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One Dollar

BRIDGE PROJECT DRAWS TO A CLOSE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MATT PANZA

It's taken more than five years, but the City Island Bridge project is almost completed, including the fortified new sea wall and the reopening of Catherine Scott Promenade (top photo). In December 2018, the "Welcome to City Island" sign, installed by the Garden Club of City Island several years ago, was placed back in the park, along with one of the four bridge finials from the old bridge (above photo). The restoration of the parkland that was used by Tutor Perini as a staging area has been returned to a more natural appearance, and many new plantings have been made along the shoreline. Special fencing was added to keep geese from feeding on the new vegetation (top right photo).

Very soon, at long last, the replacement of the City Island Bridge will be considered complete. There are still chores to be done (painting the chainlink fence green, adding new plants to the park just over the bridge, clearing up staging areas), but for the most part the Tutor Perini workers are gone and the community will once again be able to sit in Catherine Scott Promenade.

This replacement project has a long history. Twenty years ago, an engineering firm employed by the New York Department of Transportation (DOT) Bridges Division reported that the City Island Bridge, which had opened in July 1901, was in poor condition and should be replaced with a four-span structure. The project was estimated to cost over \$21,000,000 and to start in March 2003, with the completion in September 2006.

Since that time, the replacement project went through a number of changes, not only in design, but also in cost, timing and community involvement. In 2013, the city awarded the contract for a cable-stayed bridge, over community objections, to the firm of Tutor Perini, whose bid was \$105 million, several million less than the DOT estimate of \$150 million. One year after the contract was awarded, however, the city's new DOT commissioner, Polly Trottenberg, appointed by Mayor de Blasio, announced that the community's wish for a simpler design would be granted. Thanks to a great deal of negotiating on the part of DOT, the

design was simplified and construction was able to begin in 2014.

After the completion of the temporary bridge, the old bridge was closed to traffic after a ceremony held by DOT on Dec. 18, 2015, when residents bid farewell to the structure that had symbolized City Island for over a century. It took nearly two more years before the new bridge was completed, and it was ushered in with another ceremonial presentation by DOT and Tutor Perini on Oct. 29, 2017.

A great deal more work still had to be done. The American Legion Triangle, in spite of concerns raised about its large size, took place in time for Memorial Day in 2018. The completion of the Catherine Scott Promenade took a great deal longer, because the seawall supporting the park had to be replaced and new plantings and seating installed. In December the "Welcome to City Island" sign, installed by the Garden Club of City Island several years ago, was placed back in the park, along with one of the four bridge finials from the old bridge. According to Tommy Breen, who with his brother, James, documented the entire project beginning in 2013, "The finial is representative of the last 100 years of City Island and its history. When the island shifted from a shipbuilding hub to a restaurant destination, that bridge was the only constant." This will not be a final installation, however, since DOT and the Parks Department are working together to find a suitable location



for a permanent installation.

The restoration of the parkland that was used by Tutor Perini as a staging area has been returned to a more natural appearance, and many new plantings have been made along the shoreline. The area was regraded, new topsoil was added, and a small swale constructed. New plantings included trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses such as sweetgum, red maple, groundsel bush, arrowwood, switchgrass and seaside goldenrod. In the spring, saltmarsh grass will be carefully planted, and specific fencing will be added to keep geese from feeding on the new grass.

The water main that was originally on the temporary bridge and now resides on the new bridge will soon leave as the Department of Environmental Conservation, working with the Department of Design and Construction, embark on their water main project on the Island. Details about the impact this project will have on the community and the dates for the project are still not available.

Those interested in the history of this project are invited to visit the Breens' Facebook page The New City Island Bridge, which covers the entire process, including the demolition of the old bridge and the opening of the new. Ron Turner of Focal

Point Gallery has also recorded many aspects of the project's history in photography, and images of both bridges by local artists are in the collection of the City Island Nautical Museum.

Perhaps the most important legacy left to the community by the old bridge is the fact that 47 concrete-filled steel caissons that once supported the bridge will be used to expand the Hempstead reef, part of New York State's network of artificial reefs. In December the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that "these concrete and steel bridge materials will enhance the local marine habitat and fishery populations, benefitting both anglers and divers frequenting New York's artificial reefs." For more information about the artificial reef program, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov>.

Artificial reef construction is part of Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, an effort to improve recreational activities for in-state and out-of-state sportsmen and sportswomen and to boost tourism opportunities throughout the state. The Hempstead reef is located in the Atlantic Ocean south of Nassau County on Long Island, for those Islanders who want to venture out to visit the old bridge and catch a few fish while they are at it.

CIVIC ELECTION DRAWS RECORD TURNOUT

By KAREN NANI

In a record turnout for a City Island Civic Association election, 368 members showed up to the meeting on Nov. 27, 2018, to vote for the association's president and recording secretary for two-year terms.

Incumbent Civic Association president, Bill Stanton, won the overwhelming support of the membership with 72 percent of the votes cast for president compared to 28 percent for challenger Dan Treiber. Recording Secretary Janie Blanks was also re-elected with 70 percent of the vote versus 30 percent for candidate Beverly Jones. Barbara Dolensek retained her position as second vice president, as she had no opposition in the election.

Mr. Stanton responded to the vote of confidence by saying: "We had a City Island wave. The members have spoken, and it's now time to get back to the job of preserving and improving the quality of life for our community."

The challengers, Mr. Treiber and Ms. Jones, believed that Islanders were ready for a change after a tumultuous year for the Civic Association. In July 2018, for in-

stance, an overflow crowd packed the meeting in anticipation of a vote on term limits for officers. But in spite of an e-mail sent to members announcing a vote on amendments to the bylaws, no such action was taken, to the frustration of many attendees, who voted in favor of referring the amendments to a bylaws committee.

Mr. Treiber had served on the Civic's 16-member executive committee (which includes the six officers) for two years. After a year in which he felt the meetings were becoming more and more volatile, he decided to run for president against Mr. Stanton. He told *The Current*, "I ran knowing it was an uphill climb, but Civic members kept asking for others to step up and run! I want to thank the close to 100 people who voted for me and those who listened to my ideas for the community."

Ms. Jones, who has lived on City Island for five years with her husband and six-year old son, believes it is important to be active in the neighborhood. She is an attorney who has expertise in non-profit law and had

Continued on page 7

BRIEFLY...

NYS SENATOR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI will attend a town hall meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. She will answer questions relating to the New York Health Act, education funding, voting reforms, campaign finance reforms and City Island local issues. If you have questions you would like to submit in advance, send them to cityislandtrg@gmail.com.

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP'S new production is Aaron Sorkin's "A Few Good Men," which will be presented on Friday, Feb. 22; Saturday, Feb. 23; Friday, March 1; and Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 24 and March 3, at 3 p.m. There will be a talkback with the cast on Sunday, Feb. 24, following the show. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. For tickets please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting our website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2018 and January 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list. 1

- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – DWI

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Dec. 1, 2018, to Jan. 19, 2019:

12/1 – At 11:50 p.m. on City Island Avenue, the window of a commercial establishment was shattered by an unknown person in an act of criminal mischief.

12/5 – On Tier Street at 2:20 p.m., an Island resident reported that an unknown vehicle ran through a residential gate and then fled the scene of the accident.

12/6 – A female resident reported an act of criminal mischief on Bowne Street at 12:05 a.m. An unknown person threw a rock at the window of her car causing damage to the vehicle.

12/24 – At 8:40 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, a female Islander told police that she had parked her vehicle on the street and returned to find both license plates stolen in an act of petit larceny.

12/26 – An incident of grand larceny occurred on City Island Avenue at 7 p.m. A male Islander told police that while at a commercial establishment, an envelope containing cash was removed from his jacket, which he had left unattended.

12/29/18 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 46, and

charged him with assault on Bay Street at 10:42 a.m. A verbal dispute between the defendant and an Island female, 50, had allegedly turned to physical violence.

1/1/19 – An off-Island male, 26, was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated on City Island Avenue at 7:10 p.m.

1/7 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of petit larceny at 11 a.m. on Fordham Street. A male Islander reported that a video monitor was removed from a boiler room of the building without permission. Police are reviewing other video footage from the scene.

1/9 – An Island female, 29, reported an act of grand larceny at 12 p.m. The resident had visited a casino in Connecticut where she met a woman claiming to be a psychic who could "cleanse her." The woman contacted the victim the next day and requested a large sum of money. The victim withdrew the money from her bank account and gave it to the woman, and it was not returned.

1/13 – At 10 a.m. on Carroll Street, an Island female, 56, reported that unknown person(s) had been harassing her by leaving dead animals and broken glass on her front porch.

1/13 – On City Island Avenue, a white Kia reportedly sideswiped the vehicle of an off-Island female at 4 p.m. and then fled the scene of the accident.

1/18 – An off-Island female told police that she was harassed by an Uber driver in the parking lot of a commercial establishment at 11:30 p.m. The victim, 29, said that the driver became irate and verbally abusive after she brought drinks into the car.

CORRECTION

In the December 2018 issue of *The Current*, the storm photo on the top of page 3 was taken by Terri Dunphy, not Candy Mancuso.

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2018 CI Recap: Election Surprises and More

By KAREN NANI



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK, TERRI DUNPHY, MARK NANI and RON TERNER

The year 2018 featured plenty of surprises on and around City Island, including election upsets by newcomers Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Alessandra Biaggi (top photo), Viacomunity Day in April (second photo), controversy over the 50-year-old Black Whale sign (third photo), and late snowstorms and ferocious nor'easters (top right photos), capped off by an eerie blue sky on Dec. 27 caused by a transformer fire at a Con Edison facility in Queens (bottom right photo).

Last year Islanders turned out for elections and other special events in record numbers, with surprises aplenty.

The year began with the swearing in of former Islander Cathy Schaller Mazzaro, who was elected Receiver of Taxes for the town of Pelham in a very close contest that came down to a manual count of votes two weeks after Election Day.

In the September 2018 primary election for districts including City Island, longtime U.S. Congressman Joseph Crowley and State Senator Jeff Klein were defeated by newcomers Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Alessandra Biaggi. The challengers received a majority of Island resident votes in both the September primary and the mid-term election in November. Heavy turnout on Nov. 6 helped the PTA of P.S. 175 set a midterm record for funds raised at their Election Day Bake Sale.

After several contentious City Island Civic Association meetings during 2018, Islanders turned out in droves to vote for President and Recording Secretary. It was the first contested Civic election in 15 years, and both Bill Stanton and Janie

Blanks were re-elected by large majorities.

In April, dozens of employees of the media giant Viacom came to City Island to help spruce up the avenue, with help from many residents. Organized by Maria Caruso and a dedicated team, the volunteers cleaned the avenue, planted areas at the Nautical Museum, 267 City Island Avenue and P.S. 175, and mounted large photographs celebrating the Island's nautical history in empty storefront windows.

Residents also heavily supported other community events, including charitable causes like the Masons' blood and clothing drives, the Easter and Christmas fairs at Island churches, the American Legion pumpkin sale, the Girl Scout bake sales and the annual Troop 211 Boy Scout plant sale. The Spring and Fall Arts and Crafts Fairs sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce were also well attended, especially the annual Chowder Contest in September, in spite of the rain. A softball tournament in August doubled as a fundraiser for the City Island Little League, while also paying tribute to deceased Islanders Robert Vivolo and Dan Barry.



Many fans cheered on the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball teams, especially the Boys Varsity basketball team who were once again Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Holiday Tournament champions.

Islanders also turned out in large numbers for the City Island Theater Group's three well-received 2018 productions: "Rabbit Hole," "Suite Surrender" and "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." In 2019, the CITG will celebrate its 20th season of quality performances, so become a member and reserve your seats early.

On the business side of 2018, Islanders protested the removal in September of the much-loved sign above the Black Whale restaurant in response to a complaint about its illegality that had been called in to the Department of Buildings. The sign, which dates back to the 1960s, was put back in place the same day with the help of Council Member Mark Gjonaj. Residents showed enthusiastic support for three new businesses that opened up in September in the block of shops south of Hawkins Street on City Island Avenue: an antique and frame shop at 278 City Island Avenue at the corner of Hawkins Street, Clipper Coffee at 274 and John Foley's antique store at 270. Islanders also hailed the return of a pharmacy to City Island and welcomed Commins and French, the new garden shop next to P.S. 175.

