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One Dollar

Reimagining City Island as a Historic Maritime Destination

By NANCY KHECK



Photos by RON TERNER and EDWIN SOTO

Viacommunity Day on April 20, 2018, celebrated City Island's nautical history. Hard-working volunteers from Viacom and City Island included (top photo) John Mieso, David Glass, Helen Vaughn, Tom Hicks, Tree O'Donnell, Mary Colby, Susannah Kent, Nicolette Lotrionte, Nancy Kheck, Patrick Gannon, Harlan Sexton and Janie Blanks. They, along with many other volunteers, cleaned up the avenue and posted large photo panels in vacant storefronts, like the one at 260 City Island Avenue (above photo). The event was the first of many plans to spruce up the avenue and restore City Island as a historic maritime destination.

In a casual conversation over wine at Bistro SK last year, Islanders Maria Caruso and Laurie Vega planted the seed of an idea that came to fruition on April 20, 2018, as Viacommunity Day. Maria mused about attracting tourism to City Island by highlighting its nautical charm and storied history of yacht building. Laurie mentioned that her employer, Viacom, sponsors an annual company-wide day of service to support local towns and organizations. Before they knew it, the conversation turned into a full-scale project.

Selling the concept for Viacom to sponsor revitalization of public spaces in the community was aspirational, but what could 50 people do in a day? Formation of what would become known as the Nautical Mile Isle Project rapidly gained momentum with the involvement of Barbara Dolensek of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum and Lois Wagh, a retired executive who served as the New York State Director of AARP. For a nine-month period, Lois's Tier Street home became the epicenter for weekly brainstorming sessions about key roles and strategies, and their combined efforts, spearheaded by Maria and Laurie,

became the catalyst that shaped a highly functional planning committee.

The participants are a diverse cast of characters: artists (photographer, painter, horticulturalist), historians, a museum archivist, a realtor, a travel agent, local business owners, a politician, a Bronx media personality and an academic dean. Each member helped to identify key stakeholders, resources and high-yield projects on the Island that would contribute to the common thread—ways to celebrate and preserve elements of City Island's nautical history.

A wave of creativity focused the historic part of the project when Cheryl Brinker and Ron Turner joined the team, because they were at the same time curating an exhibit of historic and modern photographs, "City Island Avenue Then and Now," at the Nautical Museum. Working with Barbara Dolensek and Tom Nye, they selected images of historic vessels and institutions, which were scanned by Ron and produced as weather-proof, oversized images by Nick Ruscigno, and described in texts by Barbara and Tom explaining their significance in City Island's history.

Since April 20, those photos have



adorned the windows of uninhabited storefronts to commemorate legendary America's Cup winners and boats crafted in City Island shipyards over the last century and a half, accompanied by nautical flags organized and explained by Merima Meggi.

Equally impressive are the reinvigorated spaces at various spots on the Island where plants and accompanying boats large and small were refurbished by a vast team of gardeners led by Mary Colby and Janie Blanks. Street cleaning was carried out by another team, led by Eddie Ciarletta and John Doyle, and on the spot coordinating and budgeting were managed by Elinor King. Planning team members who pitched in on April 20 included Dan Treiber, who helped with the photo installation, and this reporter, working at the garden on the corner of Carroll Street.

A bright new mural now adorns a wall facing the park on the north side of P.S. 175 and celebrating the Nevins Yacht Yard that once occupied the site. The mural was designed by a Bronx artist named Dister and painted by many volunteers coordinated by Cheryl Brinker.

Team member Gary Axelbank of This-is-the-BronX documented and featured mul-



timedia coverage of this event and projects (see thisisthebronx.info/watch-the-city-island-viacommunity-day-video).

Looking Ahead

The culmination of all these efforts was not just a day of volunteerism. It also launched a sustained interest in harnessing

Continued on page 7

PRE-PAVING WOES



Photo by KAREN NANI

In a rush to get City Island Avenue cleared by Mother's Day weekend, the NYC Department of Transportation scheduled all-night paving on Thursday May, 17, 2018. Traffic was held for periods of time because of the movements of the contractor's equipment. When the equipment could be cleared, the queue was allowed to pass, but a long traffic delay onto the Island occurred. Unassociated with the City Island Bridge work, there was also a single-lane closure on the Shore Road Bridge over the Hutchinson River, which only added to drivers' woes. Island motorists experienced delays that started about 4 p.m. and lasted through the rush hour.

BRIEFLY...

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET, with the cooperation of the City Island Sail & Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post, will take place on Sunday, June 24, at 1 p.m. at Fenton Marine Dock in City Island. Multi-denominational clergy will bless vessels from the dock. Participation is by water only! Boats should assemble in City Island Harbor by the ferry dock on Hart Island at 1230. Communications on VHF #71 will begin at 1230. For more information, call event chairman Dennis Gormley at 718-652-3056 or 646-258-4250.

THE BRONX FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA will take place on Thursday, June 28, at 9 p.m. at Orchard Beach. The fireworks are co-sponsored by Bronx Borough President Rubén Diaz Jr. and State Senator Jeffrey Klein. The gates open at 7 p.m. for an evening of family fun, including a musical salute to the American spirit, boardwalk performers and lots of fun activities for kids. Islanders should watch for traffic jams on the City Island bridge.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and May 2018. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – FELONY ASSAULT
- 3 – GRAFFITI
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from April 18 through May 16, 2018:

4/18 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 11:15 p.m., a female off-Islander was a victim of felony assault. A verbal dispute with an unknown male became physical, and the victim was punched in the face and stabbed with a small pocket knife. She was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

4/20 – On City Island Avenue at 6 p.m., an off-Island female left her wallet at a commercial establishment and returned to find that money had been removed from the wallet in an act of petit larceny.

4/26 to 4/27 – Three incidents of vandalism were reported to the 45th Precinct's Graffiti Coordinator. At 1:30 a.m. and 9:16 p.m. on April 26, the owners of commercial establishments found graffiti on their buildings. On April 27 at 7:42 p.m., an FDNY call box on Beach Street and Minneford Avenue was vandalized with graffiti. The graffiti has been scheduled for removal by the 45th Precinct.

5/13 – An off-Island male reported an incident of petit larceny on City Island Avenue at 2 p.m. The victim had parked his car and upon return found that his workplace access pass had been stolen.

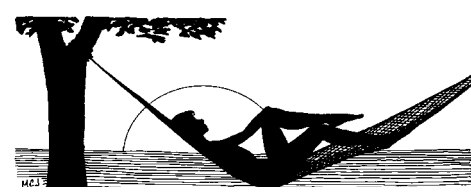
5/13 – Police from the 45th Precinct responded to the scene of an accident involving an off-Island female on Bridge Street and City Island Avenue at 5:40 p.m. The complainant's vehicle was involved in an accident with two other vehicles, both of which fled the scene.

5/13 – At 8:30 p.m., a male off-Islander reported an assault on City Island Avenue. The victim told police that he was picking up a scheduled fare when he was struck in the face by an unknown male.

5/16 – On Carroll Street, an Island male told police that he was harassed by a female neighbor who spit at him from her window at 10:30 a.m. The incident was apparently part of an ongoing dispute.

CORRECTION

In the May issue of *The Island Current*, the caption on page 9 incorrectly identified the logo on the helicopter as being designed by Katie Geddes. Ms. Geddes designed Sikorsky's Research & Engineering brand (not shown).



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GIRL SCOUT POWER



Photos by GLORIA KENNY

History was made on May 16, 2018. For the first time ever, a Girl Scout Pinewood Derby (known as the Powder Puff Derby) was held at Trinity Church on City Island (top photo). Troops 1115 and 1325 joined forces for an action-packed event. Fifteen Girl Scouts raced their homemade decorated cars (bottom photo, left) in an exhilarating competition. The girls demonstrated great sportsmanship and are looking forward to another derby in 2019. Kudos to troop leaders Michelle Kenny and Cheryl Riordan for organizing this great event, and thanks to Colin Kenny of Boy Scout Troop 211 for helping the Girl Scouts with their first race.



Photos by RICK DEWITT

City Island's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28, 2018, was colorful and moving as always, with a special dedication at the newly completed Legion monument near the bridge honoring the 17 City Island servicemen who lost their lives in World War II. The invocation was offered by Rev. David Jolly, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, and three wreaths were placed at the monument. Sailors from the *USS Mitscher*, elected officials, and Legion leaders, along with the CI Coast Guard Auxiliary and the New York Metro Pipe Band, joined City Island organizations in the parade.

CLEAN AND DIVE

By KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

Divers are used to being wet, so the threat of rain didn't dampen the 9th Annual Clambake and Cleanup at Orchard Beach on May 20, 2018, organized by Islander Mike Carew (bottom photo, middle, blue shirt) of Captain Mike's Diving Services. The participants, both divers and landlubbers, collected hundreds of pounds of debris and garbage from the beach before diving into clams and hot dogs.

Island businessman Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving Services discovered a way to bring divers and beachcombers together for a good cause. He and other diving clubs hosted the 9th Annual Orchard Beach Clean-up and Clam Bake on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Captain Mike explained how it all started. "I had been hosting a clam bake for my staff every year and we realized that customers and other divers wanted to join the fun," he told *The Current*. "So I called some other dive clubs and proposed a spring party that could be tied into a worthy environmental cause."

He contacted the New York City Parks Department and suggested a beach clean-up and clam bake for divers, friends and families. They checked the schedule of events for Orchard Beach and gave them a permit for a Sunday in May, which has now become a nine year-old tradition.

"The first year, 250 people showed up from all over the tristate area, including divers from New Jersey, Long Island, Connecticut and City Island. It was a success from the beginning and has continued to draw over 200 people every year," Mike reminisced.

Before the clams and hot dogs are served, everyone who attends is asked to collect at least five pounds of trash from the beach area. Prizes are awarded for the most trash collected and participants can join certified divers in the water for some

training.

The event is supported by a number of dive organizations, including Long Island Divers Association, The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester, Northeast Dive News, Beneath the Sea, Oceanblue Divers, Scuba New York, Ski & Scuba Connection, Gotham Divers, Sea Gypsies, Aquatic Voyagers, Pristine Azul, Suba Network L.I., and Divers Alert Network. Divers from the NYPD and NYFD have also participated.

But it started with Captain Mike, who has operated his dive shop on City Island for 28 years. His 5-Star PADI Training Facility offers scuba diving instruction, scuba certification and education on all topics.

Mike is a 10-year veteran of the NYPD Scuba team. Wreck diving, lobster and fish hunts, and searching for antique bottles from the 1700s are among his favorite dive adventures.

His son, Michael, is now involved and they take groups diving almost every warm weather weekend, either on Moontide Charters out of New Rochelle or on charters from Long Island or New Jersey.

They also host trips to destinations such as the Bahamas, the Florida Keys, Bonaire and other breathtaking scuba diving trip destinations around the world.

But Mike's loyalty is to City Island. "I always use the annual clambake to reach out and introduce people to City Island as well. I encourage them to tour or visit the Island afterwards."



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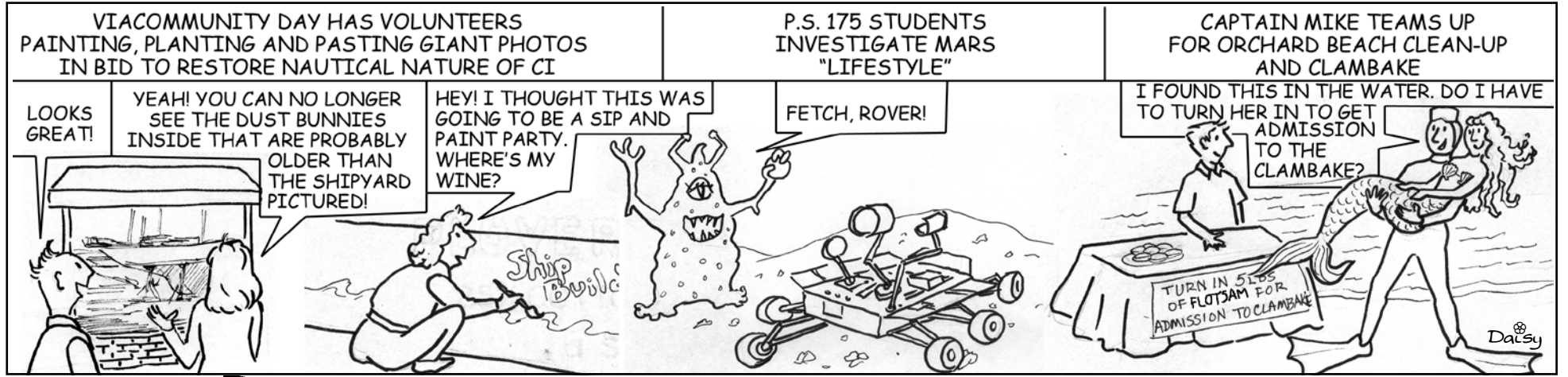
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Unhappy with New Bridge

To the Editor:

In the article entitled "Bridge Construction Update" in the April 2018 issue of *The Island Current*, it states that "Many residents have wondered about different colors of the chain-link fencing over the bridge, and DOT plans to paint the silver portion green during the summer months. The chain link of both the green and the silver fences is the same size..."

