interact (or rather, how not to interact) with this wild member of the canine family.

Do not feed coyotes. Keeping them wild is the key to coexistence.

Remove attractants. Store all food and garbage in animal-proof containers. (This helps keep raccoons, skunks, and strays away as well.)

Supervise pets. Walk your dogs on a leash and keep cats inside.

Keep coyotes wary. If you are approached, act big and make loud noises.

Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Share this information with your neighbors.

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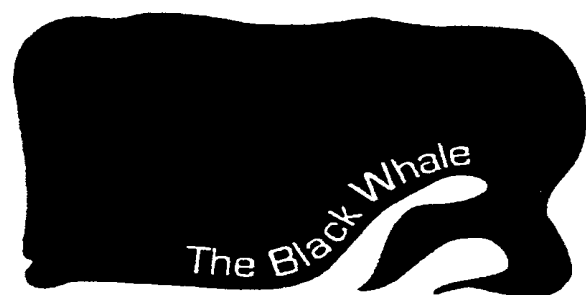


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**CITY ISLAND NOTARY PUBLIC:** Certified in New York State. By appointment only, including weekends. Call Johanna at 914-299-1414.

**ART PRINTS FROM ISLAND ARTIST.** Purchase prints of the artwork of Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner (including paintings of our soon to be gone bridge) at <http://fineartamerica.com/art/all/marguerite+chadwick-juner/all>. Artwork can be printed on canvas, paper, aluminum etc. You can even chose frames and mats. Return often to see new additions.

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

**PASSPORT PHOTOS** taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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**JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED:** Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

**AVON REPRESENTATIVE:** Avon is not just cosmetics. Jewelry, clothes, vitamins, videos, complete line of children's gifts, toys and more. Ask for catalogue. Call Emily 718-885-2430.

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**BOAT SUPPLIES:** Burck's 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559. Customer parking. Credit cards accepted.



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group's production of "12 Angry Men" gets under way. The cast includes (l. to r.): Phil Dante, John Geideman, Keith Traucenick, Bill Morton, John Garcia, Tom Lloyd (standing); Rich Masotti and Frank Siciliano. Other cast members not in the picture are Thomas Losito, Jay Langkamp, Dave Lazaar, Wylie Cohen and Kenn Sapeta.

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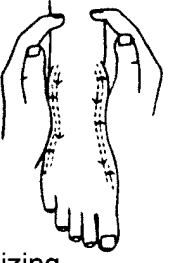
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Cathi Swett

City Island, New York and Red Bank, NJ, attorney Cathi Swett has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Children's Rights Institute in Northridge, CA. Cathi, daughter of the late Margie McNulty, will continue serving as a member of their Academic Council.

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

Best wishes for a very happy 25th birthday to Frank Ramftl, who will celebrate his big day on April 4. With love from Mom, Dad, Fred, Grandma and Gianna.

Welcome to Giona Toro, who was born on Nov. 13, 2014, to Jeannine and Toro Mazzeo. He is lovingly manhandled by big brother Luca and big sister Magnolia. Nonni Jane and Papa Joseph are over the moon!

A big happy birthday on April 22 to Minneford Avenue's Elizabeth Farnum. Also, best wishes for a great 24th wedding anniversary on April 20 to Elizabeth and her husband, Ken, with much love from Mom and Deb.

Happy birthday wishes on April 8 to our dad, Bill Etzel, from his sons, Rudy and Oscar Etzel! Also, happy birthday greetings to Grandpa Pete and Grandma Josephine, who also celebrate in April. We love you all!

Many thanks to Ron Turner, who gave a dynamic presentation on "40 Years of Photographing City Island" at the Manor Club in Pelham last month. The audience loved Ron's photos and the stories that went along with them.



Joseph and Eleanor Goonan

Happy 15th anniversary on April 3 to Whytey and the hardworking staff of Papa John's Deli. Keep up the good work!

Happy birthday to Philip Ribaud, with all our love, Mom and Dad. You've reached a milestone, son!

Best wishes for continued happiness to Joseph and Eleanor Goonan, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. With love from James and Susan, Ann-Marie, Joseph, Paul and Sarah.

Congratulations to Stephen Lott Jr. and his brother, Tommy Lott, who were recently initiated into the electrician's union, IBEW Local 3, following in the footsteps of their proud dad, Stephen Lott Sr.

Happy birthday wishes to David Butterworth on April 30 and his aunt, Mari Doyle, on April 14, with love from the Doyle and Butterworth families.

Birthday greetings to Anne McIntyre on April 22 and to Maria Swieciki on April 25.

His cake is officially a fire hazard! Happy 60 candles to Horton Street's Eric Rauhauser on April 2. Also, happy birthday to former Earley Street resident Carol Gauss McKenna on April 14. Last but not least, happy April 30 birthday to Leah Nani. Love, Karen, Paul, Roger, Mark and Lyla.

And a not-so-fond farewell to Old Man Winter!

Maria Swieciki



Giona Toro Mazzeo



Photo courtesy of the LOTT FAMILY  
Proud dad Stephen Lott Sr. with sons Stephen Jr. and Tommy at their initiation into the electrician's union.

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