Islander weddings in 2018 were well attended by happy family members and friends, including the marriages of Mary Dannegger and Warren Sheinwald, Amanda Della Cerra and Sean Lewis, and Chase Branch Manager Jazmine Santana and Robert Castillo.

Two clam diggers celebrated 90th birthdays with large gatherings of family and friends. Earley Street resident Rita McKenna Lynch's 90th was celebrated at a gala luncheon at the City Island Yacht Club on March 10. Jean Anderson's nine decades

were toasted at Artie's Restaurant in September.

Achievements by residents and family members were also celebrated: Center Street resident Mike Rauh completed his 40th consecutive New York City Marathon in November; King Avenue's Brendan Delaney was promoted to Captain in the FDNY; Islander Jason Barron and his crew won the Manhasset Bay Fall Series aboard his sailboat *Raven*; Bobby Swiecki achieved Operations Officer aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Blacktip* in Oxnard, CA; Bay Street resident Peter Lakatos took the United States citizenship oath to become an American citizen in July; former Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner was honored by the Bronx Rotary at its Centennial Celebration in April; King Avenue's Sarah Goonan landed a role in the "Nutcracker" ballet at Lincoln Center; and Islander Scarlett Sparks had a lead role in the Bronx House production of "Madagascar."

On a sad note, Islanders mourned the loss of several prominent clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in 2018, including Carol Stewart, John Barron, Helen Hinck, Edward Esposito, Bill McGee, Susan Kraemer, Wesley Rodstrom Sr., Morton Ellis, Douglas Hearle, Vladimir Kvetan and Ruth Cronk.

Finally, the 2018 weather report included an icy winter with late season snowstorms followed by record high temperatures in the summer and some surprise storms that caused flooding and traffic delays. It was capped off by an eerie blue sky on Dec. 27 caused by a transformer fire at the Con Edison facility in Queens.

The Island Current was there to cover the elections, milestones and people. While many newspapers around the country are struggling, the steadfast support of our advertisers and many readers will keep *The Current* afloat into 2019, our 48th year!

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Editorial

In 2019, try one of these resolutions every month for the overall health of our Island home:

February. Visit a City Island business you have never patronized before, whether it be a restaurant, market, shop or other business. Support our local merchants.

March. Get in shape by taking a fitness class at the Community Center, the Senior Center at Grace Church, the Dragon Path Academy of Mixed Martial Arts or Club Fit. Or do what many Islanders do: walk from one end of the Island to the other, even venturing as far as Orchard Beach in good weather.

April. Regardless of your religious affiliation, visit an Island house of worship and support the congregations working hard to keep these historic buildings and traditions going.

May. Attend a Civic Association meeting (the last Tuesday of every month except December) and get involved in local issues.

June. Help the Garden Club with its year-round cleanup efforts and support beautification efforts by cleaning up litter. Visit the Facebook page for more information about meetings and programs.

July. Submit a complaint to 311 or the appropriate city agency when you see a problem on your block such as a dead tree, a fallen wire, or a sick animal (remember it can be anonymous).

August. Recycle, not just metals and paper but also food scraps and lawn waste.

September. Reach out to neighbors in need, especially the elderly.

October. Drive safely, slowly and respect the fire lane.

November. Do your bit for the arts by visiting local galleries and the City Island Nautical Museum and attending the CI Theater Group productions; check *The Current* for times and places.

December. Last, but not least, read *The Island Current* regularly, either by signing up for a subscription or by picking up the monthly issue at one of the shops on City Island Avenue.



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

Farewell City Island

To the Editor,

As many of you know, I am no longer at the Chase Branch on City Island. Unfortunately, I was told that I was being transferred from that branch to another location on Gun Hill Road. Instead of taking the transfer after 39 years in banking, I decided the best course of action was for me to retire.

I regret not having the opportunity to say goodbye to most of you. I would like to send my sincerest thanks to the community for standing behind me during this time. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. It was a pleasure to have been able to assist you with all of your financial needs while also building meaningful friendships.

Have a happy and healthy New Year.
Submitted with love,
Sharon Wilson

First Annual Turkey Trot Thanks

To the Editor,

Thank you to all who participated in the 2018 First Annual Turkey Trot and the 2019 New Year's Day Resolution 5k. We had more than 130 people register for both events and raised a total of over \$1,300 for the City Island Community Center and the Boy Scouts Troop 211. Thanks to all the scouts and their leaders for helping out with the race, and special thanks to Peter Gennari at the Clipper Café for graciously donating his coffee shop as home base (and more than 100 cups of free coffee!). We could not have done this without your support, Peter!

Also thank you to the Black Whale, Kaleidoscope, Mary Colby, the Commins and French garden boutique and GP's Honey Tomes for your generous support and the wonderful raffle prizes. And lastly, thanks to my partners, Jackie Ciarletta and Lauren Nye. We never expected such an outpouring of support and we feel truly blessed and grateful to live in such a supportive, fun and healthy community! Fyi, all donations go directly to each non-profit that we select for each race, and we encourage any organization that wants to be involved to reach out to us!

We are super excited to announce the next 5k will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. We start the race at the Clipper Café (registration and free coffee from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for all participants), and the race start time will be at 11 a.m. We walk/run the Island and end at the Snug, for you



Photo by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

The first Island New Year's Day Resolution 5K race was held on Jan. 1, 2019, to support City Island Boy Scout Troop 211. Organized by Rose Rodstrom, Jackie Ciarletta and Lauren Nye, with help from parents and scout leaders, the start and finish line was at Clipper Coffee on City Island Avenue.

guessed it, your first beer/soda in honor of St. Paddy's Day.

This event will be raising money for the City Island Theater Group, which celebrates its 20-year anniversary this year. Please help us support the CITG and have some fun with your neighbors at the event. Sign up at the Clipper Café before March 1 if possible, so that we can gauge the turnout. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume, so be creative and get your green on.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to us by texting 646-483-0627.

Rose Rodstrom

Hail and Farewell

To the Editor,

As U.S. Representative Joseph Crowley leaves office, I just want to extend my

thanks to him and his team members, Mr. Messina and Ms. Madrid from his Bronx office, for helping me with a constituent issue that arose at the end of 2018. I was really glad that his local office was still open and able to provide guidance even though it was already clear that the Congressman would be leaving office at the beginning of January. I am sure he and his team are headed for great things.

I am also looking forward to being represented by U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. As an everyday citizen, I found in her win at the polls and all that followed a reaffirmation of the idea that America is a place of opportunity and that great things are possible here if a person pursues his or her goals with vision and integrity.

Patrick Rocchio

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City Island Theater Group Celebrates 20 Years, Part 1

By MARY MCINTYRE

Two decades of community theater is no small achievement. Survival over 20 years is the result of hard work, creativity, talent, loyal audiences and community support. The City Island Theater Group (CITG) has been fortunate enough to have it all.

After attending an off-off Broadway play late in 1998, founders Joe and Miriam Nixon asked, "Why can't we do that on City Island?" Flyers and phone calls resulted in meetings and the eventual birth of CITG on Dec. 12, 1998.

"Play On" by Rick Abbot was their first production, in April of 1999, following which the group jumped right into the community with participation in Fleet Weekend. As clowns, they marched in the parade and presented "The Clown and the Ghost of City Island" before an audience of children and their parents at the Little League field. The first board of directors included Rena Hansen, president; Miriam Nixon, vice president; Joseph Kolinsky, treasurer and Vilma Kolinsky, secretary. Ever since that time, CITG's full stage productions have taken place in Grace Hall, although Trinity Methodist Church hosted their children's "Kiddy Kabaret" series.

Carol McCabe has been with CITG from its inception. She came to the group with experience as a costumer, dresser, props person, assistant stage manager and box office agent in theaters in Miami. Rob McEvily caught the theater bug at Spellman High School in the mid-1980s. After doing nothing theatrical for



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE
Carol McCabe and Rob McEvily

the next 14 years, he landed a "juicy" role in a Westchester community theater production and his "appetite for theater exploded." Rob came on board with CITG in its second production, "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue, in the fall of 1999.

The following is an interview with Carol and Rob, the longest still-active members of the CITG family.

Question: How did you get involved in CITG?

CM: In the fall of 1998, I saw an ad placed by Miriam and Joe Nixon in the Bronx Times Review stating that a new theater group would be formed on City Island, and I attended the first meeting at Grace Hall.

RM: I was looking to move to City Island at the time and while I walked around the Island, I noticed a sign near the church that



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

A few of the good men and one woman in the forthcoming production of the City Island Theater Group (l. to r.): Scott Harwood, Dakota Martin, John Squires, Tom Wepler, Armand Paganelli and Joseph Montano.

read "Auditions for 'The Foreigner' here." I just walked in and auditioned. It was crazy! I didn't know the play at all. I guess I just looked the part.

Question: Carol, what is your biggest challenge as a costumer?

CM: For me, the biggest challenge is to create the perfect costume that will convincingly portray a character. And, on rare occasions, finding men's underwear appropriate enough to appear on stage!

Question: What were your favorite productions and why?

CM: "Sweeney Todd" comes to mind first because it was profoundly rewarding to be the sole costumer facing the challenge of 22 actors' ensembles, some of which required very creative sewing techniques.

RM: I have a special place in my heart for "The Philadelphia Story." I love romantic comedies, love the time period, loved the cast, crew and director Amanda Livingston Martin, and got to flirt onstage with Liz Paldino!

Question: What is the strongest or funniest moment you will always remember?

RM: "Suite Surrender" was a total laugh riot. Susan Rauh's facial expressions when she was knocked out in the closet were so, so funny. Priceless. The whole cast was hilari-

ous. Thomas Losito deserved a Tony. Such a funny show!

CM: "Lend Me a Tenor" is my favorite funny play, when the cast did a complete recap of the show in three minutes. I also loved "Plaza Suite" when the character got stuck between the balcony and window with his face smushed against the glass. The strongest moments for me, however, were in "The Diary of Anne Frank" and the portrayal of people facing death, along with "A View From The Bridge," which depicted an adult's unusual relationship with a child.

Question: In your opinion, how has CITG been able to survive for 20 years?

RM: First and foremost, the people. They care so much, they're so loyal and so good at what they do. Also, the diversity of the shows, from "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Steel Magnolias" to "Proof" and "Evita."

CM: CITG's success over the 20 years is due to the diversity of the talented people involved and a dedicated Board of Directors.

Question: What's the best thing about CITG?

CM: The best thing about CITG is how we strive for excellence in each production.

RM: Its love of great theater and its love for the community.



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Shore Road Hazards to be Addressed

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

For many years, drivers who use Shore Road regularly to travel between Bartow Circle in Pelham Bay Park and the Pelham border have complained about dangerous road conditions. On Wednesday, Jan. 16, an off-duty New York City police officer was killed when his car hit a Parks Department sanitation truck head on near the entrance to the Split Rock Golf Course, presumably because of icy road conditions. When the city was hit by a sudden snowstorm last November, travel on Shore Road was stopped for more than an hour because of ice on the roadway, which had not been sanded or plowed.

Complaints about Shore Road have been made for years, but when James and Tommy Breen shared videos with elected officials and local media, New York City began to pay closer attention to the problems caused along this roadway, which has been used for centuries, beginning with the Native Americans who lived in the area of Pelham Bay Park. The issue is complicated by the fact that jurisdiction for the roadway is shared by three NYC

departments: the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, representatives of these three departments reported to Community Board 10's Parks Committee that the improvement of Shore Road is being reviewed by a design firm that will present its preliminary findings before the end of 2019. This preliminary design will enable the three departments to proceed, along with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), with obtaining capital funding to remedy the flooding issues that have plagued Shore Road for many years.

A representative of the design firm, NV5, explained that already they have identified three principal trouble spots where water floods the road and the bicycle path, causing icy conditions in winter and numerous traffic accidents. Leaning utility poles and the overgrowth of invasive plant species are a sign that

Continued on page 13

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

By FREDERICK W. RAMFTL

Public Advocate Leticia James resigned to become New York State Attorney General, so Mayor di Blasio has called a special election per New York City law for Tuesday, Feb. 26, to select a replacement. All registered voters will be able to vote in this election, and City Islanders will vote at P.S. 175, where the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. In the meantime, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson is concurrently serving as Public Advocate.