The thickness of the olive green painted chain-link is about 5/32 of an inch. The unpainted silver fencing wire is thinner, about 4/32 (1/8) of an inch. The space between opposite sides of each enclosed chain-link square is about one inch. By comparison, that same space on the temporary bridge is larger, about 1 1/8 inch. Close inspection of a video I took of the old bridge suggests that the spacing between the chain-link wire on the old bridge was greater, and the wire itself thinner, although I cannot assert this scientifically. Needless to say, all the chain-link material on both the old bridge and the temporary bridge was silver and unpainted.

Why does any of this matter? Because the new denser chain-link lattice, and particularly the thick dark paint overlay, have ruined the joy of walking across the City Island Bridge. The dark olive paint not only thickens the wire but absorbs and repels sunlight, the same way eye black on pro football and baseball players cuts down glare. Walking over the old bridge, or even the temporary bridge, you could see clearly through the fencing. Now when you take that walk, you feel like a prisoner in a cage. You don't feel as close to Long Island Sound or Eastchester Bay, or to nature in general. Fractions of an inch on such a large scale make a big difference.

Like almost all other major NYC bridges, the old bridge had a partition between the roadway and the pedestrian lane. The new bridge leaves both bicyclists and pedestrians barrier-less and exposed to any automobile that may accidentally jump the lane and hit the fence (and there is no shoulder or off-road area to escape to). Already I have observed bicyclists who, by instinctive self-protection, are shifting their bikes from the marked bicycle lane to the elevated pedestrian curb for the middle portion of the bridge. While I understand there were legal requirements for anti-suicide construction, and that the intended design was to make fishing from the bridge difficult or impossible, surely there must have been a way to accomplish these goals while maintaining a more agreeable, fun, safe experience for the stroller or bike rider.

Islanders congratulated themselves for stopping the high tower design originally approved for the new bridge. Unfortunately, the compromise design is almost

as terrible. It is totally un-City Island. Driving or walking over the old bridge felt as if you were on a magic gateway entering an amusement park. Driving or walking over the new bridge has all the charm of the double helix ramp to the Lincoln Tunnel.

Painting the remaining silver sections of the fencing with that thick olive green will make an already bad pedestrian experience palpably worse, DOT. Thanks for nothing, Tutor Perini.

Mark Grant

Pedestrian Dangers on the Bridge

To the Editor:

The new City Island Bridge is very unsafe for pedestrians. My experience while walking the dogs has been very unnerving. The walkways for pedestrians are not separated by railings. Cars whizzing by blow their horn, startling the pedestrians, who if not careful are liable to bump into the many lampposts that are smack in the middle of the walkways. Also, one has to wonder if a wayward car may hit you.

Another problem is the bike riders, who instead of using the dedicated bike lanes, use the pedestrian walkway. Bike riders ring their bells and are all of the sudden upon you, another accident waiting to happen. Signs would have to be posted for bikers not to ride on pedestrian walkways. Even further, barriers or railings should be placed to separate the walkways from the roadway.

Maria Panza

A Simpler Past

To the Editor:

After reading the May issue of *The Island Current* and viewing the picture of the first traffic jam of spring, I started to reminisce about the simpler past of City Island.

I remember when you could leave the Island on a warm summer weekend evening for a night out and be able to zip right home. Now I think twice about doing that, as it's not worth the mayhem driving back.

I miss the warm nights when you could sleep with your windows open. Now I keep them closed because of the noise from blaring car radios or motorcycles revving their engines while they wait for the Fordham Street light to change. It makes a pleasant night's sleep impossible.

I took a walk to my childhood home, a simple bungalow we rented on Minneford Avenue. It was small and well kept at the time, but now the home is vacant and overgrown with vines. It is an eyesore for the neighbors to contend with, like far too many of the vacant storefronts along City Island Avenue. These are left for volunteers to spruce up (see article on cover page this issue). To absentee owners, I guess you call these out of sight, out of mind.

I miss all the shipyards that made City Island a truly special place, many of which have now turned into rows of houses for people who want a water view.

I miss the true characters of City Island, including Ed Sadler, Stu Hawkins, Russell Schaller, Bryce Kirk and especially Marie Foley, with her early morning rendition of "I Have a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts."

I miss Mary of the Donut Shop (now the City Island Diner) when the place was a mad house and people were waiting for tables. Her favorite shout-out line was "If

ya wanna read the paper, go to the park." Today if you say that, you get sued.

But what I miss most is that quiet New England style town the newspapers keep writing about. If they ever put up a sign on the new bridge, it should read "Welcome to Little Manhattan." This is what we have become.

Carol Fitzpatrick

Viacommunity Thanks

To the Editor:

April 20, 2018, was an extraordinary day of positive energy and volunteerism on City Island. Viacommunity Day was supported by a program at Viacom, and I want to thank and acknowledge Michelle McCrea and Laurie Vega for selecting City Island and making this project happen. City Islanders, from P.S.175 students to senior citizens, came out to participate with one resounding goal in mind: the refurbishment of the downtown district as part of the restoration of City Island's distinguished nautical history. We are grateful to all who took the day off to help. Below are the team leaders, projects and Viacom volunteers who helped our local community volunteers achieve a resounding success:

P. S. 175, Mural Painting and Planting. Team Leaders: Janie Blanks, Ron Terner, Cheryl Brinker and Dister, the Muralist; Volunteers: Katrina Alvarez, Shay Anderson, Juan Cortes, Tyndie Dubose, Tim McCormack, Cathy Ng, Ricardo Perez, Tiffany Pollard and Preeti Vaidya

Planting at the Nautical Museum and DOT Building. Team Leaders: Mary Colby, Barbara Dolensek, Patrick Gannon and Nancy Kheck. Volunteers: David Glass, Elizabeth Goldstein, Tom Hicks, Nicolette Lotrionte (Viacom employee and City Islander) and John Miseo.

Clean Up Crew, Bay to Schofield Streets. Team Leaders: Eddie Ciarletta and John Doyle. Volunteers: Bingqing Ge, Mathjis de Vries, Madeline Lanzot, Brandon Lopez, David Lorente and Madeline Migene

Nautical Signal Flags and Story Telling. Team Leaders: Lois Wagh and Merima Meggi. Volunteers: Caroline Beinin, Teresa Castillo, John Curbishley, Leena Green, Sunita Jadusingh-Leath and Katherine Santeiro

Historical Boat Photo Installation. Team Leaders: Nick Ruscigno and Dan Treiber. Volunteers: Anne Edouard, Kelly Gleason, Amanda Martin (former Islander), Gregg Morra, Ethan O'Sullivan and Steven Pearce

We owe special thanks and acknowledgments to Barbara Burn Dolensek of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum for serving as the foundation for the Nautical Mile Isle Project and for sharing her expertise and historic City Island images; Lois Wagh, whose home was the meeting point for all committee meetings and for her amazing organizational skills; Ron Terner for his help with scanning the historic boat photos used for the storefronts and for documenting Viacommunity Day with all of his amazing photos; Gary Axelbank from thisistheBronX for his generous media coverage; and Elinor King for budgeting and troubleshooting on the day of the project. We are also grateful to Tommy Nye and Bob Adams for repairs to the *Half Moon* boat in the garden at P.S. 175, and to Dick Sadler for educating the participants with his firsthand knowledge

of City Island's America's Cup winners, presented during our lunch break at the Nautical Museum. Honorable mentions go to Michael Morrison for distributing flyers and to Lyn Thompson, who helped to deliver 50 bags of mulch from Home Depot! Thanks also to Sue and Donna McGowan, Tommy Flynn, Teresa and Joe Pontecorvo, and the NYC Department of Sanitation, which donated bags of compost, along with brooms and rakes and shovels to the effort.

Finally, to all the dedicated local citizens that volunteered, a big thank you for sharing your passion and making this a most memorable show of community on City Island.

Maria Caruso, Lead Organizer, Viacommunity Day and the Nautical Mile Isle Project

Defending Doyle

To the Editor:

I write today dismayed by some of the recent personal battles that have taken place in our beautiful neighborhood. Unfortunately, a select few have tried to use smear tactics and vitriol to diminish one of our neighborhood's strongest advocates, John Doyle.

I have known John for over a decade, and I know I speak for many Islanders when I say how much I appreciate his volunteer efforts over the years. Working with others, he's been a helping hand in stopping the large-scale City Island Bridge design, acquiring regular summer weekend traffic protection, extending the schedule of the Bx29 bus service, establishing the Belden Point Park and pushing for soundproofing of Rodman's Neck shooting range. All you need to do is walk down the Avenue and speak to Islanders and you're sure to hear a "John Doyle story" about how he's helped someone in our neighborhood with a problem they've had.

It is my sincere hope that those attacking others will instead redirect their attention on attacking our neighborhood's problems as John has done. Frankly, if we all work together, there's nothing we cannot accomplish.

Michael Shanley

Civic Disappointment

To the Editor:

I was extremely disappointed by the manner in which the April 2018 meeting of the City Island Civic Association was conducted. The agenda, which normally revolves around business pertinent to the community, instead focused on Civic Association president Bill Stanton attacking people over social media posts and at points literally yelling at the people assembled. Derogatory remarks about "outsiders" were made, and parliamentary procedure was completely ignored. The whole thing felt more like reality television than a community meeting and left both myself and many others feeling disgusted. I can only imagine what the police guest speakers thought.

For years I have paid dues to the Civic Association to represent my concerns as a resident, and it saddens me to see meetings now revolving around personal conflicts with others. The Civic Association has a long tradition of doing what's best for City Island. That's where the focus should return to and remain if the Civic Association wants to continue being a voice for all of this community.

Jo Heck

WHAT TIME IS IT ON MARS?

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

Under the leadership of science teacher Karen Heil (photo, top left) and Principal Amy Lipson, P.S. 175's seventh- and eighth-graders kicked off "Mars Week" on Monday, May 7, 2018 (photo, top right). Nagin Cox, a spacecraft engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, joined the City Island school community on a video conference call, and students were able to ask her questions (bottom photo).

It was this question that sparked P.S. 175's "Mars Week," a new scientific exploration from May 7 to May 11, 2018. Seventh- and eighth-grade students simulated "Mars time" by altering their daily schedule to mimic a day in the life on Mars. Each school day started 40 minutes later to account for the additional 40 minutes it takes for the planet Mars to make one complete rotation. This meant that by Thursday, their school day began at 10:10 a.m. and ended at

4:30 p.m. How did this innovative science event come about? The P.S. 175 science teacher, Karen Heil, found herself browsing through the educational ideas website "TED Talks," searching for some inspiration. She found herself clicking on a talk by Nagin Cox titled "What time is it on Mars?" Ms. Cox, a spacecraft engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, described her role managing United States rovers on Mars. Although

Ms. Cox's job holds many oddities, Ms. Heil was most intrigued by her work schedule, which differed quite drastically from a traditional 9 to 5 job. She soon learned that a day, or "Sol" in Mars terminology, was in fact 24 hours and 40 minutes. Thus, the "Mars Week" event was born.

The school's principal, Amy Lipson, gave some insight behind the week. "The teachers have planned an exciting week of activities that will help students simulate what NASA scientists who work on Mars projects experience." The middle-school team worked in unison with Ms. Heil to create a thematic program for the week that streamed across all four of the content areas. Whether it is science, math, social studies or English class, the students got a glimpse into the Martian lifestyle.

Students kicked-off the event on May 7, when Nagin Cox herself joined the school community on a video conference call. P.S. 175's seventh- and eighth-graders were able to share their Mars Week experiences, witness Cox's passion firsthand and ask questions like:

"Where do the Mars rovers go at night?" by Heaven Decuffa.

"Is there anything on Mars that is similar to Earth?" by Gebriel Roberson.

"What made you want to become a NASA/JPL engineer; was there someone that influenced you in wanting this career?" by Jamie Bernardo.

Ms. Heil believes the outcome, though unconventional, could be out of this world (pun intended). "It is great to spark some excitement among the middle-school population and my content area of science! I want kids not only to be excited and inspired, but also to be reminded that they are part of something much bigger than themselves." Ms. Lipson was overjoyed to support the project. "We are so lucky to have teachers who know the importance of mak-

ing learning fun and exciting for students. This was an amazing week at P.S. 175!"

In math class, students designed a marshmallow space lander, and in science class, they designed balloon rockets to hit a target. In social studies, students debated colonization on Mars and what type of government would work out best. In English language arts, students wrote poems on the concept of "home." In computer class, they pondered about how habitable Mars actually is and what they could do to make it more so.

In addition, eighth-grade students led Mars talks in "The Rover Lounge," complete with a scale model of the Curiosity Rover built by students out of cardboard and recyclables. Younger classes were invited into the lounge and heard from their fellow P.S. 175 eighth-graders what Mars is like. They were even able to view some Martian Simulant Soil provided by The Martian Garden (www.themartiangarden.com).

Karen Heil feels this unique opportunity could leave a lasting impression on the students of P.S. 175. "Who knows? This event could ignite the flame for future scientists or engineers. The possibilities are endless," she told *The Current*. "We can't thank Ms. Cox enough for giving us her time and answering over 30 questions posed by our students. She was thrilled to be a part of our week and has already indicated she would be willing to join us next year, in person, to kick off our Mars Week.

Ms. Heil also provided the link to the TED talk that inspired them to change their weekly schedule to reflect Mars time by adding 40 minutes to each of their earth days. "This TED talk really got the kids thinking about how interesting it would be to be on 'Martian Time'" (www.ted.com/talks/nagin_cox_what_time_is_it_on_mars).



Photo by KAREN NANI

City Island Civic Association board member Fred Ramftl was among the honorees at the 45th Precinct's Community Council annual breakfast on May 9, 2018. He was introduced by John Doyle (above, right) and, along with this mother, Joan, was congratulated by 45th Precinct Commanding Officer, Carlos Ghonz.

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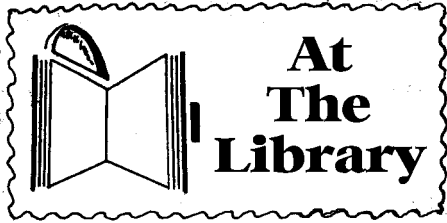
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Photo by DONNA LAUE

Joe Pena, vice commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 05-04 (above, center), visited the Kayak Club in April 2018 to inspect the club's kayaks, all of which passed with flying colors.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703

Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Kick Off, Babies in Rhythm: In our newest movement workshop for little ones, we explore the fundamentals of rhythm and movement, using the lens of African dance. Listening to the beat of a live drummer, babies have fun exploring their range of movement and feeling how the rhythm moves them to their core! Best for ages 1 through 4 with parent/caregiver. Monday, June 18, at 11 a.m.

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

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. 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 through 5. Friday, June 15, at 11:30 a.m.

JUNE TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Musical Manga: Emo, Goth, Rocker and Hip-Hop music flavor so many of your favorite animated shows. Learn how popular music and soundtracks fit content,

style and themes of your favorite anime. Listen and learn the stylistic differences between classic Shonen, Shoujo and Chibi (kid's comics). Be inspired to create your own manga characters according to your favorite music. All drawing supplies are provided free of charge, as well as a music player and direct tracks from Japan. Monday, June 18, at 3 p.m.

End of School Party! School's out for summer! Come by the library after school for snack, games, activities, and to celebrate the end of the school year! Monday, June 25, at 3 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. 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! June 1, Wii and Board Games; June 8, Paint It! Part 1; June 15, Wii and Board Games; June 22, Paint It! Part 2; June 29, Wii and Board Games

JUNE ADULT PROGRAMS

City Island Garden Grand Opening: Please join us on Friday, June 22, as we celebrate the grand opening of our newly renovated garden area, featuring special programs to commemorate this occasion. Light refreshments will be served after the ribbon cutting. All ages. Toddler program: 11 a.m. | Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony: 12 noon | Closing Ceremony: 1:15 p.m.

Mobile Adoption Van: Saturday, June 30, 12 noon.

The Guide to Your Ride: Planning a night on the town? Don't get stranded. If you have a smart phone, you have a ride. If you haven't felt confident enough to try Uber or Lyft, allow us to be your guide. This presentation will give you all the information that you need to digitally hail yourself a ride with either of these apps in no time. Thursday, June 7, at 1 p.m.

Coloring and Relaxation: Couldn't we all use a little relaxation from time to time? Here at the City Island Library, you can sit peacefully and unlock your inner

artist, even if you never knew you had one! Coloring pages and all of the necessary tools will be readily available during this time slot. Take a break from errands and express yourself through this scientifically proven stress reliever. No registration required. Adults only. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 1 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. Note: Limited to 16 participants, registration required. Thursday, June 14 and 28, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, June 11, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing pro-


fessionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday afternoon 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. June 2: "Coco"; June 9: "Marshall"; June 16: "Happythankyoumoreplease"; June 23: "Only the Brave"; June 30: "Eugene Debs" documentary.

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

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Church School meets the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 AM

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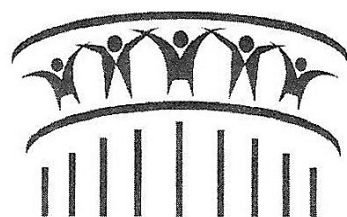
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Photo by RON TERNER

The Viacomunity Day Team (seated, l. to r.): Elinor King, Janie Blanks, Lois Wagh, Laurie Vega and Maria Caruso; (standing): Cheryl Brinker, Gary Axelbank, Barbara Dolensek, John Doyle and Dan Treiber. Missing from the photo: Mary Colby, Eddie Ciarletta, Nancy Kheck and Ron Terner.

Viacommunity Day

Continued from page 1

the talent of local residents to implement ongoing improvements and ideas for boosting economic development. Members of the team serve on the executive boards of the City Island Civic Association, Chamber of Commerce, Community Board 10 and the Education Council (for District 11), local museums and cultural institutions, and several own businesses on the Island. There is a unique alchemy in the group, a balance that fosters cooperation without any overriding interests. Something crucial happened after this event: the work continues. (Notice, for example, the transformation of Laura's empty shop with a gleaming coat of black paint that frames the images.) This was not a singular event. Everyone had fun, and now it is a movement.

So what's next? The artist Dister will return to P.S. 175 to complete the mural

with student involvement, and new projects, such as the development of City Island Historic and Walking Tour phone apps to be launched from a Museum portal, have been earmarked for Viacomunity Day 2019.

The leadership team plans to secure a location for a City Island community garden, where seniors from Pilot Cove, adults and children from St. Mary's Pre-K and P.S. 175 can convene to cultivate small plots and grow anything from flowers to organic produce. Living History and Storyteller projects will collect interviews with prominent citizens and elderly clam diggers encouraging them to share their memories of growing up on the Island. The team also plans a fine art competition, and a full-scale All Islanders Yard Sale, as well as collaboration with NYC not-for-profit organizations to support a floating barge where trained storytellers will recount how important events and people on City Island shaped local history from the Revolutionary War through the maritime heyday of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Social and community engagement have brought together multigenerational activists with ambitious ideas for how to make 10464 an extraordinary destination. Even more important is that this team has the wherewithal and determination to accomplish complex and challenging goals. The leadership team behind the Nautical Mile Isle Project invites the entire City Island community to contribute and participate in these endeavors and welcomes ideas for future projects.

A Current Review

"Suite Surrender" Delights Island Audiences

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group presented the hilarious comedy "Suite Surrender" by Michael McKeever, during May 2018. The talented cast included (seated, l. to r.): Carol Dooner, Jean Eifert and Camille Kaiser; (standing): Susan Rauh, Thomas Losito, P. J. Glazer, Brandon Santoro, Greg Weiss and Eileen Sugameli.

The City Island Theater Group chose a different artistic direction with its second offering of 2018. Although the group has truly excelled with its dramatic productions, the underlying themes of those shows—loss, revenge, family dysfunction—left me more than ready for a laugh. Fortunately for me (and the rest of the humor-starved population of City Island), the group more than delivered with its latest production, "Suite Surrender," a comedy by Michael McKeever.

This is a rollicking farce written in the style of a 1930s Preston Sturgis comedy. The dialogue is clever and rapid fire, with a drumbeat of ever-increasing comic tension and a series of events that drive the story to a happy resolution the viewer could never have seen coming. Indeed, the CITG production of "Suite Surrender" was a demonstration of just how a farce should be presented. The show was filled with slamming doors, mistaken identities, Marines setting lobbies on fire and disappearing white roses that just kept reappearing.

The play is set during a 1942 USO benefit in Palm Beach that is being held in the town's finest hotel, the Palm Beach Royale. Two of Hollywood's greatest singing stars (and biggest divas) are scheduled to perform at the benefit. The ladies have a legendary ongoing feud, which becomes the center of the show when both are mistakenly booked into the hotel's only presidential suite. The play is set entirely in this hotel room and follows a fight to the finish for control of the space.

Interestingly, there seemed to be no minor roles in "Suite Surrender," and each performer makes a significant contribution to the story. We should start, of course, with the stars of the benefit, but because so much of the story is a competition between the two, I hesitate to mention one or the other first. So, in alphabetical order, let's meet Jean Eifert as Claudia McFadden and Camille Kaiser as Athena Sinclair, both of them perfect divas. They spent the evening being centers of attention, demanding the spotlight and competing for anything it was possible to compete for, just as divas should. Yet in the final act, with no one else around, each displayed a character completely different than we had seen until then, and each did it flawlessly.

P. J. Glazer as Bernard Dunlap, the Palm Beach Royale Hotel's manager, spent the evening screaming at his staff and melting under the ire of his two celebrity guests. P. J. made an artful and effortless transition from arrogance to submission and back to arrogance again, channeling a bit of the Jonathan Quayle Higgins III character from the old "Magnum PI" show along the way.

Greg Weiss as Francis and Brandon Santoro as Otis, the bellhops who opened the show, were also major players in the story line and the focus of much of manager Dunlap's wrath. Their contradictory personalities (Francis tended toward the practical while Otis was over the top) drove much of the hilarity in the show.

Carol Dooner played society matron Mrs. Everett P. Osgood, who was head of the

Palm Beach USO that organized the 1942 benefit. Although clearly pretentious, Mrs. Osgood was somehow untroubled by the possible destruction of the hotel if it would help the morale of the troops. Mrs. Osgood brought Margaret Dumont's many Marx Brother movie roles to mind. There's an art to playing comedy straight, and Carol Dooner knows it well.

What society benefit would be complete without a nosy reporter to gum up the works? After a lengthy absence, Susan Rauh returned to the Grace Church stage (in her 31st show, if I counted correctly) as Dora Del Rio, a gossip columnist who knows she's onto something and isn't about to let a series of physical assaults or a hotel pool stand between her and a juicy story. In this production, Susan demonstrated that she retains her masterful comic timing and that she can still take a punch.

Last but certainly not least, Eileen Sugameli as Murphy Stevens (Athena Sinclair's personal assistant) and Thomas Losito as Mr. Pippet (Claudia McFadden's personal assistant) demonstrated astonishing levels of angst playing two people doing the same thankless job for different demanding bosses. Happily, Murphy winds up with a husband, and Mr. Pippet seems to find his real self. Last seen in the drama "A View from the Bridge," Eileen showed her great versatility in this role, and Thomas, a longtime CITG actor known for his small serious roles in "Sweeney Todd" and "The Diary of Anne Frank," was positively hilarious as the unstable Mr. Pippet.

Although written in a 1930s style, "Suite Surrender" actually premiered at the Caldwell Theatre Company in Boca Raton, FL, in January 2008. The show received the Palm Beach ArtsPaper Best of 2008 award and has since been produced by theater companies across the United States. The comedy has also been produced in Germany (as "Der süßeste Wahnsinn"), Switzerland (as "Numme Kai Stress") and even in my hometown of Pittsburgh (the title used there isn't mentioned, but likely referenced the Steelers).

Amanda Livingston-Martin directed the play with a deft touch, keeping the production's fast pace without losing the audience. She also came up with the concept for the set and collected many of the props. Costumes for "Suite Surrender" reflected the period of the show perfectly, thanks to the talents of Carol McCabe, Cheryl Brinker and a group of dedicated seamstresses. The set, a convincing replica of the Palm Beach Hotel's presidential suite, was built by Dan Srdoc, and Denis Zepeda was responsible for the sound design. Pam Johnson served as stage manager, and production manager was Nick Sala, president of the theater group.

I am happy to report that the next production of the City Island Theater Group will be another comedy, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," written by Christopher Durang and scheduled for November this year, though "Suite Surrender" will be a hard act to follow.