Several candidates have filed petitions for ballot access, but the list has not been finalized at press time. It is possible that there will be well over 20 candidates on the ballot.

The ballot will be different from those in a normal election, because this is a non-par-

tisan election. Every candidate will be listed on the ballot and regular party labels are not used. Instead candidates are given the option to choose their own label and logo for the ballot. The candidate with the most votes wins and will serve until the end of the year. The winner will have to run again this fall in order to complete the rest of the term, which ends in December 2021.

For an absentee ballot, voters can go to the Board of Elections website at vote.nyc.ny.us or call the Bronx Board of Elections at 718-299-9017. One can also access the website for additional information about the election, including a sample ballot once it becomes available.



Photo by MATT PANZA

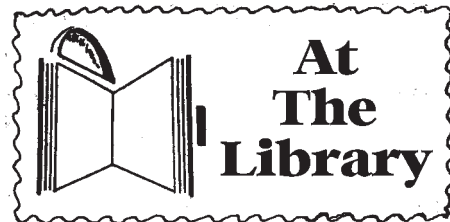
Michelle French and Jill Commins have opened an attractive new garden shop on City Island Avenue.



Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) will open a new Artist Choice Exhibition on Feb. 1 with a reception from 7 to 10 p.m. The exhibition will be on view until Feb. 24.

Jill Commins and Michelle French recently opened a garden shop, Commins & French, at 152 City Island Avenue, offering lovely plants, gifts and cut flowers. Indoor plants, including orchids, are available now, but annuals for the garden will be coming in the spring. The shop is open all week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. except Tuesday and Wednesday, and

delivery is free. Jill is also available as a plant sitter for people going away on vacation and as a consultant on house plant horticulture, or what she calls plant parentage. The telephone number is 631-283-4810.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY 718-885-1703
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FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

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

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Books and Bites: Join our book club! It's simple: read the selected book together, then talk about it while enjoying some yummy snacks! Ages 10 through 14. The selected book is "Scar Island" by David Gemeinhart. Thursdays, Feb. 7 and 14, at 4:30 p.m.

The Art of Beatboxing: Many consider beatboxing to be the very first music instrument man ever created. The use and manipulation of your lips, teeth, throat and tongue to create music has evolved into a true art form utilizing one of Hip Hop's greatest mantras: making something from nothing. Beatboxing also serves as a powerful tool for making speech therapy exercises fun and engaging. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for a chance to get a head start on your homework before unwinding online! Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

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

and come hang out with us! Feb. 1: Why Do You Love the Library?; Feb. 8: Wii and Board Games; Feb. 15: Wii and Board Games; Feb. 22: Design a Book Cover

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

City Island Calligraphy: Calligraphy is an ancient form of communication and artistic expression that has since taken on a wide variety of styles and functions. Here at the City Island Library, patron and volunteer Regina Sanglier will teach you the basics and hopefully get you creating your very own works of art. Session One: Feb. 2 and 16; March 2 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. These four classes make up one session. Registration is required. Limit: 10 participants. A waiting list is available for future sessions.

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Limited to 12 participants; registration required. Thursdays, Feb. 7 and 21 at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Mondays, Feb. 11 and 25, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet and Resumé Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m. Feb. 2: "Lean on Me"; Feb. 9: "The Princess and the Frog"; Feb. 16: "Loving"; Feb. 23: "Thunder Soul"

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

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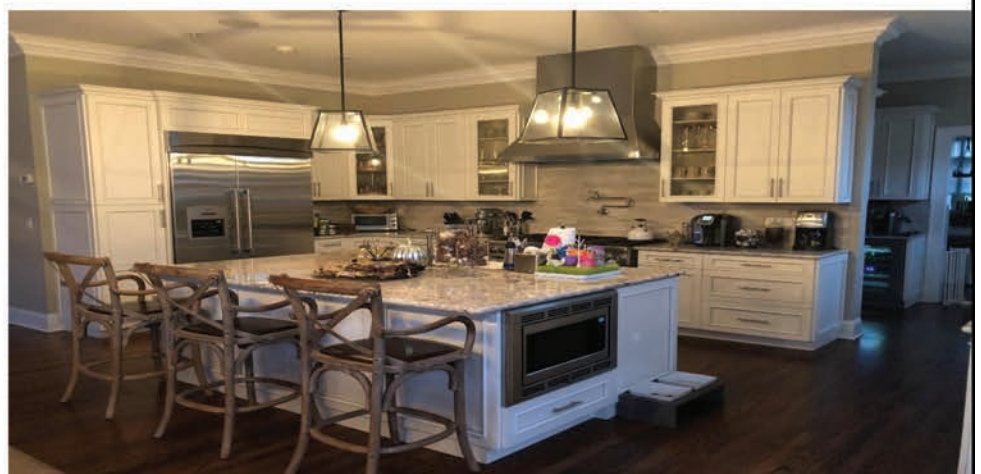
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CITY ISLAND AGLOW



Photos by EMILY BENDLER, GINGER DANNEGER, RICK DeWITT, MATT PANZA, and RON TERNER

The new holiday lights on City Island Avenue (photo, right), sponsored by Island businesses, cast a special glow in 2018 over the many joyous festivities. On Dec. 2, Temple president Paul Klein helped light the menorah in Hawkins Park and then entertained a Hanukkah gathering afterwards at Kaleidoscope Gallery (top photo). Island shoppers hit the many holiday fairs, including the Morris Yacht Club on Dec. 2, and then enjoyed festive feasts, including the PSS Senior Center holiday lunch on Dec. 7 at Grace Church (first and second photos at right). Trinity United Methodist Church had its Children's Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16, featuring Londyn Jackson, Henry and Juno Chong; Marc and Lilliana Browning; Olivia, Violet and Ben Chadwick; Laci, Robert and Vincent Howard; and Gabriel Ellis, and led by their wonderful teachers, Pat Laporte, Wendy Lepp and David Ellis (third photo, right). Organist Ken Farnum and his carolers sang to a full house at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church during Lessons and Carols on Dec. 23 (fourth photo, right). Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School presented its pageant on Christmas Eve featuring Melvin, Sophia and Emilio Aponte; Stephen, Tyler, Haley and Isabelle Bandler; Eileen Marcus; and Roger and Leah Nani (fifth photo, right).



Civic Election

Continued from page 1

been attending Civic meetings regularly; she is currently serving on the bylaws committee. She took seriously the call for more people to step up and become involved in the organization and was motivated to run when meetings started to "devolve into non-productive areas."

Both Mr. Treiber and Ms. Jones felt the election was an unfair process in that they had no access to the Civic's membership list in order to reach out to voters and explain their views. But they both told *The Current* that they will continue to contribute and work to improve City Island.

Board member Tom Smith, who worked hard to make sure the November election was conducted efficiently, said "the membership sent a clear signal that ousting the current leadership through proposed term limits is not what they believe is in the best interest of our community."

Although a majority of members voted for the incumbents, not all Islanders agree about term limits. One longtime resident told *The Current*, "Bill Stanton gave a very polished and compelling presentation prior to the election to explain his candidacy, which was not surprising given he is used to being on TV. However, I still think term limits are a good idea for the organization."

When asked about the status of the committee reviewing the Civic bylaws, Mr. Smith said: "It isn't a term limits committee but a bylaws committee that will review all issues raised with regard to the bylaws. The issues raised over the last few months, including those since the election, have revealed more weaknesses in our bylaws than were previously under consideration, so rewriting them is going to take more time and effort but will certainly move forward."

After the election, another longtime officer, John Doyle, resigned from his position as corresponding secretary over sharp differences with the Civic leadership. "I was pleased to serve on the board for eight years. I don't need a title to make a difference, and I will continue to help the community and individual Islanders." He is proud of his accomplishments during his tenure, including advocating for expanded Bx29 bus service, the restoration of Belden Point and forcing owners to clean up abandoned and foreclosed homes on the Island.

Mr. Treiber told *The Current* he felt penalized by having run for the office of president: "Unfortunately, after the election, the remaining Civic officers voted me off the executive board on which I had sat for two years. I find this disconcerting."

Despite these controversies, most Islanders acknowledge the efforts of the volunteer officers and support the many fights the Civic Association has led for the betterment of City Island. The 2019 board consists of the following officers: Bill Stanton, president; Fred Ramftl, first vice president; Barbara Dolensek, second vice president; Tom Smith, treasurer; Janie Blanks, recording secretary; Maggie Higgins, acting corresponding secretary.

Civic Association meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month except December in the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Residents who wish to learn more about these issues and want their voices to be heard should attend as many meetings as possible during 2019.



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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and MIKE RAUH

Longtime Island businesses, organizations and individuals were honored at the gala City Island Chamber of Commerce dinner on Dec. 8, 2018. Those given special recognition by Skip Giacco, Paul Klein, Councilmember Mark Gjonaj and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto for their contributions to the community included (top photo): Congressman Joseph Crowley, Islander Richie DePierro, William White of Con Edison, the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion, the three City Island Yacht Clubs (CIYC, the Morris and the Harlem, bottom photo), and longtime businesses Artie's Steak and Seafood, Cottam Heating and Air Conditioning, Art of Beauty, and Jack's Bait and Tackle.

Mary Colby: Artist, Teacher, Gardener

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

It is unusual to take a walk down a city street and be able to step inside and watch an artist at work. One can do this on City Island Avenue at Mary Colby's Studio Gallery, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Although Mary is not an Island resident, her presence on the Island has led the way for many artists here and her paintings brighten many Island homes.

Mary was born in 1954 and grew up in the Bronx. She went to school at Lehman College and the Art Students League, where she studied with David Leffel, Robert Beverly Hale, Robert Phillips, and Richard Pousette-Dart. Her first teacher, however, was her mother, Anita Bastone, from whom she learned the mechanics of painting at a very early age. As Mary puts it: "There was always a painting on an easel in the kitchen, sometimes a Goya, a Murillo or a Rembrandt beside her own creations." Mary's father, Anthony Bastone, was a naval lieutenant and civil engineer, a collector of historic mail and a good photographer who had studied with Ken Heyman. He taught Mary many things, most importantly a love of knowledge and nature.

In 1970 Mary rode her bicycle to City Island and became enamored with Creative Mudd Pottery owned by Warren Sonberg. He kindly gave her a job for two summers throwing small pots and mixing glazes in his shop. Thus began her love of City Island. In 1993 she wandered into Bob Carmody's real estate office and asked if there were any shops available. Coincidentally, she had had a dream a few weeks earlier of a beautiful space that had the same proportions and light as the space Bob showed her at 276 City Island Avenue, so she rented it immediately. It is the one of the few shops in New York where one can visit a working artist's studio, a rarity harking back to the guilds in Italy during the Renaissance.

In 1989, Mary had started a decorative painting business, Fe Fi Faux NY, and worked for architects and designers in the tristate area. After moving the business to City Island in 1993 and joining the Island's artists' group CIAO (City Island Artists Organization), she met former Island resident Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. For 15 years they formed a partnership that produced beautiful painted designs and finishes in residential and commercial spaces, including the Federal Court House, Macy's and Bloomingdales. They closed Fe Fi Faux in 2014, when Marguerite decided to move to North Carolina. That same year, both artists were featured in the Bronx Artist Documentary Project, which was designed to increase awareness of the visual artists who work in



the Bronx and who enrich the cultural fabric of the borough with their art.

Mary then devoted the gallery space to her painting and to her classes in oil painting. She describes her students as "a bevy of new painters who live on the Island. I am surprised at how much hidden talent there is here. Many students are beginners and their fast development and understanding of the medium gives me no end of enjoyment."

Mary's own painting shifts in style between landscape and figurative abstraction. She also produces portraits in pastel on commission. "Painting is magic. It's the spirit of adventure, of discovery, of plumbing the unknown; exposing your demons, as in fear, through making images; wading into the jumping off point and making the first mark. In the leap there is freedom. I begin with a weak image and sometimes none at all. I give my subconscious free range. After so many years of technical practice, I'm confident that what's inside me will express itself and it will be filled with emotion. And without emotion the work would be dull and void."