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City Island's Hailing Port Service

By BILL STUTTIG



Photo by BILL STUTTIG

Jane La Scala in her office on Schofield Street

One of City Island's longest operating and most successful businesses is also one of its most obscure. Since August 1977, Jane La Scala has been operating Hailing Port Service, Inc., out of a basement office in her home on Schofield Street. From there she works on the myriad details involved in documenting vessels from throughout the tri-state region with the U.S. Coast Guard and with the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

"When you federally document a boat with the Coast Guard, you have to name the boat and give it a hailing port," Jane told *The Current* in explaining the origin of the name of her business. "There are only five or six of us throughout the region who do this kind of work. There are about 200 of us throughout the country."

What Jane does is to prepare the paperwork that a boat owner needs to federally

document a boat with the Coast Guard, a requirement for all federally flagged vessels and for any purchase of a boat through a bank loan or mortgage.

As Jane explains it, the business was born out of both necessity and convenience. In the summer of 1977, Jane and her husband, Peter La Scala, who at the time was the owner and operator of Bridge Boat Sales of City Island, had just had their first child. Through the early years of their marriage, Peter ran the boat sales business, while Jane worked downtown for the phone company. But after the birth of their first daughter, she decided to stay home, but she realized that a second income was still needed, especially with an additional family member.

At that time, as Peter was aware, banks were required to provide documentation in order to obtain a mortgage to purchase a boat. As Jane explains it, "At the time nobody was really doing that kind of work,

so Peter suggested that I learn how to do this and work from the house, where I could take care of the baby. So in the summer of 1977 she founded Hailing Port Service, and started changing diapers and typewriter ribbons at the same time! Soon thereafter the family welcomed a second daughter.

"Over the years," Jane recalls, "it worked out well and it was fun. It helped my kids learn the alphabet, how to file and how to work a typewriter. Even today, my grandchildren come by, and when they see the typewriter that we still use for some forms, they ask 'What is this?'"

"In the old days, it was horrendous," she remembers. "There were no computers, of course, so when we filed paperwork from the Coast Guard, we had to make three or four copies. We needed a lot of carbon paper and good typing skills to be sure we didn't make mistakes. If you made a mistake, they would reject the paperwork."

With computers and the Internet, the job has become easier to manage, but it still demands a lot of time, sometimes 14 hours a day during the busy season from March through early July. To help meet those demands, Jane has provided employment for many City islanders who, like herself, needed work but wanted to stay close to home. They helped Jane with the paperwork demands and the many nagging details that are involved in satisfying both the Coast Guard and the regulating state agencies. Over the last few years, her assistant has been long-time City Islander Angela Dallara.

"The young people today might say this is too much work for too little money," Jane notes, but nevertheless she says she still enjoys it. "It has been lots of fun. I absolutely enjoy my work. As far as the boat owners go, we take care of the paperwork and get them their certificates, and they are happy."

The business constantly self-generates, because boat owners are required to recertify every year if they want their boat to continue to be a federally registered flag vessel. "We have had some clients for a good 20 or 30 years," Jane reports. "Marketing is by word of mouth among lenders and dealers. Although a lot of the lenders have recently taken on this work in-house, we have been around for so long and have so much experience and exposure that we still manage to work with some of the major lenders."

Jane La Scala has not only been successful and maintaining and growing her

own business but she has also helped many others in the field to do the same. More than two decades ago, she was one of the founding members of the American Vessel Documentation Association, a national association of documentation agents and related marine industries. The association, for which Jane has twice served as president and board director, has a membership of approximately 50 vessel documenters, who correspond regularly and meet periodically with each other and the Coast Guard to go over changing requirements and regulations. "There is always something new to learn," she says.

"The business has changed dramatically over the years because of the Internet," with some forms now being filled out and filed on line. "Also, federal regulations have become less strict in many ways, which makes it a little more risky. You still have to make sure all your t's are crossed. Certain standards have to be kept."

Only about 10 percent of Jane's customers are on City Island, with most of them coming from Westchester, lower Connecticut and New Jersey, but she still maintains a good relationship with all the City Island marinas and boatyards, she said.

Jane came to City Island half a century ago as a newlywed from her childhood community of nearby Morris Park. "I love City Island," she says. "I loved raising our kids here. The community is so diverse. That is what I like most about it. It offers everything."

But as much as City Island has given to her, Jane La Scala has given more than her share back. She and her husband are active members of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where Jane has served as a lector, a eucharistic minister, a singer and a fundraiser for the church's choir. About two decades ago, she helped create the church's involvement in the POTS (Part of the Solution) program for which home-cooked meals are provided every month by numerous City Islanders to needy people at a shelter in the west Bronx.

Peter La Scala was president for many years of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, for which Jane also volunteered, including serving as its secretary and on its annual awards committee, as well as assisting in such annual activities as the Easter egg hunt and the annual holiday tree lighting.

As Jane told *The Current*, "I love it here, and I am very grateful the business has gone so well."

NYPD Selects Firing Range Designer

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In January 2017, Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) announced that he had put \$275 million in the city's capital budget for the renovation of the police firing range at Rodman's Neck to modernize and enhance the training accommodations for the city's 35,000 police officers.

Although City Island and other communities on Eastchester Bay are especially eager to see the noise from the range abated by baffling, a great deal of work needs to be done before permits can be applied for and bids sent out to contractors.

The NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) recently announced that the first step in the process has been taken with the selection of the design firm Smith-Miller & Hawkinson, which will

develop plans for the reconstruction of the training facility. This followed a Public Request for Proposal process to which nine firms responded.

The design firm has worked on many different projects, including the New York Aquarium at Coney Island, the Wall Street Ferry Terminal and the Corning Museum of Glass, and has won many awards and commendations.

John Doyle, a board member of the 45th Precinct Community Council, told *The Current* that communication between the council, civic groups and police, especially Philip Heller, NYPD Chief of Capital Projects, has been excellent. "The selection of the design firm is an affirmation that things are moving forward, a small step but one that restores the community's faith in the process."

Once the design is complete and the contractors selected, work will begin first on infrastructure, including the electrical system and sanitation, and then the ranges themselves will be reconstructed with baffling on side walls and overhead. The timing for this process has not yet been announced, but Bob Bieder, president of the Community Council, will set up a meeting soon with the DDC to see what lies ahead with the process of reconstruction and sound baffling.



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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

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 2 and 3, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

Sun., June 24, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

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

Thurs., June 28, **Annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza**, Orchard Beach, 7 to 10 p.m., fireworks at 9 p.m.

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

City Island Republicans

We will be circulating petitions during the month of June. Please sign as they not only get the ticket onto the ballot, but we need a minimum number of signatures in order to keep an active party in the Bronx. This year all state offices are on the ballot and two federal seats, in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Garden Club of City Island

Thank you to all who have donated to the Garden Club's annual Beautification Fund Drive. These funds are used exclusively for beautification and clean-up on City Island, as well as special projects, so please consider donating if you haven't already. The address for the Garden Club of City Island is P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

We hope that all who attended our "Spring Bouquet" annual luncheon on May 17 enjoyed the tasty selections prepared by City Island Yacht Club's new steward. He and our Luncheon Committee, along with the raffles, which included gift baskets and gift certificates, made it a very special event.

As a thank-you to the yacht club for allowing us to use the clubhouse for our meetings, we added lovely hydrangeas to the front garden area, which the Garden Club refurbished last summer with perennials and shrubs. The plants were paid for with member dues, and the planting was done by Garden Club members and volunteers from the yacht club.

The Garden Club's June 4 meeting will include a presentation by Richard Rosiello of Meadowbrook Gardens, a landscape designer and teacher at the New York Botanical Garden. He will speak about his design work on the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens in Connecticut.

Program Committee co-chair Jane Protzman has arranged for a group of our club members to tour the town of North Hempstead's Clark Botanical Garden with a horticulturist on June 14. This is a 12-acre museum and educational facility established in 1969 and dedicated to understanding and appreciating the world's plant life through education and research. Collections at the garden include native wildflowers, wetland plants, medicinal plants, rock garden plants and many others. After the tour, we will have some time to visit the garden's shop before going to lunch in a private room at nearby Harbor Links golf course.

You are invited to join us at one of our Garden Club meetings (except August), held on the first Monday of each month at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. Next month's meeting will be a lunch meeting for members on Friday, July 6, at 11:30 a.m., for the installation of officers. There will be a charge for the lunch.

Sharynne Wilder

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: Sundays 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.

The 2018 Spring Arts and Crafts Fair takes place on June 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Grace Church is pleased to announce that on June 2, we will again host a booth filled with cookies, cakes, breads, brownies, pies and more baked goods by our parishioners and friends of Grace. Please stop by and satisfy your sweet tooth, and while you're there, find out about the history of our church and the activities we have planned for the rest of 2018.

A memorial service will be held for Islander Susan Kraemer on Saturday, June 23, at 11 a.m.

Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 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 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. Our final Sunday School sessions before the summer break will be June 3 and 17. On Father's Day, June 17, the Sunday School will host a Children's Service and lead all aspects of the liturgy. It's not too late to be part of this special service, so join us on June 3 for rehearsal and Father's Day crafts.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is into its third 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. We will spend the summer working on new songs and polishing up our repertoire. 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

Rotary Club of the Bronx

Although it was no surprise to any of us who cared for Bea Castiglia-Catullo and followed her decline, we were none the less saddened to learn of her passing on May 12, 2018. The story of the life of Beatrice Castiglia-Catullo is the material of great literature. The never-ending efforts of this great humanitarian and the unembellished facts of her life are amazing and inspiring. The history of R.A.I.N. (Regional Aid for Interim Needs, Inc.) mirrors Bea's own journey of faith, love and commitment.

Bea was a charge nurse at Westchester Square Hospital. Juggling hospital duties, homemaker responsibilities and the joys of raising three children in a three-room apartment became an almost overwhelming task when it was combined with the care of her mother-in-law, who was terminally ill with cancer. Bea promised God she would devote a lifetime of work to others if only



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Glory Road, the contemporary Christian singing group from the St. James United Methodist Church in Kingston, NY, joined the "Raise the Roof" fundraiser at Trinity United Methodist Church on April 21, 2018. All who attended were thrilled by the great music, fellowship and food. Trinity expressed deep gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the new roof for Fellowship Hall.

she could survive the stresses in her own life.

Then Bea organized and became the first president of the Parkchester Chapter of Cancer Care, Inc. She also founded and organized the Medical Mission Aid Center at St. Raymond's parish.

In 1964, while still a charge nurse, Bea founded a home attendant service for the elderly who were being discharged from hospitals without proper home care. She used her own funds to assist the first patient, and in so doing, earned the admiration of Monroe Lovinger, her patient at the time, who made the first donation of \$500. When asked for the name of her new organization, Bea looked out the window, saw that it was raining and chose to call the agency R.A.I.N.

Continuing her work in the hospital, Bea rented a Westchester Avenue storefront and set up R.A.I.N. with a single chair, table and telephone. Soon she accumulated so many donations of clothing, furniture and knickknacks that she opened a thrift shop, which helped to defray operating expenses.

R.A.I.N. was incorporated in 1965. After functioning as a voluntary organization surviving on small community contributions for almost a decade, R.A.I.N. was awarded its first government contract by the New York City Department for the Aging in 1975 to provide home care services in Community Boards 9 and 10. That was just the beginning.

Under Bea's guidance and her simple philosophy that "we must rely upon the resources available in our community to provide a consistently high level of care for older community residents," R.A.I.N. continued to develop comprehensive community services for homebound and elderly persons. As new needs within the community were identified, R.A.I.N. continued to expand its services and develop new programs throughout the Bronx and upper Manhattan. By working closely together with the leaders and residents of the neighborhoods in each service area and with government and private funders, R.A.I.N. was able to offer a comprehensive continuum of services to help seniors live safely and independently in their homes. Today, R.A.I.N. stands as a living example of what is possible when a community joins together to address issues and provide supports to its fellow residents.

Bea's incredible administrative talents have developed R.A.I.N. into a multifaceted organization that provides a shower of services. Today it is the largest nonprofit social services agency in the Bronx, offering 11 full-service neighborhood senior centers, home-delivered meals, home health care, transportation services, assistance with benefits and entitlements, case management and elder abuse services, in

addition to the community-based Cucina Dolores, which provides mobile meals for homeless and hungry persons. Bea has always guided R.A.I.N. toward a focus on providing comprehensive services to enhance the quality of life for all seniors as an alternative to institutionalization.

In 2012, author Nan Clark wrote a book about the inspirational story of Beatrice Castiglia-Catullo entitled "The Promise."

At the age of 94, Bea conceived of a program to feed the hungry and homeless in the Bronx. She knew that other food programs, such as Meals on Wheels, could help seniors who had an address, but she worried about those who lived on the streets. Her initial seed money for the program came from friends who had won the lottery, the Rotary Club of the Bronx and R.A.I.N., since even a single food truck would need to have a big budget to maintain it.

Fast forward to Bea at an event when she was introduced to a top-level administrator of the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation (Dolores Hope had been born in the Bronx). Once he heard about Bea's vision, the administrator proposed the idea to the Hopes' children, who currently oversee the foundation. They were on board almost immediately and have been funding the program, which is now called Cucina Dolores, ever since.

Bea has been an inspiration to so many, proving that one can achieve incredible goals no matter what one's age. She had so much love and made everyone feel like they were a part of her family. We all know that we are now blessed with a new guardian angel in the form of Bea.

Marguerite Chadwick Juner

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Our final meeting for this spring will be on Wednesday, June 6. We will have a regular meeting and play bingo. Our end-of-season luncheon will take place on June 20 at the Lobster House restaurant near the bridge at 12 noon. The cost is \$45 per person; please pay for the luncheon at the June 6 meeting.

This summer we will have two gambling trips. On July 11 we will go to Mohegan Sun; the cost is \$30. On Aug. 15 we will go to the Sands; the cost is also \$30. Please sign up and pay Elaine Waltz for all activities at the June 6 meeting. For any trip information, call Elaine at 914-632-6707.

We will not meet during the summer. Our first meeting in September will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5. Have a wonderful summer.

Rosetta Woods



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

Mark June 16 on your calendar for our festive Latin Night at the Center. Join us to listen to and dance to Latin music and enjoy the taste of Latin cuisine. See details below. Remember to enroll soon for City Island Community Supported Agriculture, which provides weekly distribution of organic fruits and vegetable. Details below.

Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent the Center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure 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.

COMING UP

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: Monday, 5 to 6 p.m. Weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables begins June 4. To join or for information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

Latin Night: Saturday, June 16, 7 to 11 p.m. An evening to enjoy dancing the night away with Latin music and refreshments and more. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, call 646-954-7410 and leave a message.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

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

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

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesdays and Thursdays after school classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. All skill levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolexperience.com.

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.

Ballroom Dance: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Maurice Bonilla returns on a new day to teach us how to "Dance with the Stars." It's great fun and good exercise. For information, call 718-502-2825.

Belly Dance: Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Join Ezma and Amira for this unique fun-filled dance experience and enjoy the benefits of feeling fit and limber. Beginners and all levels welcome. For more information, call Amira at 917-251-1269.

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Saturdays, Teens/Adults, 4 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme 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.

Chess & Card Club: Tuesday at 7 p.m.: Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, June 11 and 25, 7 p.m. The theme this month is creative salads. 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 meeting dates, contact Michael Morrison at michamorrison@hotmail.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 and leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to C.I.C.C. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join our unofficial WW meetings while we build up membership to become official. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with JoAnn: 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 joanngny@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 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

Trinity United Methodist Church

First, a big thank you to our City Island neighbors! The roof on Fellowship Hall was ripped off during the first nor'easter of the winter of 2018. We held a fundraiser in April, "Raise the Roof," and so many of you donated. The City Island community was so supportive that we might be able to do the main church roof as well (also in need).

The Contemporary Christian Singing Group, "Glory Road," joined us on April 21 coming from the St. James United Methodist Church in Kingston, NY. Both Glory Road and all who attended were thrilled by how God used this day. Thank you to all. Our neighbors are the BEST! The Fellowship Hall roof is finished!

Sundays we worship at 10 a.m. (corner of Bay Street and City Island Avenue). Following worship, Pastor Jolly will lead us in "Seeking, growing, and sharing . . . more Love, Joy and Peace." We will look to God and place ourselves "Under the wings of Jesus." All are welcome, food will be shared. What would you give up to have more love, joy and peace? Come and see!

Coming this summer, we will have Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children and youth. Dates and times to follow. For more information, call 718-885-1218.

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 of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

The Sons of the American Legion will be holding its Bronx County convention at the Sam Young American Legion Post on Friday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. All Sons in good standing are asked to attend.

We had a successful Kentucky Derby Derby/Cinco de Mayo party on May 5. Squadron Commander Vic Anderson would like to thank all who attended. A special thanks to Tommy and Christine for all their hard work in preparing and serving the food. Thanks to chef Jimmy Livingston as well as Gene Valesio and Bob Mennona.

Congratulations again to Bill Clancy, who has completed his term as Detachment Commander of the State of New York for the Sons of the American Legion. When you see him, ask him about his travels around the state. He has many interesting stories to tell.

The clock is ticking on paying your 2018 dues (\$30). If you have not paid for 2018, your membership privileges are currently suspended with the Sons. Please pay ASAP. Remember the reason you joined in the first place.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Peter Booth

Temple Beth El

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

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with celebratory music by Your Band by the Sea.

June 1: Community-led
June 8: Clergy
June 15: Community-led
June 22: Clergy
June 29: Community-led

Please join us on Saturday, June 9 at 9:45 a.m. at the New York Botanical Gardens for our springtime Shabbat morning with learning, chant, and special guest Rabbi Ben Newman.

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 12 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. where we will be electing Trustees and voting on Clergy contacts, as well as envisioning the future of TBE. Note: only members can vote, so please pay your dues ASAP.

Tuesday, June 19 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult Education: Join Rabbi David for the second of five sessions on Jewish ethics according to Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers. The cost for all 5 sessions is \$72 for members and \$100 for non-members. Books and materials are included. If you need financial assistance, please let us know. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Looking ahead:

Saturday, July 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tisha B'Av is the lowest day of the Jewish spiritual year. However, it is also the gateway to the High Holy Day season, which comes early this year. Join Rabbi David to open the spirit to brokenness and the updraft to repair and renewal.

Friday, Aug. 3 from 7 p.m. Joyous & Gorgeous Shabbat by the Sea under the stars. Do not miss our spectacular sunset Shabbat at water's edge facing Manhattan. This annual mid-summer event crowns all

our Shabbats.

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 the 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: kycnyc@aol.com.

Chesed Committee: Do 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. Even if you are home bound you can make calls and coordinate care. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please email both: yourshulbythesea.com and Chesed Chair Shayna Caul at shaynacaul@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, memorial etc.) To sponsor one or to find out more information, please contact Violet Smith: violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

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

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Poppy days are commemorated on Memorial Day in countries around the world, and National Poppy Day was held this year on May 25 as a strong reminder of our nation's commitment to the cost of our freedom. Auxiliary members distributed many poppies and raised funds that will go directly to help veterans, members of the military and their families.

The Auxiliary had a successful Mother's Day Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 12. Thank you to SAL, volunteers, bakers, vendors, donors and visitors who stopped by and supported our cause. All proceeds support our veteran programs and military families.

U.S. Navy veteran Vincent T. Warner received a Quilt of Valor made by members of the Quilt of Valor Foundation and ALA Unit 156. On behalf of the foundation, the American Legion family and the City Island community, we thank you for your service.

We will hold an Auxiliary Memorial Service on Sunday, June 10, at 1 p.m. at the Leonard Hawkins Post, and a reception for family members and Auxiliary members. Many thanks to Nilda Nye, Carol Mennona, Regina Murphy and Laura Booth for organizing this event.

Our year-end dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Artie's Seafood Restaurant.

At this time we would like to thank all Auxiliary members for their volunteerism, dedication and membership. Thank you also to the City Island community, which continues to support our veterans and military families. We wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Joanne Valletta

PSS City Island Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue 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@

Continued on page 17



Third Annual Bingeworthy Television Shows

In **Wolf Hall** (2015; British mini-series, 1 season, 6 episodes), Oscar and Tony Award-winning actor Mark Rylance and Emmy Award-winner Damian Lewis star as Thomas Cromwell and King Henry VIII, and **The Crown's** Claire Foy plays Anne Boleyn in this adaptation of Hilary Mantel's novel. An historical drama for a modern audience, "Wolf Hall" chronicles Cromwell's meteoric rise in the Tudor court from blacksmith's son to Henry VIII's closest advisor, trapped between his desire to do what is right and his struggle to survive.

Prime Suspect (1993–2006; British series, 7 seasons, 17 episodes) is a British police procedural television drama series starring Dame Helen Mirren as Jane Tennison, one of the first female Detective Chief Inspectors in Greater London's Metropolitan Police Service. The series shows how she navigates through sexism and alcoholism as she works to attain the rank of Detective Superintendent. She survives partly thanks to the support of her boss, Detective Chief Superintendent Mike Kernan (John Benfield), and her loyal colleague, Detective Sergeant Richard Haskons (Richard Hawley), in a male-dominated profession that is determined to see her fail. Each season consists of two episodes with both devoted to a single case, except for season four with three separate episodes and cases. This very dark series looks at such issues as pedophilia, child abuse, political scandal and prostitution. The viewer gets to know Jane Tennison not only professionally, but also in her erratic relationships outside of the job.

The Borgias (2011–13; British series, 3 seasons; 19 episodes) is an historical drama about the infamous Renaissance-era Italian family. It stars Jeremy Irons as Pope Alexander VI with François Arnaud as Cesare, Holliday Grainger as Lucrezia and David Oakes as Juan, the Pope's three children. Colm Feore also stars as the pope's chief rival and enemy, Cardinal della Rovere. The series follows the rise of the Borgia family to the summit of the Roman Catholic Church and their struggles to maintain their grip on power. The relationships between the three grown children are explored. Cesare is the smarter and more competent of the two brothers; but their father favors Juan as a soldier, forcing Cesare to be part of the clergy. Their sister, Lucrezia, is forced to marry for political gain, but her heart belongs to her brother Cesare. This series is full of scandal, sex and politics.

Prisoners of War (2009–12; Israeli series, 2 seasons, 24 episodes) is set in 2008 and tells the story of three Israeli soldiers who were captured 17 years earlier on a secret mission with their unit in Lebanon. The series provides an intense look at the aftermath of captivity for Israeli soldiers Nimrod Klein (Yoram Todeano), Uri Zach (Ishai Golan) and Amiel Ben Horin (Assi Cohen). When they return home as heroes, they must work to overcome the trauma of torture and captivity, while trying to find their way back into the lives of their families, with each receiving a different sort of welcome. Israeli film and television director, screenwriter and producer Gideon Raff created both **Prisoners of War** as well as the subsequent American version, known as **Homeland** (currently in its seventh season, and renewed for an eighth).

Smash (2012–13; 2 seasons, 32 episodes) is a series that depicts what goes on behind the scenes in the creation of a new Broadway musical featuring a talented ensemble cast. Julia Houston (Debra Messing) and Tom Levitt (Christian Borle), a Broadway writing team, have come up with the idea of a new musical based on the life of Marilyn Monroe, titled "Bombshell."

Producer Eileen Rand (Anjelica Huston), decides to fund the production, insisting they use a brilliant but difficult director, Derek Wills (Jack Davenport). At varying times during the two seasons, the role of Marilyn is given to Ivy Lynn (Megan Hilty), who faces stiff competition from newcomer Karen Cartwright (Katharine McPhee). Because of monetary concerns, the role is attempted by the barely talented film star Rebecca Duvall (Uma Thurman). There is more drama behind the scenes than on the stage.

Falling Skies (2011–15; 5 seasons, 52 episodes) is a dystopic American science fiction series about the devastation of the earth by an alien invasion and the group of civilians and resistance fighters who struggle to survive. The story centers on widower Tom Mason (Noah Wyle), a former Boston history professor who becomes the commander of a regiment of citizen soldiers. However, his main concern is the welfare of his three sons, Hal (Drew Roy), Matt (Maxim Knight) and Ben (Connor Jessup), the last of whom was taken captive by the aliens. With the help of Captain Dan Weaver (Will Patton) and love interest Anne Glass (Moon Bloodgood), Mason helps wage a counterattack against the extraterrestrial invaders, whose purpose remains a mystery.

Dexter (2006–13; 8 seasons, 96 episodes) stars Michael C. Hall in the title role as Dexter Morgan, a blood-spatter analyst for the Miami Metro Police Department. He lives by a code taught to him by Miami policeman Harry Morgan (James Remar), who adopted him when he was hideously orphaned at the age of 3. This code makes it untenable for Dexter to tolerate the existence of murderers and perpetrators of other heinous crimes, so at night he leads a secret parallel life as a vigilante serial killer, hunting down criminals who have slipped through the cracks of the justice system. Dexter's only family is his stepsister Debra (Jennifer Carpenter), who is a cop in the same precinct. Dexter's co-workers include Lieutenant Maria LaGuerta (Lauren Velez), Detective Sergeant Angel Batista (David Zayas), and lab tech Vince Masuka (C. S. Lee). Each show is narrated by thoughts that are going through Dexter's mind and conversations he has with the now dead Harry. Guest stars include John Lithgow as the "Trinity Killer," Keith Carradine as an FBI agent and Julia Styles as a woman whose life he saves.