Another passion of Mary's is gardening. Some years ago, she traveled to England and France with her husband, Mitch Colby, who works with the British firm Marshall Amps, which designs and manufactures music amplifiers and other products. On that trip Mary visited many great and famous gardens, including Great Dixter, Sissinghurst and Monet's garden in Giverny and was inspired to dig deeper into the subject. Learning from experience and reading some of the best of garden writing have brought her to a new business venture, called The Artist Gardener (www.artistgardener.com), in which she creates gardens for clients who want to explore creating waves of seasonal interest in the garden. Winter landscape design is another of her specialties. For the past five years she has written the garden column for *The Island Current*.

If you see the lights on in Mary's shop, go on in and take a look around. You can also make an appointment by calling 917-804-4509 or e-mailing marycolby7@gmail.com.



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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

FEBRUARY

Mon., Feb. 4, P.S. 175 **Kindergarten Registration**, registration for the 2019-2020 school year continues online. See the Department of Education website for more information or call the school at 718-885-1093.

Sat., Feb. 9 and 16, **City Island Little League Registration**, A-Game Sports, 856 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801, 9 to 11 a.m. Online registration is available at <http://www.cityislandLL.com>.

Thurs., Feb. 21, **NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi** will attend a town hall meeting in the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 23, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Baked ziti.

Tues., Feb. 26, **Neighborhood Policing and Safety Meeting**, 6 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

MARCH

Tues., March 5, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

City Island Theater Group

We are pleased to open our 20th season with Aaron Sorokin's court martial drama "A Few Good Men." Lt. Daniel Kaffee is a military lawyer defending two U.S. Marines who have been charged with killing a fellow Marine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba in the middle 1980s. Although Kaffee is known for seeking the easiest way out, a fellow lawyer, Lt. Cdr. JoAnne Galloway, convinces him that the accused marines were most likely carrying out an order from a commanding officer. Kaffee takes a risk by calling Col. Nathan R. Jessep to the stand in an effort to uncover the conspiracy. The cast members include Benjamin Beruh, Phil Dante, Dennis DeLeo, Scott Harwood, Gary Krigsman, Dakota Martin, Robert McEvily, Jack McGuirk, Joseph Montano, Kenneth Murphy, Armand Paganelli, Nicholas Rueger, Michael Sorge, John Squires, Greg Weiss and Tom Weppler, and the play is directed by Elizabeth Paldino. There will be a talkback with the actors following the performance on Sunday, Feb. 24. For further information about dates and times, please see *BRIEFLY* (page 2).

Mary McIntyre

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club began the new year with a special presentation at our January meeting by beekeeper Nancy Kheck of the City Island Gold Apiary. Nancy not only produces honey here on City Island, but she is also working with off-island beekeepers on beekeeping education, public outreach and research projects. She reminded us that diverse plantings of bee-friendly trees and shrubs, with their pollen and nectar, are necessary. Even planting pots of herbs, lavender or pot marigolds is helpful; bees will visit 60,000 to 90,000 flowers to collect enough pollen for one thimbleful of honey!

At the Garden Club meeting on Feb. 4, Nick Storrs returns for the second half of his presentation on vegetable gardening. Nick is an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and manager of the Randall Island Urban Farm. He possesses an amazing amount of knowledge about vegetable gardening, which he will share with us this month, when we're all beginning to plan our spring gardens. Everyone is welcome to join us for this informative session.

Our next meeting, March 4, will concentrate on planning the Garden Club's upcoming events, field trips, special projects and seasonal selections for the avenue's planter boxes.

The Garden Club of City Island meets monthly, except August. Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. Meetings conclude with home-baked goods and refreshments served by our hospitality committee. You are invited to join us.

Sharynne Wilder

City Island Republicans

We are gearing up for the upcoming Special Election on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Thanks to all of those who helped circulate petitions for Eric Ulrich. If enough people come out and support him, he can actually win.

Our next meeting will take place when the weather gets better.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The Auxiliary worked on three Quilts of Valor this year. We recently awarded one to Joseph Bartels, World War II veteran and Legionnaire. This quilt was pieced together by our own dedicated Auxiliary sewing group and was delivered to Florida, where Mr. Bartels currently resides. We thank you for your service.

Our Quilts of Valor chair, Harlan Sexton, recently applied to the Quilts of Valor organization so that our unit could become a formal QOV Foundation group. We will let you know in the coming weeks the official name of our group. We are all very excited about this new venture.

Members of the ALA 156 Unit and the chairwoman, Susan O'Keefe Vaughan, delivered holiday cheer and gifts to the residents at the Bronx VA Hospital on Dec. 9. The Brownies and Daisies also crafted holiday cards for the veterans, which we included with the gifts. We handed out more than 200 gifts. A special shout-out to Cheryl Riordan, leader of the Brownies, Daisies and Girl Scouts, for participating in the holiday gift shop. The veterans enjoyed the cards, which put smiles on their faces. These visits are always rewarding for ourselves as well as for the veterans.

Members of the ALA 156 Unit also participated in our annual Pick A Veteran event. All veterans of the Post received a gift or a baked good and a visit from our ladies to show our support and gratitude for their service.

The Auxiliary will host a Valentines Dinner Social on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m., which will include DJ Mazz, dinner by Chef Bobby Salerno, tap beer, wine, soda, coffee and dessert, a 50/50 and a door prize for all the ladies. \$35 per person. All are welcome to attend this fun event.

Please mark your calendars that our Spring Bingo at the Post, chaired by Regina Murphy and Doreen Gallagher Wall, will be on April 12. Details to follow.

Joanne Valletta

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Feb. 3, at 12 noon. Dues (\$55) are past due; please drop your dues off at the Post and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them



Photo courtesy of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

This amazing Quilt of Valor was transferred to the Bartels family by Auxiliary member Linda Ulmer. The quilt was awarded to Joseph L. Bartels Sr., a veteran of World War II, at a private family ceremony in December 2018. His family emailed us: "On Christmas Eve with Big Joe, his children and grandchildren he opened the card and quilt. This quilt is quite remarkable and will forever hold a special place in all our hearts."

in the former mailbox by the flag pole.

Thanks to Judy McCormick and Diane Lott for the wonderful snacks they bring in on Fridays.

The following are dates and upcoming events: Feb. 3, at 12 noon: American Legion meeting at the Post; Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m.: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 meeting at the Post; Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.: Sons of the Legion meeting at the Post; Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.: Valentine's Dinner Dance Auxiliary Unit 156 at the Post; Feb. 23: Pig's Knuckle Party, 6 to 10 p.m., hosted by Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 156 (\$30 per person; please sign up and pay in advance).

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. This year, we are breaking custom and having two regular meetings in February, on the 6th and the 20th. These will be regular meetings. In the event of bad weather, members will be notified if we need to cancel a meeting. New members are always welcome.

Carroll Reid

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

The annual Pig's Knuckle Party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. The price will be \$30. There will also be raffles and German beer. Sign up at the Post in advance.

Dues (\$30) are now past due. Send your dues to the Post as soon as you can.

Just a reminder that all members receive a discount on all hall rentals for your next party.

Peter Booth

Temple Beth-El

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

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

Feb. 1: Congregation-led
Feb. 8: Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David
Feb. 15: Congregation-led
Feb. 22: Rabbi David; oneg sponsored by Ellen Weinstein

March 1: Congregation-led
March 8: Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David

Other activities:

Feb. 20, 12 noon to 1 p.m.: Rabbi Shohama's second of three online Healing Programs during lunch hour.

March 5: Rabbi David's first of three classes on Passover, followed by three classes on Shavuot.

SAVE THE DATE: April 6: Temple Beth-El's 85th Anniversary Dinner/Dance at Pelham/Split Rock, honoring Arnold Wile for his continuing financial support as a member of our Miracle Minyan, and Skip & Louise Giacco for their ongoing commitment to our City Island community. Details will be on our website: www.yourshulbythesea.org.

TBE invites the City Island Community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served afterwards. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

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

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

*Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.). To sponsor one or to find more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Paul Klein

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Sales! Sales! Sales! Special 2019 bag sales. Ask about our specials during the months of January and February. Come and find something for your Valentine. We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arlene Byrne

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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.

We are once again offering Narcan training, this month on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. We are grateful to Doreen Gallagher Wall RN and Chris Hennessy MD for putting this important program together. See description below.

We are still hoping to hear from some of you with membership renewals. It is never too late. Remember, membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the Center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

EVENT

Narcan Training: Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. Doreen and Chris provide Narcan and train those who attend on its simple application including when, why and how to use it on individuals who have overdosed. For more information, see City Island Resolute Against Opioid Addiction on Facebook.

NEW

AA Meeting: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome

City Island Knitting Club: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy knitting with others. Beginners and all levels welcome. For information or to register, contact Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or cdcaton@gmail.com.

Feldenkrais Class: Mondays at 6 p.m. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information to improve the way your body feels and functions. No class Feb. 18. For information, please contact Julie Kavee 347-266-6247 or [juliekavee@gmail.com](mailto:julikavee@gmail.com).

Introductory Meditation Talk: Wednesdays, Feb. 6 and 27, at 7 p.m. If you've ever considered meditation or practiced in the past, join Sherry Steel for this free informative class. For more information, call or text Sherry at 718-864-2963.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

NEW DAY. Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Fridays, beginning Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. Teens and adults both may join Lalitha Cosme at this new time, to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For day and time or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for more information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Thurs-

days, 5 to 7 p.m. Did you know that NYC's Conversational Spanish program for kids offers classes right here on City Island? Children in grades K through 8 of all skill levels are welcome. Visit espanollexperience.com or call 917-889-4938 for information.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: 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.

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 Community Supported Agriculture: Register for late spring 2019 weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. To join or for information, contact the new coordinator Jessica Sinclair at 914-625-7440 or jessicasinclair78@gmail.com.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, Feb. 4 and 18, 7 p.m. The theme for February is Asian cooking. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information and December and January meeting dates, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or "Like" City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of the Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions, which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to CICC. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or to make an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a new leader, Alex Sokoloff. New members are always welcome. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

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

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

Zumba with Lettie: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. (new time). Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

In honor of St. Blaise, we will have the blessing of the throats after each Mass on Sunday, Feb. 3. All are welcome to attend our monthly coffee hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Rose Dietz

PSS Senior Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m.: Emergency Preparedness presentation by the OEM

Feb. 11, 1 p.m.: Birthday Party and Music Concert with Al Hanfield

Feb. 13: Follow-up to Shingles Shot (You must have previously received one at the Center)

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day lunch with dessert

Feb. 18: Closed

Feb. 25, 12:45 p.m.: Health Check by Providence Rest (temperature, blood pressure, pulse, oxygen-level checks)

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10:15 a.m. Card Games and Canasta

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 to 2 p.m.: Crafter's Corner

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints

11 to 12 noon. Blood Pressure Screening, first and third Wednesday of the month

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy

1 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesday of the month: Haircuts by Brenda for \$10. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m.: Singing group with Napat; theme: Through the Years

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life: Vigorous cardio and toning

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1:15: A Matter of Balance class starts Jan. 4.

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's, and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information and for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

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.

A new Bible study has begun. Immediately following the worship service, for one hour, Lay Leader George Cavalieri will lead a study of Ephesians for the next five weeks.

Morning prayer is held in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. Come in to pray, read the Bible or have Pastor Dave pray with you or for you. A few minutes of quiet devotion can change your day.

The Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser is Feb. 3. It is led by the Sunday School and this

year is combined with Scout Sunday and a light luncheon. Welcome gifts are non-perishable items with an expiration date no sooner than Aug. 1, 2019, and monetary donations. Checks should be made out to Trinity UMC with "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo and can be sent any time through Feb. 10. All proceeds go to City Harvest.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for Trinity's newsletter and/or receive Pastor Dave's e-mailed "Thought of the Day" or for prayer requests, please send an e-mail to Pastor Dave at david.jolly@nyac-umc.com.

The Budget Shop is open and bursting at the seams! Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering time and in the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule during the month of February: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, takes place every Sunday after service during coffee hour.

Sunday School: It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 13 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

On Tuesday, March 5, Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Grace will hold its famous pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. The Ash Wednesday service will be held the following day at 7:30 p.m.