Scandal (2012–18; 7 seasons, 124 episodes) is the story of Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington), a former media consultant to the President of the United States Fitzgerald Grant III (Tony Goldwyn), who opens her own crisis-management firm. Olivia's staff includes Quinn Perkins (Katie Lowes) and hacker extraordinaire Huck (Guillermo Diaz), both of whom have complicated histories. Set in Washington, DC, the series also focuses on White House staff, including Chief of Staff Cyrus Beene (Jeff Perry), Attorney General David Rosen (Joshua Malina), NSA Director Jake Ballard (Scott Foley) and White House Press Secretary

Abby Whelan (Darby Stanchfield). Other significant characters are First Lady Mellie Grant (Bellamy Young) and the formidable Rowan "Eli" Pope (Joe Morton), Olivia's father and the former head of a spy agency called B613.

The Twilight Zone (1959–64; 5 seasons, 156 episodes) is an American science-fiction, fantasy, psychological-supernatural horror anthology series created by Rod Serling, who wrote 92 of the episodes, and who appears as the show's host and narrator, delivering monologues at the beginning and end of each self-contained drama. The different characters every week find themselves dealing with paranormal, futuristic, Kafkaesque or otherwise disturbing or unusual events, an experience described as entering the "Twilight Zone." Many famous actors appeared in the show at the beginning of their careers, including Robert Redford, Ron Howard, Carol Burnett and several original **Star Trek** actors Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner, George Takei and James Doohan. The episodes are a half hour long and shot in black and white. In 2013, the Writers Guild of America ranked it as the third best-written TV series ever, and TV Guide ranked it as the fifth greatest show of all time.

Of all the **Star Trek** series, my favorite has always been **The Next Generation** (1987–94; 7 seasons, 176 episodes). Featuring a bigger and better *USS Enterprise*, this series is set 78 years after the original series, in the 24th century. At the helm is Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart), who heads the crew of various humans and alien creatures. There is First Officer Commander William Riker (Jonathan Frakes), Lieutenant Commander Geordi LaForge (LeVar Burton), empathic Counselor Deanna Troi (Marina Sirtis), android Lieutenant Commander Data (Brent Spiner), Klingon Lieutenant Worf, and the ship's doctor, Beverly Crusher (Gates McFadden). Whoopi Goldberg joined the cast in the second season as the ship's bartender Guinan, an alien who is several hundred years old and noted for her folk wisdom.

Set in Queens, **All in the Family** (1971–79; 9 seasons, 208 episodes) was a groundbreaking comedy that portrayed the life

of a working-class bigot and his family. It stars Carroll O'Connor as Archie Bunker, an outspoken, narrow-minded man who is prejudiced against everyone who disagrees with him or whose lifestyle he can't understand. Archie's wife, Edith (Jean Stapleton), is sweet and understanding, though educated and somewhat naïve. Living with them are their grown feminist daughter, Gloria (Sally Struthers), and her college student husband Michael Stivic (Rob Reiner), whom Archie calls "Meathead" and whose values are shaped by the counterculture of the 1960s. The show was revolutionary in its depiction of issues previously considered unsuitable for a U.S. network television comedy, such as homosexuality, women's liberation, rape, racism, infidelity, religion, miscarriages, abortion, breast cancer, the Vietnam War, menopause and impotence. Through the exploration of these controversial issues, the series was the first sitcom to include dramatic moments and realistic, topical conflicts.

Created by Michael Crichton, **ER** (1994–2009; 15 seasons, 331 episodes) is a multiple Emmy Award-winning drama set in an urban teaching hospital in Chicago. It explores the critical issues faced by the dedicated physicians and staff of its overburdened emergency room. The original cast included Anthony Edwards as Dr. Mark Greene, George Clooney as Dr. Doug Ross, Sherry Stringfield as Dr. Susan Lewis, Noah Wyle as medical student John Carter and Eriq La Salle as Dr. Peter Benton. Nurse Carol Hathaway, played by Julianna Margulies, who attempts suicide in the original pilot script, was made into a regular cast member. Gloria Reuben and Laura Innes joined the series as Physician Assistant Jeanie Boulet and Dr. Kerry Weaver, respectively, in the second season. Previously the longest running medical drama, it recently was passed by **Grey's Anatomy**. **ER** won 23 Primetime Emmy Awards, including the 1996 Outstanding Drama Series award, and received 124 Emmy nominations, which makes it the most nominated drama program in television history.

And until next time, happy binging and happy viewing. . .

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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders who, pending successful completion of promotion requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: **Archbishop Stepinac:** Ryan Amos, Benjamin Nicoletti, Joseph Peloso, Mark Piri, Sazan Rexhepi; **Astor Collegiate Academy:** Hazir Novovic; **Beacon:** Kaia Alston, Samantha Kucerak; **Bronx High School for Visual Arts:** Jasria Perry; **Bronx High School of Science:** Johanna Doyle; **Bronx River:** Luluwah Algazaly; **Cardinal Spellman:** Michael Gierum, Aiden Hanley-Piri,

Christina Lachman; **Collegiate Institute for Math & Science:** Deni Gerdeci; **Fordham Prep:** Daniel Vo; **High School of American Studies:** Emma Kushnirsky; **High School of Fashion Industries:** Filomena Baker; **High School of Language & Innovation:** Muhanad Algazaly; **Lower Manhattan Arts Academy:** Deirdre Kirwin; **Mamaroneck:** Jaime Bernardo; **Maria Regina:** Kayla Fusco; **Montfort Academy:** Nicholas Labate; **Mott Hall Bronx:** Amari Jennings; **Preston:** Demitria Mantzaris, Skylar Powers, Adriana Rexhaj; **Salesian:** Joseph Burton, Devin Munafo, Travis Prohaska, Vincent Ramos, Kaden Roush, Jackson Wepler; **Schuylerville Prep:** Darius Bignall; **St. Catharine Academy:** Amanda Acocella, Ava Barretto, Olivia Chadwick, Samantha Hernandez, Evelyn Quinones, Adriana Testa; **Theatre Arts Production Company:** Armani Stephens; **Truman:** Angel Cotty, Erik Lopez, Jasmin Villar; **United Nations International:** Neva Simon; **Ursuline:** Jennifer Gjonaj.

SENATOR KLEIN APPLAUDS "THE GRUNCH" AT P. S. 175

By KAREN NANI



Photo by BARBARA BRANCACCIO

P.S. 175 fifth-grade students presented "The Grunch" on May 11 and were congratulated by Senator Jeff Klein (above, left).

New York State Senator Jeff Klein joined City Island School administrators, teachers, parents and students for the fifth-grade theater production of the "The Grunch," a new children's musical currently being performed in schools across the country. The young P.S. 175 performers invited Senator Klein to attend the show on May 11, 2018, to thank him for bringing Project BOOST (Building Options and Opportunities for Students) programming to

their school.

"I am so proud of the students of P.S. 175, and to fund Project BOOST in schools throughout the 34th District," said Senator Klein. "Project BOOST provides the young people in our community with life-changing experiences and opportunities, while improving their academic performance, building their self-esteem, and inspiring new interests and talents."

During 2017 to 2018, Senator Klein allocated \$865,000 in Project BOOST funding for 41 Bronx schools, and over \$3 million total since he brought the program to the 34th District in 2012. Project BOOST is administered by the Center for Educational Innovation-Public Education Association (CEI-PEA), and provides academic enrichment opportunities to elementary and middle school students.

"Senator Klein has been a wonderful partner for our school," said P.S. 175 Principal Amy Lipson. "We have been awarded a BOOST grant for the past several years and have used it to expose our students to wonderful things, including Broadway shows, the sixth-grade Greenkill trip, Yankee games, Chelsea Piers and college visits for middle school students."

This year, "The Grunch" cast participated in a Project BOOST theater trip to see Disney's "Aladdin" on Broadway, and were excited to share their newly cultivated musical theater appreciation with Senator Klein, their parents and the whole P.S. 175 community.

In addition to theater visits, P.S. 175's Project BOOST programming includes trips to New York City cultural and historical attractions. This year, seventh and eighth grade students visited Sarah Lawrence College as a part of the college preparatory program, and the entire sixth grade participated in the annual three-day camping trip to Camp Greenkill in Huguenot, NY, where they studied environmental science, wildlife exploration, geology and ecology, as well as the history of the Lenape Native Americans and how settlers in the area lived in the 19th century.

"It is amazing to see how excited students are when they come back to school after BOOST trips," said P.S. 175 Parent Coordinator Tina Gisante. "The sixth-graders were excited and exhausted after Greenkill, and learned so much about the environment and how to get along with each other. This was a trip they will remember forever!"

"I loved Greenkill," sixth-grader Abigail Hayes told *The Current*. "The best part was the hiking and the sports activities. We had a birds of prey exhibition, which was amazing and scary at the same time. I wish I could go back again!"

Senator Klein is glad to hear the enthusiasm. "In the State Senate, I champion academic and cultural enrichment programming for our schools because when youth are positively guided and exposed to culture beyond the classroom, they are set on a path to a brighter future."

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ON THE WEEKENDS

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288
CITY ISLAND AVENUE

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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PADDY'S ON THE ISLAND

Island Current							June 2018							Tide Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY L 5:21A H 11:18A	MAY L 6:06A H 12:02P	MAY H 12:14A L 6:49A	MAY H 12:51A L 7:28A	MAY H 1:23A L 8:03A	MAY H 1:44A L 8:30A	H 2:05A L 8:40A	MAY L 5:34P H 11:33P	H 3:17A L 9:42A	H 4:02A L 10:26A	H 4:52A L 11:15A	H 5:46A L 12:06P	L 12:42A H 6:44A	L 1:45A H 7:43A	MAY L 5:21A H 11:18A	MAY L 6:06A H 12:02P	MAY H 12:14A L 6:49A	MAY H 12:51A L 7:28A	MAY H 1:23A L 8:03A	MAY H 1:44A L 8:30A	H 2:05A L 8:40A
27 H 11:33P	28 H 11:33P	29 L 6:53P	30 L 7:25P	31 L 7:40P	1 L 7:56P	2 L 8:30P	3 H 11:33P	4 L 9:58P	5 H 4:41P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	27 H 11:33P	28 H 11:33P	29 L 6:53P	30 L 7:25P	31 L 7:40P	1 L 7:56P	2 L 8:30P
3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P
10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P	10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P	10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P
17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P	17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P	17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P
24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P	24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P	24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P

Island Current							August 2018							Tide Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY L 5:21A H 11:18A	MAY L 6:06A H 12:02P	MAY H 12:14A L 6:49A	MAY H 12:51A L 7:28A	MAY H 1:23A L 8:03A	MAY H 1:44A L 8:30A	H 2:05A L 8:40A	MAY L 5:34P H 11:33P	H 3:17A L 9:42A	H 4:02A L 10:26A	H 4:52A L 11:15A	H 5:46A L 12:06P	L 12:42A H 6:44A	L 1:45A H 7:43A	MAY L 5:21A H 11:18A	MAY L 6:06A H 12:02P	MAY H 12:14A L 6:49A	MAY H 12:51A L 7:28A	MAY H 1:23A L 8:03A	MAY H 1:44A L 8:30A	H 2:05A L 8:40A
27 H 11:33P	28 H 11:33P	29 L 6:53P	30 L 7:25P	31 L 7:40P	1 L 7:56P	2 L 8:30P	3 H 11:33P	4 L 9:58P	5 H 4:41P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	27 H 11:33P	28 H 11:33P	29 L 6:53P	30 L 7:25P	31 L 7:40P	1 L 7:56P	2 L 8:30P
3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P	3 L 9:11P	4 L 9:58P	5 L 10:49P	6 L 11:43P	7 H 6:22P	8 H 7:16P	9 H 8:10P
10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P	10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P	10 H 9:02P	11 H 9:54P	12 H 10:46P	13 H 11:37P	14 L 8:36P	15 L 7:33P	16 L 8:36P
17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P	17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P	17 L 9:48P	18 L 11:02P	19 H 5:44P	20 H 6:50P	21 H 7:50P	22 H 8:46P	23 H 9:38P
24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P	24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P	24 H 10:27P	25 H 11:12P	26 H 11:54P	27 L 6:30P	28 L 7:01P	29 L 7:17P	30 L 7:32P

Island Current

September 2018

Island Current

September 2018

Island Current

September 2018

Island Current

L = Low Tide
H = High Tide

Yellow = optimal swimming time



Welcome Fall!