Music Ministry: The Grace Church choir will participate in Evensong at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday, March 2. Rehearsals will be on Sunday Feb. 10 and 17 at Grace Church. If you are interested in joining the choir for this beautiful event, please contact Caroline Coppola at geccimusic@gmail.com. Meanwhile, the Grace Tones are beginning their fourth year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

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.

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

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

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The 21st Century Looks at Love

Valentine's Day brings with it thoughts of romance. It's wonderful to curl up on the couch and watch any of a number of diverse movies filmed during the past two decades about love in various locations, cultures and time periods.

After a 45-year separation, Claire (Julia Blake) and Andreas (Charles Tingwell), a couple who had been lovers in Belgium during World War II, discover that they are both living in the same neighborhood in Australia, in the marvelous film **Innocence** (2000). Andreas, a retired music teacher, is a widower, and Claire is married to John (Terry Norris), with whom she hasn't slept in more than 20 years. The passion that ignites between Claire and Andreas is a wonder to behold, as love between two seniors is shown with realism and respect. This is a very special tender and touching love story.

Renee Zellweger plays a rather convincing Brit in the title role of **Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001). Unmarried at age 32, she has an affair with her self-impressed boss Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant) while being peripherally interested in a rich barrister, Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), whom she meets at a Christmas party. Who will ultimately win her heart?

Someone Like You (2001) stars the lovely Ashley Judd as Jane, a production assistant on a daytime talk show hosted by Diane (Ellen Barkin). Jane has an "old cow/new cow" theory about men that she shares with her best friend, Liz (Marisa Tomei). She is swept away by Ray (Greg Kinnear) but finds solace in her friendship with Eddie (Hugh Jackman). Which one will she choose?

Another Hugh Jackman film, in which he steals every scene as Leopold, the Duke of Albany, is **Kate & Leopold** (2001). When he travels through time from 1876 to present-day New York, he meets and is bewildered and then smitten by Kate (Meg Ryan), an ambitious career woman who works in advertising. He is befriended by Kate's former boyfriend Stuart (Liev Schreiber) and her brother Charlie (Breckin Meyer). Bradley Whitford appears as Kate's narcissistic boss, who has designs on her, but she has never met anyone with the manners and bearing of Leopold.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002) was written by and stars Nia Vardalos as Toula, a frumpy, unattractive 30-year old woman who works in the family restaurant. Wanting to better herself, she fixes her hair, puts on make-up, buys nicer clothes and takes computer classes. Eventually Toula goes to work at the family travel agency, where she meets non-Greek vegetarian Ian Miller (John Corbett) and falls head over heels in love, much to the consternation of her parents (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan). Andrea Martin is absolutely hilarious as Toula's Aunt Voula, and Louis Mandylor is wonderfully appealing as Toula's brother Nick.

An all-time favorite, the ensemble film **Love Actually** (2003), has a stellar cast that includes Hugh Grant as the British Prime Minister in love with his secretary (Martine McCutcheon) and at odds with the President of the United States (Billy Bob Thornton). Emma Thompson is Karen, the Prime Minister's sister who is married to Harry, a man (Alan Rickman) contemplating an affair with his secretary. Emma's best friend is recently widowed Daniel (Liam Neeson), whose grade school stepson Sam (Thomas Sangster) is suffering the pangs of first love. Colin Firth is Jamie, a cuckolded writer who falls for his Portuguese housekeeper, Aurelia (Lucia Moniz). Newlywed Keira Knightly is idolized by Mark (Andrew Lincoln), her husband Peter's (Chiwetel Ejiofor) best friend. Martin Freeman and Joanna Page

are adorable as John and Just Judy, innocent stand-ins in a porn film. Kris Marshall is hilarious as Colin, a British nerd determined to find love in Wisconsin, and Bill Nighy steals every scene as a Billy Mack, a vulgar has-been rock star trying to make a comeback at Christmas.

The Notebook (2004) is an adaptation of Nicholas Sparks's bestselling novel about regular visits made by Duke (James Garner) to a female resident (Gena Rowlands) in an area nursing home. Each day he reads to her from an old handwritten notebook containing the story of a young couple—working-class Noah (Ryan Gosling) and upper-class Allie (Rachel McAdams)—whose intense love affair was interrupted by World War II and subsequently by the disapproval of her parents (Joan Allen and David Thornton). After the war, Allie meets and falls for wealthy Lon Hammond (James Marsden), but she has never really been able to forget Noah. Sam Shepherd appears as Noah's kind and caring father.

Hitch (2005) stars Will Smith in the title role as Alex Hitchens, a "Date Doctor" who helps lonely guys get the girl of their dreams. Although he is sincere, Hitch is thought to be disingenuous by newspaper gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes). Kevin James is delightful as Albert Brennaman, Hitch's rotund client, who is in love with the beautiful heiress Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

Brokeback Mountain (2005) is the story of forbidden love that develops when rodeo cowboy Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) and ranch hand Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) are hired by rancher Joe Aguirre (Randy Quaid) as sheep herders in Wyoming. Set against the sweeping landscapes of Wyoming and Texas, the two men unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love. Anne Hathaway appears as Jack's wife, Laureen, and Michelle Williams is Ennis's wife, Alma. The film won three Oscars, including Best Director for Ang Lee, and garnered an additional five nominations, including three for acting.

The Lake House (2006) is a fantastical time-travel romance that reunites Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock, who together had survived that harrowing bus ride 12 years earlier in **Speed** (1994). When the film begins, Bullock's character, Kate, a stressed-out physician, moves out of the architectural curiosity that gives the picture its title, leaving a note in the mailbox for the next tenant. Reeves's Alex is a real estate developer who turns out to be the previous tenant. An unexplained wrinkle in the space-time continuum has made it possible for Kate in 2006, to correspond with Alex in 2004, by means of handwritten letters placed in that mailbox. Of course, they fall deeply and achingly in love.

It's Complicated (2009) is an adult comedy starring Meryl Streep as Jane Adler, a successful restaurateur who is divorced with three adult children. She is a woman in late middle age who, after years of being on her own, becomes sexually and romantically involved with two very different men—her former husband, Jake (Alec Baldwin), and her newly hired architect, Adam (Steve Martin).

Silver Linings Playbook (2012) is the story of Pat Solatano (Bradley Cooper), a former teacher with bipolar disorder who is released from a psychiatric hospital and moves in with his parents, played by Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver. He is consumed by his intention to reconcile with his ex-wife Nikki (Brea Bee). When Pat meets recently widowed Tiffany Maxwell (Jennifer Lawrence), she offers to help him get his wife back if he enters a dance competition with her. As their rehearsals progress, an unexpected bond begins to form between them. The film received eight Oscar nominations, with Jennifer Lawrence winning Best Actress.

In **About Time** (2013), Tim Lake (Domhnall Gleeson) is informed at the age of 21 by his father (Bill Nighy) that the men in his family have always had the ability to travel through time. In some ways, this gift is a blessing because they are able to have second chances to correct romantic mis-

takes. Moving from the Cornwall coast to London to train as a lawyer, Tim meets and falls in love with the beautiful but insecure Mary (Rachel McAdams). Unfortunately, a time-travel incident means he's never met her at all. Tim eventually learns that his unique gift has great limits and that making the most of life may not need time travel at all.

Although not to everyone's taste, the quirky film **Her** (2013) is certainly a romance for the computer age. Left heartbroken after his marriage ends, Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix) becomes fascinated with a new smart phone operating system that reportedly develops into an intuitive and unique entity in its own right. He starts the program and meets "Samantha" (Scarlett Johansson), whose bright voice reveals a sensitive, playful personality. Though "friends" at first, the relationship soon deepens into love.

Based on the real-life courtship between Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, **The Big Sick** (2017) tells the story of Pakistan-born aspiring comedian Kumail (played by Nanjiani himself), who connects with grad student Emily (Zoe Kazan) after one of his standup sets. However, what they thought would be just a one-night stand blossoms into the real thing, which complicates the life that is expected of Kumail by his traditional Muslim parents (Anupam Kher and Zenobia Shroff). When Emily is beset with a mysterious illness, Kumail is forced to navigate the medical crisis with her parents, Beth and Terry (Holly Hunter and Ray Romano), whom he has never met, while dealing with the emotional tug-of-war between his own family and his heart.

Set in 1946 London, **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** (2018) is the story of Juliet (Lily James), a charismatic and free-spirited writer who receives a letter from a member of a mysterious literary club started in Nazi-occupied Guernsey. Her curiosity piqued, Juliet decides to visit the island, where she meets

the delightfully eccentric members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, including Dawsey (Michiel Huisman), the rugged and intriguing farmer who wrote her the letter. As the secrets from their wartime past unfold, Juliet's growing attachment to the island, the book club and her affection for Dawsey will change the course of her life forever.

The comedy **Crazy Rich Asians** (2018) is a sometimes surprising depiction of a culture with which many Americans are totally unfamiliar. When Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), an American-born Chinese economics professor, accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick (Henry Golding), to his best friend's wedding in Singapore, she is stunned to learn that Nick's family is extremely wealthy and that he is considered one of the most eligible bachelors in Asia. Thrust into the spotlight, Rachel must now contend with jealous socialites, quirky relatives and something far, far worse—Nick's disapproving mother, Eleanor (Michelle Yeoh). The supporting cast includes Awkwafina as Rachel's good friend Peik Lin Goh, and Lisa Lu as Nick's grandmother Ah Ma whose approval means everything.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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

FEBRUARY 2019									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Fri	0327	0.30	0932	7.62	1603	-0.35	2200	6.95	Fri 01
02 Sat	0413	0.27	1018	7.67	1648	-0.34	2244	7.07	Sat 02
03 Sun	0455	0.27	1100	7.66	1727	-0.26	2324	7.14	Sun 03
04 Mon	0532	0.30	1136	7.59	1803	-0.13			Mon 04
05 Tue	0000	7.15	0601	0.35	1205	7.47	1829	0.02	Tue 05
06 Wed	0027	7.13	0617	0.37	1218	7.37	1840	0.12	Wed 06
07 Thu	0037	7.14	0633	0.33	1235	7.32	1852	0.12	Thu 07
08 Fri	0055	7.23	0704	0.28	1305	7.28	1922	0.11	Fri 08
09 Sat	0126	7.34	0742	0.27	1342	7.19	1959	0.14	Sat 09
10 Sun	0204	7.41	0824	0.32	1425	7.03	2041	0.25	Sun 10
11 Mon	0248	7.43	0911	0.41	1513	6.83	2128	0.40	Mon 11
12 Tue	0336	7.41	1004	0.53	1606	6.60	2219	0.57	Tue 12
13 Wed	0430	7.38	1103	0.60	1705	6.44	2317	0.69	Wed 13
14 Thu	0529	7.38	1212	0.57	1812	6.41			Thu 14
15 Fri	0021	0.70	0634	7.47	1342	0.32	1925	6.58	Fri 15
16 Sat	0135	0.52	0744	7.68	1503	-0.16	2040	6.95	Sat 16
17 Sun	0257	0.14	0853	7.98	1603	-0.67	2145	7.41	Sun 17
18 Mon	0407	-0.35	0957	8.28	1656	-1.11	2240	7.84	Mon 18
19 Tue	0506	-0.81	1055	8.48	1746	-1.40	2332	8.16	Tue 19
20 Wed	0601	-1.13	1149	8.52	1834	-1.49			Wed 20
21 Thu	0021	8.32	0654	-1.26	1241	8.38	1922	-1.37	Thu 21
22 Fri	0111	8.31	0748	-1.18	1335	8.06	2011	-1.07	Fri 22
23 Sat	0203	8.13	0844	-0.92	1432	7.63	2103	-0.63	Sat 23
24 Sun	0300	7.85	0944	-0.55	1536	7.17	2200	-0.13	Sun 24
25 Mon	0404	7.53	1048	-0.17	1644	6.78	2303	0.33	Mon 25
26 Tue	0512	7.27	1152	0.13	1752	6.56			Tue 26
27 Wed	0008	0.66	0619	7.15	1256	0.29	1855	6.52	Wed 27
28 Thu	0111	0.82	0721	7.17	1354	0.33	1953	6.64	Thu 28
MARCH 2019									
01 Fri	0209	0.82	0817	7.29	1447	0.28	2046	6.85	Fri 01
02 Sat	0301	0.72	0908	7.44	1536	0.20	2134	7.08	Sat 02
03 Sun	0348	0.59	0955	7.56	1619	0.14	2218	7.27	Sun 03
04 Mon	0430	0.47	1036	7.62	1658	0.12	2258	7.38	Mon 04
05 Tue	0507	0.37	1113	7.60	1731	0.15	2331	7.42	Tue 05



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

WHO WOULD A THUNK IT?

A few short years ago, word of an American bald eagle in our area would have generated the kind of buzz usually reserved for celebrity sightings on City Island Avenue. But not so much anymore. Now don't get us wrong: it's still an exciting thing to hear about, let alone see a genuine bald eagle in the wilds of Pelham Bay Park, even by people like us, the kind who get excited by this sort of thing. It's just that when they seem to have moved in (for the winter, at least), as our eagles have, they become almost familiar. Like a certain celebrity neighbor on Fordham Street.



Photo by JACK ROTHMAN
The pileated woodpecker was spotted at Orchard Beach.

It's a little bit like the pileated woodpecker at Orchard Beach. For more than a month now, this busy guy has been all over the dead and dying trees near the entrance to Hunter Island. Birders from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Nassau and Suffolk County have made the pilgrimage to Pelham Bay Park to catch a glimpse. Some have even paid for the pleasure! And who can blame them? A pileated woodpecker in the Bronx is not something you see every day. But in this case, it sort of is. Not only has this little big guy been here for more than a month, but he hasn't been shy about it at all. When we saw him, he was fearlessly pecking away at one of his large oval-like holes not 10 feet above our heads.

Of further note are the owls. Saw whet owls have reappeared in our area, and it has been years since we have heard from these little guys. But they didn't stay long. We have had an influx of barred owls into our area—at least three—owing probably to what ornithologists call an irruption. An irruption is what happens when there is an abundant food supply in an owl's (or any animal's) natural habitat. This leads to higher survival rates among owlets. And it is these survivors, having fledged and been left to their own devices for food, who are forced to fly outside their natural range in search of sustenance. In addition to the saw whets and barred, we are told that our resident great horned owls are in fact back, preparing the nest.

Out in Eastchester Bay, the scaup have been doing their best to catch the attention of the photographers at National Geographic. When they fly from one part of the Bay to the other, they do so in unison and in such numbers that if it weren't for the New York City skyline in the background, you'd swear you were observing an event in the wilderness somewhere. Or on the Nat Geo channel. Also in Eastchester Bay the other day were large flocks of canvasback ducks, which are rarely seen in this area. For some reason, a gull would dive bomb a duck every so often and send it underwater, but everyone seems to have survived unscathed.

One final observation we will leave you with speaks for itself.



Photo by STEVEN BERARDO
A harbor seal was spotted by surprised boaters Angela and Steven Berardo and Luke Cavaluzzi on Dec. 30, 2018, off the eastern shore of City Island.

Shore Road Hazards

Continued from page 5

the substructure of the roadway is inadequate and will need to be investigated further before a final design is commissioned and capital funding obtained. The manager of the golf course, who was present at the meeting, noted that accidents near the entrance to the course, which is on a sharp curve, were not uncommon. The January accident, however, was the first fatal accident to have occurred at that spot in some years.

Unfortunately for Islanders, the Shore Road project will not address two other locations that are regularly plagued by flooding: the road approaching Orchard Beach from the City Island circle and the road from the Hutchinson River Parkway to the Bartow Circle. These are presumably caused by poor drainage, likely because the roadways are actually located in what was originally a wetlands area.

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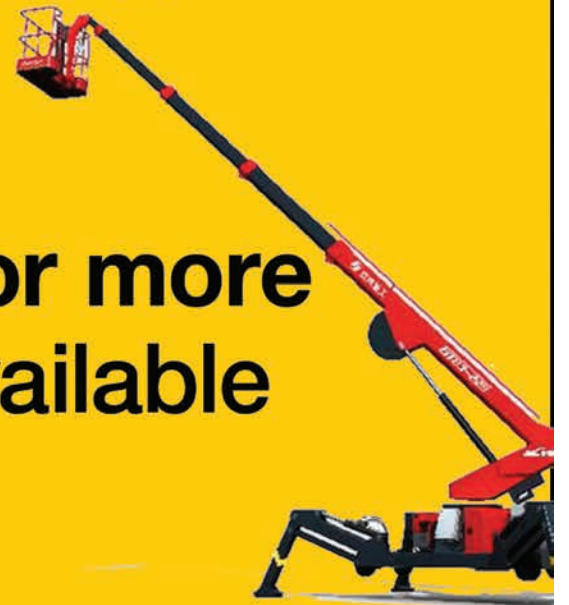
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

How to Compile Your Annual Income Tax Data

Get going, get organized! Please do not delay your 2018 tax data gathering responsibility. Give yourself too little time, and you are likely to overlook something. Be sure to gather and retain all of your reportable income documents from employers, investments, financial institutions and other organizations, as well as forms sent by mortgage companies and colleges. Remember to review your checkbook and credit card statements for potential tax-saving deductions. Once you have gathered your records, sort them by category. Put all items related to income in one pile, those for potential tax deduction in another and items that might pertain to tax credits in a third.

Filing Status directly determines which tax table or scheduled tax rate your taxable income will be subjected to. These are Single, Married Joint, Married Separate, Head-of-Household and Qualified Widow or Widower with Dependent Children. Filing status may not always be obvious. Should you be uncertain of the category best applicable to your personal situation, please ask your professional tax preparer.

Exemptions are available to you, your spouse, each of your dependent children and/or certain other dependents such as mother, father, etc., but only if you provide for more than half of their support, and only one exemption per individual is allowed. There is no exemption available for any of your dependents that claim their own on separate tax filings. Social Security numbers and dates of birth for you, your spouse and all dependents are required. For those with higher income levels, please note that exemption limitations and phase-outs may apply.

Income: All income information should be gathered from your personal records. Examples of types and sources of reportable income include but is not necessarily limited to salaries, wages, tips, interest, dividends, state and local income tax refunds, alimony, business income or loss, capital gains and losses, investment income, pensions, annuities, rents, royalties, partnerships, estates, trusts, farm, fishing, unemployment compensation, gambling winnings, and your Social Security, as well as other income such as commissions, fees, honorariums, etc. Regulations require the reporting of tax-exempt income for informational purposes, alternate minimum tax calculations and other tax-related limitation purposes. Citizens of the United States of America must report all of their world-wide income no matter where it came from.

Remember to give your tax preparer copies of all W-2s, 1099s and K-1 forms, all brokerage account, mutual fund information sheets that you will receive during January, February and March 2019 that delineate any taxable income that may be applicable to your personal situation and circumstance. Bear in mind that the IRS can trace failures to report income submitted to you via this type of information.

Adjustment to Income: Maintain accurate details on items in this category as they result in a direct reduction of your total gross income. Examples are: IRA, SEP, Keogh, profit-sharing and pension plan deposits, self-employed health insurance, long-term care premiums, self-employed FICA tax, moving expenses, higher education interest, penalties on early withdrawals and teacher's expenses. Unless grandfathered in, alimony payments are no longer an adjustment to income in 2018 (certain states may have different rules this year).

Deductions: Gather your tax-deductible expenses into categories by sorting your receipts, bills, canceled checks and bank records. Don't forget to take into consideration checks written and credit card charges incurred during December that may not have cleared until January, February or even March of 2019. The basic categories of itemized expense deduction include the following:

Medical: Subject to change, only medical expenses incurred and paid that exceed 10 percent of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), if you are under 65, and 7.5 percent if you are 65 or older are tax deductible. This includes but is not necessarily limited to payments for medical insurance, long-term care coverage, prescription drugs, doctors, dentists, nurses, hospitals, lab fees, nursing homes, adult care or medical facilities, eyeglasses, medical apparatus, medical transportation costs/mileage, health club fees if supported by a doctor's letter, etc., less any medical insurance reimbursements received.

Taxes: State and local withholding tax and/or estimates paid as well as prior year additional amounts paid in, real estate and personal property taxes may be deductible. Sales taxes paid may be a tax-deductible expense but only if they exceed your state and local income taxes and then only in lieu of those taxes and not in addition to them. The 2018 Federal itemized deduction for taxes paid is limited to \$10,000 (state regulations may vary).

Interest: In 2018 there is an interim allocation on the first \$1,000,000 of home mortgage interest. Thereafter, taxpayers may only deduct home mortgage interest paid on the first \$750,000 of mortgage liability. Deductibility of home equity interest has been eliminated unless the loan proceeds were used for home improvements. If any loan proceeds were used for personal expenses, such as student loans, personal auto loans, and credit card payments, the attributable interest paid is no longer deductible. Personal consumer interest remains non-deductible. Investment interest is subject to a limitation on investment income. Mandatory tracking of business and invest-

ment loan proceeds to substantiate interest expense deductions is required. (State regulations may vary). Home mortgages and equity lines of credit are deductible as described above, but only to the extent that loans do not exceed your original cost-plus improvements. However, there may be some exception when borrowed monies are used for certain medical and/or educational purposes. Use of these monies for other than the permitted purposes may require an alternate minimum tax adjustment. We strongly suggest that you compile data on these costs to substantiate deductions claimed.

Contributions made by way of cash, checks, property other than cash, etc. Make note that all charitable donations must now be substantiated by way of contemporaneous receipts, charitable organization acknowledgement letters and bank or credit card records.

Casualty and/or Theft Losses: Subject to change, in 2018, with the exception of casualty losses in federally declared disaster areas, the casualty and theft loss deduction has been eliminated. Also, all job-related expenses and miscellaneous expense deductions have been eliminated, but state regulations will vary, so gather and provide this information as you have in the past.

Miscellaneous Deductions. Deductions subject to a 2 percent AGI limitation include but are not necessarily limited to union dues, tax-preparation fees, investment-related fees and expenses, safe deposit box fees, work-related educational expenses, non-reimbursed job and/or business-related expenses. Miscellaneous deductions not subject to a 2 percent AGI limitation include such items as gambling losses to the extent of winnings, possibly equity or security trading related expenses, certain federal estate taxes, moving expenses and work-related disability expenses.

For those in higher income brackets and subject to higher tax rates, please note that there are certain limitations on and phase-outs of itemized deductions, and you may also find that you are subject to Alternate

Minimum Tax calculations as well.

Estate and gift taxes: For 2018, gifts of less than \$15,000 are not a deductible income tax event and gifts of \$15,000 or more may result in estate and/or gift tax implications and reportable filing requirements so please ask before you give. The 2018 Estate and Gift Tax Exemption has been raised to \$11,180,000 per married couple.

Tax Credits: Please keep track of any outlays you may have incurred for such items as childcare (you must report to the IRS, the name, address and ID number of each childcare provider), foreign taxes, investment tax, research and development, job and WIN credit carryovers, energy efficient improvements, hybrid vehicle purchases, long-distance telephone service excise tax adjustments, etc.

Tax Payments: Please be sure to keep and provide a record of all estimated taxes paid for the current year and any additional tax payments made for prior years that you may have incurred during the 2018 calendar year. This includes Federal, State, City and Local income taxes paid, as may be applicable.

Foreign Bank Accounts: If you have any affiliation with bank or investment accounts outside of the United States of \$10,000 or more, this information must be revealed to the IRS, so be sure to disclose this information in order to avoid significant fines and penalties. FBAR reports are no longer due on or before June with no extension allowed. These reports are now due on or before April 15 and are subject to an automatic six-month extension along with your personal income tax filings.

ACA (Affordable Care Act): Although the government administration may repeal and replace ObamaCare, and as previously noted, kindly confirm that you comply with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) medical coverage requirements currently in force and be sure to send your tax preparer copies of any 2018 forms 1095 A, B, or C that you receive.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SAILORS ON CI

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by DAVE COUGHLIN

As the weather gets warmer, around mid-March, many Islanders will notice a small group of sailboats, followed by a motorboat, plying the waters off the City Island Yacht Club. These are members of the Columbia University sailing team, part of the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (MAISA), and they are practicing for competitions that will take place later in the season.