Yellow = optimal swimming time

L = Low Tide
H = High Tide

Yellow = optimal swimming time

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

JUNE 2018									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Fri	0144	7.71	0830	0.33	1427	7.09	1956	0.98	Fri 01
02 Sat	0205	7.58	0840	0.58	1448	7.02	2030	1.12	Sat 02
03 Sun	0238	7.46	0905	0.74	1517	7.01	2111	1.25	Sun 03
04 Mon	0317	7.33	0942	0.87	1556	7.03	2158	1.35	Mon 04
05 Tue	0402	7.20	1026	0.98	1641	7.08	2249	1.41	Tue 05
06 Wed	0452	7.07	1115	1.03	1730	7.18	2343	1.36	Wed 06
07 Thu	0546	6.98	1206	1.01	1822	7.34			Thu 07
08 Fri	0042	1.20	0644	6.96	1301	0.91	1916	7.57	Fri 08
09 Sat	0145	0.91	0743	7.03	1356	0.72	2010	7.87	Sat 09
10 Sun	0250	0.51	0842	7.17	1453	0.48	2102	8.19	Sun 10
11 Mon	0353	0.06	0939	7.36	1549	0.22	2154	8.50	Mon 11
12 Tue	0451	-0.37	1033	7.56	1644	-0.02	2246	8.75	Tue 12
13 Wed	0546	-0.71	1127	7.72	1739	-0.18	2337	8.88	Wed 13
14 Thu	0641	-0.92	1221	7.83	1835	-0.23			Thu 14
15 Fri	0030	8.87	0736	-0.97	1316	7.86	1933	-0.18	Fri 15
16 Sat	0125	8.71	0833	-0.88	1414	7.82	2036	-0.03	Sat 16
17 Sun	0223	8.40	0933	-0.67	1519	7.73	2148	0.15	Sun 17
18 Mon	0329	8.02	1036	-0.41	1632	7.66	2302	0.28	Mon 18
19 Tue	0451	7.65	1139	-0.16	1744	7.67			Tue 19
20 Wed	0012	0.31	0611	7.43	1242	0.03	1850	7.75	Wed 20
21 Thu	0119	0.22	0720	7.33	1343	0.15	1950	7.88	Thu 21
22 Fri	0220	0.06	0820	7.32	1440	0.20	2046	8.02	Fri 22
23 Sat	0317	-0.13	0916	7.35	1533	0.23	2138	8.13	Sat 23
24 Sun	0410	-0.28	1008	7.38	1623	0.26	2227	8.19	Sun 24
25 Mon	0459	-0.36	1056	7.40	1709	0.33	2312	8.19	Mon 25
26 Tue	0544	-0.34	1141	7.40	1752	0.45	2354	8.12	Tue 26
27 Wed	0627	-0.23	1223	7.37	1830	0.60			Wed 27
28 Thu	0032	8.00	0705	-0.05	1302	7.31	1901	0.77	Thu 28
29 Fri	0103	7.85	0738	0.18	1336	7.25	1917	0.90	Fri 29
30 Sat	0120	7.72	0801	0.39	1358	7.20	1932	0.95	Sat 30
JULY 2018									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0137	7.67	0808	0.51	1412	7.22	2004	0.96	Sun 01
02 Mon	0207	7.63	0833	0.55	1440	7.30	2043	0.98	Mon 02
03 Tue	0246	7.57	0909	0.58	1516	7.40	2128	1.00	Tue 03
04 Wed	0329	7.47	0951	0.62	1559	7.49	2215	1.01	Wed 04
05 Thu	0416	7.34	1037	0.67	1647	7.58	2307	1.00	Thu 05



Photo by MIKE MANIOTIS

The fast-moving severe storm on May 15, 2018, brought lightning and high winds to the New York area. The waters of Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound around City Island churned dark and stormy, and lightning struck at least one tree on City Island Avenue (photo above). Luckily, the Island was spared the widespread power outages that affected other parts of the tristate area.



Mourning Loons

Although we have always been a fan of the Animal Planet type of TV dating back to the early days of shows such as “Wild Kingdom” and Marty Stouffer’s “Wild America,” we have at the same time been ever careful to maintain a healthy skepticism where such programming is concerned. Narrators like Marty always seemed to be so sure about what his animals were doing and why. And, oh, how he liked to ascribe human characteristics to the subjects of his films. It made us care, want to see more and, most importantly, tune in again next time.

Over time, we have steadfastly held on to our skepticism. Some of the ridiculous lengths that the Walt Disnification of America has led to have made it easy on the one hand. The movie “Finding Nemo,” for example. Watching it, even after the first time, may give us a warm fuzzy, but we’re still having fish for dinner next Friday. On the other hand, though, it has not been so easy to stay skeptical. On the subject of animal mourning, for example, it has become next to impossible.

We have long been familiar with the stories of the grieving that elephants are said to do. Thanks to National Geographic, we have watched troops of them mourning their deceased matriarchs. We know about the whales, too, and the way they will stand—or should we say swim?—by their dead and/or dying young. And though it may not have been grief on display in the story of Hachiko, the Japanese dog who came back to the same train station day after day for 10 years after his master had passed, it had to have been something more than habit... it just had to.

And the evidence continues to mount. Most recently, there was the loon on the beach at Fordham Street. We noticed it resting there, curled up with its head around on its back. When we got a little closer, it opened an eye then lifted its head. But not its body. Not having ever observed a loon on dry land before, we concluded that it was sick and probably dying. So we left it. A couple of hours later, it was dead; no violence from neighborhood cats or other animals, just a peaceful death. Thinking maybe that the tide would take it away overnight, we left it on the beach. But we were wrong. The next morning it was still on the beach. So we disposed of the body after a quick 311 call for advice.

Now this is where it gets interesting. Two or three days later, early in the morning, not too long after sunrise, three loons were swimming back and forth just off shore—about 50 feet—from where the other had died. What we saw didn’t go on for more than maybe 20 minutes, but these birds were clearly swimming back and forth in a specific place, and doing so in a small, very unloon-like group. Our experience with common loons offshore here, and much farther offshore than these, is that they prefer to be alone. When we approached, one from the group stopped swimming and turned in our direction. It was only for a moment, but it was real. After that, the three of them continued with their back and forth. Then they turned and swam off together, straight out into the deep water.

Call us a couple of lunatics, maybe, but we think these birds were mourning the death of one of their own. What do you think?

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

IRS Dirty Dozen IRS Tax Scams for 2018, Part 2

Last month we looked at six of the “dirty dozen” list that the IRS compiles every year; here are the remaining six, which don’t just happen at tax time but at any time during the year.

Inflated Refund Claims

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for unscrupulous tax return preparers pushing inflated tax refund claims. Scam artists routinely pose as tax preparers during tax time, luring victims in by promising large federal tax refunds or refunds that people never dreamed they were due in the first place. They might, for example, promise inflated refunds based on fictitious Social Security benefits and false claims for education credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) or the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), among others. They may also file a false return in their client’s name, and the client never knows that a refund was paid.

Filing a phony information return, such as a Form 1099 or W-2, is an illegal way to lower the amount of taxes owed. The use of self-prepared, “corrected” or otherwise bogus forms that improperly report taxable income as zero is illegal. So is an attempt to submit a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by a third-party payer to the IRS. In some cases, individuals have made refund claims based on the bogus theory that the federal government maintains secret accounts for U.S. citizens and that taxpayers can gain access to the accounts by issuing 1099-OID forms to the IRS.

Because taxpayers are legally responsible for what is on their returns (even if it was prepared by someone else), those who buy into such schemes can end up being penalized for filing false claims or receiving fraudulent refunds.

Excessive Claims for Business Credits

Improper claims for business credits such as the fuel tax credit and the research credit are also on the IRS “Dirty Dozen” list this year. The fuel tax credit is generally limited to off-highway business use or use in farming. Consequently, the credit is not available to most taxpayers. Still, the IRS routinely finds unscrupulous tax preparers who have enticed sizable groups of taxpayers to erroneously claim the credit to inflate their refunds.

Fraud involving the fuel tax credit is considered a frivolous tax claim and can result in a penalty of \$5,000. Improper claims for the fuel tax credit generally come in two forms. An individual or business may make an erroneous claim on their otherwise legitimate tax return. It is also possible for an identity thief to claim the credit as part of a broader fraudulent scheme.

Improper claims for the research credit generally involve a failure to participate in or substantiate qualified research activities and/or a failure to satisfy the requirements related to qualified research expenses. In addition, qualified research expenses include only in-house wages and supply expenses and 65 percent (typically) of payments to contractors. Qualified research expenses do not include expenses without a proven nexus between the claimed expenses and the qualified research activity.

To qualify for the credit, a taxpayer’s research activities must, among other things, involve a process of experimentation using science with a goal of improving a product or process the taxpayer uses in its business or holds for sale or lease. Certain activities specifically excluded from the credit including research after commercial production, adaptation of an existing business product or process, foreign research and research

funded by the customer. Qualified activities also do not include activities where there is no uncertainty about the taxpayer’s method or capability to achieve a desired result.

Falsely Padding Deductions on Tax Returns

Most taxpayers file honest and accurate tax returns on time every year. However, each year some taxpayers fail to resist the temptation of fudging their information. That’s why falsely claiming deductions, expenses or credits on tax returns is on the “Dirty Dozen” tax scams list for the 2018 filing season. The IRS warns taxpayers that they should think twice before overstating deductions such as charitable contributions, padding their claimed business expenses or including credits that they are not entitled to receive.

Avoid the temptation of falsely inflating deductions or expenses on your return to underpay what you owe and possibly receive larger refunds. Taxpayers may be subject to criminal prosecution and be brought to trial for actions such as willful failure to file a return, supply information, or pay any tax due; fraud and false statements, preparing and filing a fraudulent return and identity theft.

Falsifying Income to Claim Credits

This scam involves inflating or including income on a tax return that was never earned, either as wages or as self-employment income, usually to maximize refundable credits. Falsely claiming an expense or deduction you did not pay, claiming income you did not earn could have serious repercussions. Con artists often argue that the proper way to redeem or draw on a fictitious “held-aside” account is to use some form of made-up financial instrument, such as a bonded promissory note, that purports to be a debt payment method for credit cards or mortgage debt. Scammers provide fraudulent Form(s) 1099-MISC that appear to be issued by a large bank, loan service and/or mortgage company with which the taxpayer may have had a prior relationship.

Well-intentioned individual taxpayers who don’t understand taxes, or unscrupulous return preparers who mislead people into taking credits or deductions they aren’t entitled to, do this to secure larger refundable credits (e.g., the Earned Income Tax Credit) to charge a higher fee; however, it can have serious repercussions. Taxpayers can face a large bill to repay the erroneous refunds, including interest and penalties. In some cases, they may even face criminal prosecution.

Remember: Taxpayers are legally responsible for what’s on their tax return whether it is prepared using tax software or a tax professional.

Frivolous Tax Arguments

Taxpayers are also warned against using frivolous tax arguments to avoid paying

their taxes. Examples include contentions that taxpayers can refuse to pay taxes on religious or moral grounds by invoking the First Amendment or that the only “employees” subject to federal income tax are employees of the federal government, and that only foreign-source income is taxable.

Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage taxpayers to make unreasonable and outlandish claims to avoid paying the taxes they owe. These arguments are wrong and have been thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law or disregard their responsibility to pay taxes. The penalty for filing a frivolous tax return is \$5,000.

Abusive Tax Shelters

Abusive tax shelters, particularly those involving micro-captive insurance shelters, are on the list again for 2018. Phony tax shelters and structures to avoid paying taxes continues to be a problem, and taxpayers should steer clear of these types of schemes, as they can end up costing taxpayers more in back taxes, penalties and interest than they saved in the first place.

Another tax shelter abuse involving a legitimate tax structure involves certain small or “micro” captive insurance companies. In the abusive structure, unscrupulous promoters, accountants, or wealth planners persuade the owners of closely held entities to participate in these schemes. The promoters assist the owners to create captive insurance companies onshore or offshore and cause the creation and sale of the captive “insurance” policies to the closely held entities. The promoters manage the entities’ captive insurance companies for substantial fees, assisting taxpayers unsophisticated in insurance, to continue the charade from year to year.

For example, coverages may insure implausible risks, fail to match genuine business needs or duplicate the taxpayer’s commercial coverages. Premium amounts may be unsupported by underwriting or actuarial analysis may be geared to a desired deduction amount or may be significantly higher than premiums for comparable commercial coverage. Policies may contain vague, ambiguous or deceptive terms and otherwise, fail to meet industry or regulatory standards. Claims’ administrative processes

may be insufficient or altogether absent. Insureds may fail to file claims that are seemingly covered by the captive insurance.

Micro-captives may invest in illiquid or speculative assets or loans or otherwise transfer capital to or for the benefit of the insured, the captive’s owners or other related persons or entities. Captives may also be formed to advance intergenerational wealth transfer objectives and avoid estate and gift taxes. Promoters, reinsurers and captive insurance managers may share common ownership interests that result in conflicts of interest.