At this time, according to Dave Coughlin, the team's coach, there are 44 undergraduates on the Columbia team, most of

them women, and they will compete in their sailing dinghies over an eight-week period in 10 or 11 events, to be held at various locations, including Yale University, Cornell, and Kings Point. Hundreds of sailors compete on more than 40 teams that travel across the country.

The Columbia MAISA group will have its annual winter fundraiser on Feb. 22 this year at the Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive at Columbia University in Manhattan. Those who are interested in attending should access the team's website, <https://columbiasailing.org/winter-fundraiser/>.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY

A Few of My Favorite Things

My mind has been focused this winter on organizing a very small garden space, which is unlike the large ones that I have been accustomed to. The problem is how to plan it to avoid the feeling of a simple box with added vegetation. Sometimes filling a room with furniture can make a room feel larger, so the shapes must jut out and cluster at intervals and not just border the property.

I dug holes and shopped for evergreens until the ground became frozen. Planting while shrubs and trees are dormant is very wise, as it cuts down on watering in the spring. So, the yew and box went in and holes remain for a stellar magnolia and a sweet bay magnolia Henry Hicks, which grows only to 15 feet and is evergreen.

Small spaces require discernment and restraint. You can't have all your favorites, for then the eye would have nowhere to rest. I chose many plants that look great in the winter, as they form a good foundation for all the blowsy ephemeral things that come after. Clipped box looks good with everything, as does yew, which can be shaped into blocks or more fanciful shapes.

A palette of blue, white and orange suits me, followed by blues and yellows for autumn. In late winter and early spring, the green hellebore foetidus and saffron-colored witch hazel will force me out of doors, to be followed by vermilion tulip Irene and white Thalia daffodils emerging from a delicate haze of blue brunnera. Next on stage, in May, white leucanthemum daisies with orange and black poppies. For June, apricot roses entwined with white clematis henryi. For

July, I've planted a row of Annabelle Lee hydrangeas that will form a short wall of white pompoms to mirror the large viburnum opulus, which is now eight feet high in the corner. Lastly, asters and rudbeckia for the final curtain.

Gardening up has always been a fantasy for me, but this is the first time I have brick walls to train plants on. I've driven pegs into the brick so that roses and espaliered witch hazels can rise to the occasion. A climbing hydrangea might also work with its old trunkly look that would add age to the garden. I seem to have included many favorites and one shouldn't really have favorites, but there they are.

If you have the blues or just wish for a whiff of spring, bring flowers into your home this winter. An amaryllis is always a scene stealer, and a paper white bouquet is delicately fragrant.

Our new plant shop, Commins and French, across from the Post Office on City Island will be happy to sell you their beautiful plants. Staying in the green is the secret to keeping your wild nature in health and check. You might even consider befriending a birder to walk with. If you are lucky, you might spot a hawk; I hear there are many around these parts.

The spotted hawk swoops by and accuses me, he complains of my gab and loitering.

I too am not a bit tamed—I too am untranslatable.

I sound my barbaric YAWP over the roofs of the world.

--Walt Whitman

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Walt Whitman's birth. Celebrate and sing him!

The Nurture Assumption: How Much Do Parents Matter Anyway?

By JOHN SCARDINA

Recently the psychologist Judith Rich Harris passed away at the age of 80. She was the author of a book entitled "The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do," a work that questioned the extent to which parents—as opposed to genetics and environment and peers—actually influence how children grow up.

I read her book when it came out in 1998 and found that she and I had a lot in common. We both practiced psychology without PhDs (she was asked to leave the Harvard psychology graduate program because she didn't fit their "stereotype" of an experimental psychologist, and I left the Harvard Graduate School of Education to get married). We both recognized the enormous influence of peers (especially on teenagers). We both encouraged parents to lighten up on their own angst and to persuade young adults to stop blaming their parents for everything.

In the book Harris cited her own examples of the parental nurture fallacy: children of immigrants sound like their peers rather than their parents; children of deaf parents learn to speak without difficulty; adopted children often do not resemble their adoptive parents in personality.

How often have you turned to your co-parent and asked "Where did we go wrong?" It's time to put things in perspective. Genes yes, environment yes, nurture yes, but parenting techniques maybe. It's a mix of everything that goes into the development of an adult.

What is our role as parents, regardless of our influence?

- Provide a safe home as free from shame, want and needless suffering as

possible.

- Allow natural consequences to occur, such as falling off a bike when learning how to ride, and encourage learning from every situation.

- Be an example: "Let your life speak," as Quakers like me are likely to say, and go light on the lectures.

- Make good choices as much as possible as to where your child goes to school and how involved in that school you will be.

- Provide many opportunities beyond school (houses of worship, community groups, sports teams, service organizations) so that your child will encounter peers who might indeed share your value system.

- Be the grown-up. Don't take everything so personally!

- Relax and realize that we only can influence so much.

In some ways, this approach reaffirms the concept of "it takes a village to raise a child."

When I was growing up, every parent on the block in suburban Long Island looked out for everyone's kids. If I got in a fight down the street at David's house, my mother knew about it before I got home! And my choice of clothes in high school—button-down shirt and khaki pants—clearly came from my best friend, Jack, and not from my factory worker father. The world is bigger than two parents and their kids.

As we go forward in 2019, let's all look out for all children and provide the safety and unconditional love that will allow them to know our values, experiment with their peers and yet somehow hopefully land in the right place.

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

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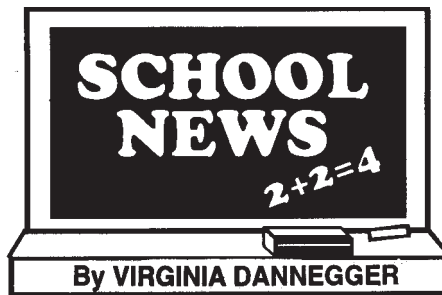
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By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten and first-grade students went to the movies to see "The Grinch." The third grade was chosen by the Botanical Garden to decorate a Christmas tree in the Children's Garden, and the fourth grade went on a Reward Trip to the Botanical Garden. Meanwhile, the seventh grade went to St. Paul's Church and seventh- and eighth-graders went to the American Museum of Natural History.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. Students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Finally, on Dec. 21, P.S. 175 got into the Holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at the school. This ended our year on a high note!

January has been just as exciting. Our fifth-graders are preparing for their spring performance of "Space Pirates," and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production! The NY Edge Program (formerly known as Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program) has resumed for the sixth through the eighth grade. Students are participating in a variety of activities including computers, athletics, games and homework help.

Our arts programs continue to thrive. Our music teacher, Mrs. Schwartz, accompanied the Glee Club to Pilot Cove for a fabulous holiday performance, which was a great experience for both our students and the residents. The drama teacher, Mr. Bloom, continues to prepare our fifth grade for the spring performance of "Space Pirates" and works with students in other grades to expose them to the dramatic arts.

Community service projects geared toward teaching students that we can all contribute in positive ways to our small City Island community and to the world as a whole will be taking place in all grades with eighth-graders once again doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-graders' Rewards Trips program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits!

Important kindergarten registration news: Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year continues. This process is done only online. Please see the Department of Education website for more information. Should further assistance be needed, please call the school at 718-885-1093.

December Citizens-of-the-Month were James Lee (kindergarten); Ava Cautillo (first grade); Andre Berisha and Waverly Treiber (second grade); Madelyn Hayes and Robert Howard (third grade); Samantha Ruscigno and Nelsie Castro (fourth grade); Isabella Hauser (fifth grade); Joshua Soto and Erin Crowe (sixth grade); Rhianna Dyal (seventh grade); Laci Howard and Lia Schnatz (eighth grade).

City Island Yacht Club



2019 WINTER-SPRING EVENTS

Open House

10:30-3:30: Sat 2/23, Sat 3/16, Sat 4/13

Come and learn about sailing opportunities at CIYC! American Sailing Association (lessons), Junior Sailing Summer Programs, CIYC Club Boat Program, Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs, City Island Power and Sail Squadron.

2019 Winter-Spring Seminars

Wednesday Nights

Seminars begin at 7:30pm, Cash bar/dinner available at 5pm. Please RSVP: (718) 885-2487 or email: cluboffice@cityislandyc.org

CIYC Meet-N-Greet

March 20 7:30pm
This informative and friendly evening is all about learning to sail: Lessons, Junior Sailing, Club Boats, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs, and City Island Power Squadron.

DIY Boat Maintenance

March 27 7:30pm
Everything you need to know to get your boat ready for the water. Systems checks: battery/electric, engine, bilge, and more.

City Island History

April 10 7:30pm
Local historian Tom Nye will regale the audience with his comprehensive knowledge of City Island, especially its sailing history.

Cruising

April 17 7:30pm
Tips on cruising, anchoring, getting ashore, and not getting lost!

Racing Seminar

April 24 7:30pm
Regatta Chair Tom Delaney explains all of CIYC's races, for all ages and experience!

Speed & Smarts: Sailing Downwind

Sat, March 23 9am-4pm
Half day: \$50 (without lunch)
Full day: \$95 (with lunch)
Brad and Dave Dellenbaugh created a series of tactical strategies for racers and will be at the Club for a lively presentation. This is a great entry to their program.

Get Sailing Expo

Sun, May 5 11-4pm
This annual event brings Club and area skippers and crew members together. Industry professionals present their information. There is something for everyone--armchair sailors, racers, cruisers, and circumnavigators.



City Island Junior Sailing 2019

Full Day Program 9am-4pm

- Classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, grouped according to skill.
- All instructors are certified by US Sailing, the national organization of sailing, and have First Aid/CPR training.
- For children, ages 8-16.
- Swimming proficiency required.

2019 Session Dates

Session I June 25 - June 28
Session II July 1 - July 12
Session III July 15 - July 26

All sessions at:
City Island Yacht Club
63 Pilot St.
City Island, NY 10464

Contact us at:
City Island Junior Sailing
www.cityislandyc.org/JuniorSailing
city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com
(347) 692-0696 (Junior Sailing Office)

Find out more at the CIYC Open Houses on Sat 2/23, Sat 3/16, Sat 4/13 from 10:30-3:30



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.

Ruth Cronk

Longtime City Island resident Ruth Cronk passed away in North Carolina at the age of 90 on Oct. 19, 2018.

She was born in the Bronx and grew up there with her mother and stepfather, Al Chrastil, who was an enthusiastic boater. She spent her childhood working on the family's cabin cruiser, which was kept at the Morrisania Yacht Club in County Club. Ruth Cronk recalled that "Dad would gas up at a gas barge off City Island and pick up all necessities on the Island."

Later, she bought a canoe, which she kept at the Island Canoe and Yacht Club, and in 1946 she met clam digger George Cronk on City Island. George owned and raced a Lightning sailboat, which he kept at the City Island Yacht club, where their wedding reception was held in 1952. After he returned from military service in 1957, the couple bought a house on Pell Place, where they lived for 52 years and raised three children.

Ruth was actively involved with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Parents Association at P.S. 17, which she served for a time as president, and the Community Center. She received a "Thanks" award from the scouts, their highest honor, and also served as president of the Pell Place Block Association. Ruth enjoyed writing a "Philosophizing" column for *The Island Current*.

Ruth Cronk was probably best known on and off City Island for her collection of Barbie Dolls. She served as president of a 700-member international collectors club and editor of a monthly newsletter. According to the New York Times, she had more than 2,000 Barbie Dolls at home, including Ken Dolls and the 45 other members of the family, friends and pets that came out over the years. Mrs. Cronk owned an original N.R.F.B. Barbie (never removed from box) valued by collectors at about \$1,000.

She joined longtime friend and Islander Fay Jordaens at the 2015 National Barbie Doll Collectors Convention at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City hotel in Arlington, VA. The two women had organized the first national convention 35 years earlier in New York City, a convention that draws hundreds of collectors and fans from around the world for a week-long celebration of Barbie and the cultural phenomena that surrounds the famous fashion doll.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband; her son Wayne; her daughter, Joyce Cronk Brafford, and her son Scott's first wife, Kathy. She is survived by Scott and his second wife, Johann, as well as five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Benita Gross

Benita Louise Gross, 64, of City Island, passed away after a long illness on Dec. 31, 2018, at her home surrounded by family.

Benita was born in Staten Island on Nov. 14, 1954, the daughter of the late Reuben and Blanche Gross. In 1976, she graduated with highest honors from Richmond College, CUNY, where she was valedictorian and president of the student body. She received her M.D. at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and returned to do a residency there in obstetrics and gynecology. At the time of her diagnosis of ALS, she was Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director at Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic.

Throughout her life, Benita was an outspoken advocate of a woman's right to choose and a pioneering member of the LGBT movement. She was one of the early volunteers working with gay senior citizens with SAGE, the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of older LGBT adults.



Photo by NICK RHODES

Benita's team of supporters, including family and friends, at Rye Town Beach on Jan. 1, 2019, for the 17th annual Ray's Polar Plunge, sponsored by the MAC Angels Foundation.

Benita's passions included spinning, knitting and weaving, as well as producing fine lace and bead work. She visited every country, museum or county fair where there was a hint of these or similar artisanal crafts. One of her favorites was the Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY, where teams compete in a timed contest that begins with shearing a sheep and ends with spinning and weaving a finished product.

Always open-minded, intellectually curious and up for an adventure, Benita spent a year in New Zealand at the age of 59 for a truly once-in-a-lifetime chance to mix work and play. There she worked in women's healthcare during the week and spent every weekend exploring the nation's hiking trails, bicycling and interacting with knitting and spinning communities.

She is survived by her partner, Karl Hoedl; her daughters, Mikaela and Ilana Gross; and two granddogs, Stella and Dante. She is also survived by six siblings, Avery (Harriet), Deni (Fred), Shuly, Judy (Marc), Naomi (Jossi), Donn and numerous nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her brothers David and Alex.

The family is grateful to Roberta Cardozo and the MAC Angels for their incredible compassion and help throughout Benita's illness. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Benita's memory to MAC Angels Foundation, the National Abortion Foundation (NAF), the Fordham University radio station WFUV or Planned Parenthood Foundation of America (PPFA).



Henry George Buchanan

City Island resident Hank Buchanan passed away peacefully at Einstein Hospital on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 2018, at the age of 82.

Hank was born in Washington, DC, on Aug. 9, 1936, and when he was 9 years old his family moved to Brooklyn. He was born with a heart defect and was not expected to live past the age of 40, but he fooled everyone and lived more than twice that long. He attributed his survival to not following his doctor's orders to "rest." Instead, he played handball, rode his bike and shoveled out stalls at the stables around Park Circle in exchange for riding horses in Prospect Park.

Hank attended the Art Students' League in Manhattan and worked as a free-lance artist for most of his career. He designed advertising brochures for Mikasa (tableware and glasses) and Nessen Lighting and later worked for a small business on City Island called Simp'l Products, which was run by Dick Deaton and Burt Weinstein. Some

years after his retirement, Hank got back into painting watercolors and made portraits of and for friends and family members.

After learning to sail on Lake Mead near Las Vegas, Hank joined the City Island Yacht Club in 1978 and soon became involved in club life. He joined the board and went on to enjoy a successful racing career on Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound. He was on the regatta committee, served as a race director, was editor of the Pilot (the CIYC newsletter) and helped prepare and update the CIYC membership roster. He was also an enthusiastic patron of the Pub Room at the club. Hank enjoyed mentoring young people and encouraged them to become better sailors; and many went on to buy their own boats, race or cruise and join the City Island Yacht Club. He also attracted new members to the club, one of whom eventually became commodore.

Hank raced model boats at the Larchmont Model Yacht Club, the Central Park Model Yacht Club, the Housatonic Model Yacht Club and other venues. He was also an active bridge player, most recently at the Hartes Club in White Plains, and he enjoyed games of Texas hold 'em (a variation of poker) at family gatherings. Hank was an avid pool and billiard player, most recently at Carom Cafe in Queens, where he participated in and won many tournaments.

Hank met his wife Melanie at City Island Yacht Club, and they lived briefly on City Island before leaving for Manhattan, where both had jobs. However, they spent summer weekends on City Island aboard their J-29 sailboat, and in 2014, they fulfilled their retirement dream and lived aboard their 40-foot Egg Harbor, *Nest Egg*, at South Minneford Yacht Club for three seasons.

Before retiring Hank had a long and successful career as a commercial artist.

Hank is survived by Melanie Benvenue, his wife of 24 years; and his children, Debra Buchanan Adams, Susan Buchanan, Gregory Buchanan, Dawn Wilensky, Kate Engelsman and Lee Buchanan. Also pre-deceased by his sister Josephine Ann Buchanan, he is survived by his brother Vincent Buchanan, his sister Mary Ellen Many; 11 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. All who knew Hank will agree that his life can be summed up in one word, which was also the name of two of his boats, WOW.

John Kennedy O'Connor

John O'Connor, known to many as Opie, passed away on Dec. 21, 2018, at the age of 53 at Jacobi Medical Center, surrounded by family and friends.

John was born in Castlemahon in County Limerick, Ireland, in October 1965 and emigrated to the Bronx as a child with his parents, Michael and Rachel (Teskey) O'Connor, and his sister, Ann. He graduated from St. Nicholas of Tolentine Elementary School in 1979 and from St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School in 1983. He graduated from Conrail's engineering school in 1985 at the age of 20, as the youngest engineer in Conrail's history. He operated the Northeast Corridor line, whose base of operations is located at Oak Point Yard in the Bronx. His undying devotion to railroad history and the New York Historical Society enabled his love for community-education and interaction with many colleagues.

Opie met his wife, Kellie Ann Brewer, on City Island, and they lived here for over

23 years. They had a son, Michael Anthony, now 21, and were much involved with the community, especially St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

He is survived by his wife and his son and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery on Jan. 4, 2019.

Doris Lelchook

Doris Lelchook, a clam digger who grew up on City Island, passed away at the age of 94 on Dec. 5, 2018, in Arlington, VA.

Doris was the granddaughter of Jacob Springer, a Hungarian immigrant who owned a butcher shop at the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue, in the building that later housed Trader's John's Marine Supply and is now 239 Play. Jacob Springer built twin houses on Schofield Street for his children, Frieda and Charles Springer, who lived there with their respective families.

Frieda married Sandor Klein, a furrier from Hungary, and gave birth to Doris Eleanor Klein in January 1924. Doris attended P.S. 17 and graduated in January 1937 as valedictorian of her class; she also took riding lessons at the stable in Pelham Bay Park. She then attended Hunter High School in Manhattan, graduated from Cornell University with a degree in sociology, and entered the first class of what is now the Columbia University School of Social Work.

During the war years, Doris met Sidney Lelchook, an engineering student born in an orthodox Jewish Russian family from Brooklyn, and they married in January 1947. The couple moved to Syracuse, where he worked for a short time at the Syracuse China Corporation. Sidney then joined his brother's animal nutrition business in Boston, the Lockwood Feed Service, which is now run by his grand-nephew. Doris and Sidney had three children, and the family returned regularly to City Island for vacations until 1971, when their last child turned 17.

Doris worked for many years as executive secretary to Dr. Marshall Sklare, the head of Brandeis University's Judaica Department. During the mid-1960s she conducted national interviews for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's Joint Center for Urban Studies at Harvard and MIT. She also volunteered for major medical studies in the Boston area.

She started Hebrew School at the same time as her 8-year-old daughter, Judith, and was bas mitzvahed in her early 50s. She ultimately became a Torah reader for her synagogue, Temple Emanuel, and read at the bar and bas mitzvahs of her three grandchildren in Acton, MA. She started a shoppers bus for seniors in Newton, MA, and founded the L'Chaim group for seniors at her synagogue. She served as president of her local Na'amat group until she moved into an assisted living resident in 2014.

Doris was predeceased by her husband, who passed away in 1990, and by her youngest son, David Martin Lelchook, who died in the 2006 Israeli Gaza War. She is survived by her son Lex Lelchook of Falls Church, VA, and his wife, Randi Wallen; her daughter Judith Lelchook of Alexandria, VA; her daughter-in-law Esty Lelchook, who lives in northern Israel; her niece Elaine Springer Kornspan, who grew up on City Island; and five grandchildren.

Those who would like to make a donation in her memory may do so for Naamat, the Zionist women's labor organization; its website is <http://naamat.org>.

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Registration before Jan. 31 will receive a \$10 discount! Families with multiple players will receive \$10 off for each player after the first registered player, in addition to the \$10 discount for early registration. In-person registrations will be conducted at A-Game Sports in New Rochelle, 856 Main Street, on Feb. 9 and 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. The divisions are T-Ball (5 years old and under); Junior Minors (7 and 8 years old); Minors (9 and 10); Majors (11 and 12); Juniors (13 and 14). The regular season schedule will be made after registration ends. We are looking forward to a successful 2019 season!

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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.

Lots of birthday celebrations this issue! Happy birthday wishes on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

January birthday greetings to my granddaughter Francesca and to our February family birthdays, from Victoria,

Frank and Susannah Strazzera. Celebrate! Congratulations to Islander Annemarie Tomsen, who was received by Bishop Allen Shin on Dec. 23 at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island. At the same service, Leah Nani and Isabelle Bendler were baptized, and Emilio Aponte received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Blessings to all!

Bay Street's Lucy Zec will be blowing out birthday candles on Feb. 26. We wish her the best!

Happy, happy birthday to Chase Bank's newest addition, Yvonne Wynter, on Jan. 26. We hope it will be the first of many birthdays here on City Island.

Happy Feb. 1 birthday wishes with love from Bruce to Sandy.

It's a very BIG birthday on Feb. 3 as our son Anthony Ribauda celebrates along with our sweet granddaughter, Tabitha,



Photo by CHERITH LONG

Record numbers flocked to the Earley Street beach for the New Year's Day Polar Bear plunge.



Photo by MATT PANZA

Longtime editorial board member Barbara Dolensek hosted the staff of *The Island Current* on Jan. 13, 2019, to celebrate the City Island newspaper's 48th consecutive year. Shown are the amazing volunteers who keep *The Current* flowing (seated, l. to r.): Karen Nani, Marsha Treiber, Melanie Benvenue, Matt Panza, Rose Kolb, Sandy Dunn and Jane Protzman. Back row: Frank Koller, Mike Rauh, Cheryl Koller, Judy Rauh, Ginger Dannegger, Bruce Weis, Eric Buerghers, Tom Smith, Ed and Betty Heben, John Sheridan and Barbara Dolensek.



Photo by PAUL NANI

On Dec. 23, 2018, Bishop Allen Shin received Islander Annmarie Tomsen (left) at Grace Episcopal Church. Leah Nani and Isabelle Bendler were baptized that day and Emilio Aponte (right) was confirmed.

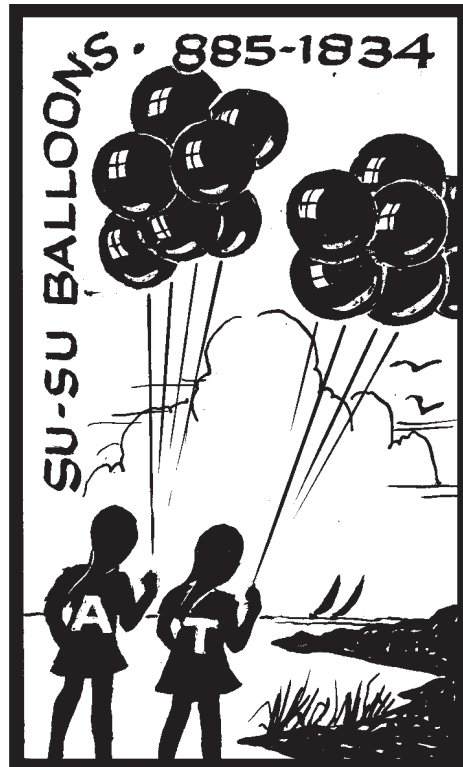
who turns two just two days later. Love and kisses, Nonni and Pop.

If you like pocketbooks (and who doesn't?), please save the date April 5 for P.S. 175's Pocketbook Bingo!

Birthday greetings on Feb. 20 to Hawkins's Street's Reid "Swampy" Travers, with love from your sis Lori and all your friends. Enjoy!

And a very Happy Valentine's Day from all of us to all of you!

Maria Swieciki



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