The bottom line: Don’t use abusive tax structures to avoid paying taxes. The IRS is committed to stopping complex tax avoidance schemes and the people who create and sell them. The majority of taxpayers pay their fair share, and everyone should be on the lookout for people peddling tax shelters that sound too good to be true. When in doubt, seek an independent opinion if offered complex products.

Unreported Offshore Accounts

Through the years, offshore accounts have been used to lure taxpayers into scams and schemes. Numerous individuals have been identified as evading U.S. taxes by hiding income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts or nominee entities and then using debit cards, credit cards or wire transfers to access the funds. Others have employed foreign trusts, employee-leasing schemes, private annuities or insurance plans for the same purpose.

Although there are legitimate reasons for maintaining financial accounts abroad, there are reporting requirements that need to be fulfilled. U.S. taxpayers who maintain such accounts and who do not comply with reporting requirements are breaking the law and risk significant penalties and fines, as well as the possibility of criminal prosecution.

Since 2009, tens of thousands of individuals have come forward to voluntarily disclose their foreign financial accounts through the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP), taking advantage of special opportunities to comply with the U.S. tax system and resolve their tax obligations. The IRS recently announced that this voluntary program will end on Sept. 28, 2018.

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Organization News

Continued from page 11

pssusa.org.

Highlights

June 1, Friday: May and June Birthday Party with Musician Mark Doyle at 12 noon.

June 7, Thursday: Five-year Anniversary Celebration at Split Rock. Must have ticket to attend. Lunch will also be served at the center that day.

June 15, Friday: Father's Day Party with magician at 12 noon.

June 25, Monday: Sounds on the Sound Concert at 1:15. Lunch of baked ziti with meat sauce served at 12. Dessert Bar at 12:45.

June 28, Thursday: Essex Steam Train and Riverboat. Bus leaves center at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

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

1:15 p.m. "Sounds on the Sound" singing group with professional instructor;

June 25: Concert and Dessert Bar

Tuesdays:

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

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

1:45 p.m. Crafter's Corner

Wednesdays:

9:15 a.m. Self Defense with Sensei Eddie

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

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy

1 p.m. on June 13 and 27 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 p.m. Walking Club at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park or Mall

Fridays:

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

10:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch

Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

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 \$3.00 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.

We also offer caregivers' support and help with benefits eligibility. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Patty Attis

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, June 3, at 12 noon. We will conduct nominations and elections for Post officers. Dues (\$55 for 2018) are past due; please drop the 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 in the former mailbox, by the Post's flag pole.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of life member Billy McGee. He was 91.

Upcoming event: Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m. Please attend the Bronx County Convention at Samuel Young Post 620 at 1530 Hutchinson River Parkway East, Bronx.

Please continue to follow the Post 156 events at Leonardhewkinspost156.com.

Enjoy a safe and enjoyable summer and see you in September. Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our monthly Holy Hour will take place on Friday, June 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer. This will be our last scheduled Holy Hour before summer.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory on Sunday, June 10, following the 11 o'clock Mass. Come and enjoy light refreshments with your fellow parishioners. This will be the last coffee hour before the summer months.

On Fathers' Day, June 17, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all Masses.

The Thrift Shop will be open during the month of June and will close at the end of the month for the summer.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Rose Dietz

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

The Daisies and Girl Scout Troop 1115 participated in the Auxiliary's successful Mother's Day Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at the American Legion Post.

SUMMERTIME TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

By JOHN SCARDINA

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

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

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

- S - spend time together that's unstructured: "wasting time" sitting outside together may be just what you need...
- U - upbeat attitudes are contagious:

more time with your kids can mean more opportunities to share positive thoughts and feelings...

- M - making time for what we value remains important: read more, learn more about your home environs, do community service, make art...
- M - memories come from "stupid life stuff": simple activities (like making sidewalk art with chalk or having a water fight) can be the most fun...
- E - enter into the natural world every chance you can: we live on an island, we are surrounded by nature in all its glory - get out there!
- R - remember that life is a journey, not a race: sometimes slow is better than fast, so we can stop along the way and smell the roses...
- T - thank the universe every day for all of your gifts: an attitude of gratitude is contagious and will get you through hard times...
- I - invest in the future by making goals now: read five chapter books together; learn about birds; start a children's garden...
- M - meet new people and make better friends with those you know: it takes a community of caring individuals to create an extended family...
- E - enjoy your kids - they grow up fast, you know!

City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Osteospermum

For People Who Love Change - Annuals

Gardeners who love color and change delight in the addition of annuals to their borders. It is June, and there is still time to pot up seeds of hot weather loving plants. Sunflowers, morning glories, nasturtiums, cosmos, and zinnias all need high temperatures to germinate and flourish, so be quick; time is of the essence, for if seeded now they will give a tremendous display midsummer to autumn.

To start seeds I use three inch plastic pots filled with a seed starting mix. Add a little sand if the seed is fine. Keep them well watered until germination and in a position of full sun.

Poor soil for annuals is a myth. Annuals, like vegetables, want a rich soil. Miracle Grow soil is good, and periodic feedings henceforth. Seeds can also be sowed directly in the ground but be sure to thin them to three inches apart and mark their situation well. Leave gaps in a perennial border so newly purchased plants from a garden center can be popped in to add color. When they are finished blooming late in the season they can be replaced with asters or ornamental cabbage and after those have gone over, it would be time to plant some tulip bulbs in their place. I use tulips as annuals for space is precious in our smaller gardens.

There is not much for shade except impatiens and they look lovely with ferns and ivy. Use petunias for hanging baskets and geraniums with starry blue lobelia and white petunias for pots and window boxes.

In the border, I like combining vegetables with annuals. Orange marigolds or calendula with purple cabbage and curly parsley are charming. Red verbena with swiss chard, smashing Amaranth in fiery tones of crimson and biscuit compliment sunflowers.



Pink geranium with easy blue wave petunia

White cosmos tall or short look good with absolutely everything. The silvery, filigreed plants, pyrethrum and dusty miller blend well with others. They look great with white flowers, blue salvia, and soft yellow marigolds.

Nasturtiums are amongst the easiest and cheeriest plants plus the seeds are large and fun for children to handle. Try the climbing ones as they can be draped over shrubs or used to scramble up a trellis. Morning glories can do the same but soak the seeds over night for easy germination. Lastly, zinnias, which I cannot be without come in all sizes and shapes but the red ones are my favorite. They light up a garden and are great for picking and bringing indoors for a bouquet. They mingle well with the castor bean plant and white or green nicotiana.

It is fun trying something new each year in the garden as in life. Aside from Home Depot and Lowe's, Carson's Greenhouse in Greenburgh has a wonderful array of annuals for sale. Ask for Nancy and tell her Mary sent you.

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

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Obituaries

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



Susan Mary (Mazaika) Kraemer

Longtime Islander Susan Kraemer passed away April 10, 2018, surrounded by her family and close friends. She was 70.

Susan was born in 1947 to Olga and Theodore (Teddy) Mazaika, who fortuitously met in Dixon's Boatyard on City Island. Susan moved from Brooklyn to City Island on Terrace Street (next door to Dixon's), when she was six years old. She started first grade at P.S. 17, where she met her first City Island friend, Lynn Steiniger, who conveniently was seated right behind her.

It was also on City Island that she met her husband, Robert (Bob), when he and her cousin Paul knocked on her door, at 2 a.m. looking for a late night meal. Yes, "Mr. Right" did indeed just come knocking on her door! Within two hours of meeting her (Susan had been up painting furniture), Bob proclaimed his intentions to marry her. Susan and Robert were married in October 1973.

After several years of wedded bliss, they welcomed their first child, which unexpectedly turned out to be twins, born an hour after Christmas. The "baby" wasn't due until New Year's Day, so Susan made sure to put the goose in the oven before departing for the hospital. Tanya and Amanda were, Susan would say, "the best Christmas presents ever."

Susan received her BA and MFA from the School of Visual Arts and worked as a Children's and Fashion Illustrator for companies such as Lord and Taylor and Hallmark. Following the birth of Tanya and Amanda, Susan decided that being a mother was the most important position she'd ever hold. Looking to stay home with her children, she started her own business, Su-Su Balloons, and became known as Su-Su or simply "The Balloon Lady" by much of City Island.

City Island brought Susan many of her closest friends whom she regarded as family; she found them as neighbors, or when her children started attending P.S. 175, through her business, or fellow good Samaritans just looking to make our corner of the world a better place.

"Love grows well in Little Houses" reads a plaque that hangs in Susan Kraemer's home, and there are few things more true, for everyone who walked through the door of Susan's home was welcomed with an open heart and much love. It was Susan's family and friends who brought her the greatest happiness—talking with them, celebrating, or just being able to help them. She lived a life that was purposeful with the aspiration of bringing to others the joy and blessings she felt she had received.

Susan was predeceased by her mother and father, Olga and Theodore Mazaika. She is survived by her husband, Robert Kraemer, and her daughters, Tanya and Amanda Kraemer of City Island; her beloved golden retriever Jane Eyre, and numerous family and friends on City Island and throughout the world, including her "daughters" Molly Donovan of San Marcos La Laguna, Guatemala, Alice Donovan of New York, and Kaiya Kaltenborn of Anchorage, Alaska.

A memorial service for Susan Kraemer will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 11 a.m.



William McGee

Longtime Islander William "Bill" McGee passed away on April 30, 2018. He was 91 years old.

Bill moved to City Island as a toddler with his mother, Alma McGee, who worked at Orchard Beach. He was the second youngest in a family of five children.

He attended St Mary, Star of the Sea School and Manhattan Aviation. He dropped out of high school when World War II broke out and enlisted in the Navy at age 17 along with a group of City Islanders. He suffered several head wounds during combat. After he came home, the Veteran's Hospital found he had a blood clot, which left him paralyzed on his left side. He pursued rehabilitation with the same strength and persistence that served him well his whole life, and he never let it diminish his activities in any way.

He married Ruth Bartels as soon as he could walk down the aisle unassisted. Right after their honeymoon, Ruth came down with polio, which left her unable to walk. Their individual strengths were elevated to unbelievable heights as a couple. They embraced life and never let their physical disadvantages slow them down.

The couple had two children, Karen and Billy, and they worked hard raising their family on City Island. Bill often worked two or more jobs yet made it home for dinner almost every night and somehow made it to every ball game his son ever played. He supported both his children in all they did and was generationally ahead of his time as he encouraged his daughter to pursue a career in a largely male-dominated field.

Bill was a lifelong member of the American Legion and the Morris Yacht Club and a founding member of Fordham Street Beach Club. He lived the City Island life, fishing and boating in any spare moments he could find.

When Ruth passed away, Bill took over babysitting while Karen worked, but he never stopped launching boats at the Morris and his granddaughter, Kerry, was often seen in her car seat strapped to the tractor while Bill was hauling a boat, both of them smiling the whole time.

Bill had a mischievous smile that grew into a warm friendly face that infected everyone he met with instant good cheer. They often called him "Smiley" because of the smiles he brought to others. His joy and good humor were felt by his whole family, and his love, loyalty and compassion earned him many lifelong friends.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Karen, and her husband, Mark Gilder, of Connecticut; his son, Billy, and his wife, Annie, of City Island; and his grandchildren, John, Kerry and Katie.

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TODAY REALTY, CORP is happy to welcome licensed real estate agent Maria Iovieno Swieciki to their team! Maria brings 23 years of experience to our real estate "family" and we look forward to working with her. Maria can be reached at 718-885-0017 cell.

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

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Photos by CATHI SWETT

The Garden Club's annual luncheon was held on May 17 at the City Island Yacht Club. Many longtime members, including Mary Carman and Vivi McGuire (photo above), attended and participated in the raffles for the beautiful prizes (at right).



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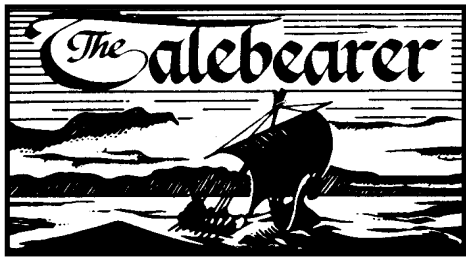


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Cheryl Riordan was recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer by the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

City Island's own Joseph F. Schaller has been appointed as New Rochelle Police Commissioner, ending a national search. Joe joined the New Rochelle Police Department in 1974 and attained various ranks during his tenure. He holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Iona College, a Juris Doctor from Pace University School of Law, and he passed the New York State Bar in 2006. Congratulations to Commissioner Schaller and his proud family!

Birthday greetings on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld. Enjoy your special day!

Kudos to Cheryl Riordan, who recently was awarded the Girl Scouts of Greater New York Outstanding Volunteer citation for Troop 1115.

Prayers and blessings for the 19 children who received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. God bless them all!

Happy birthday on June 23 to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Wishing a lifetime of happiness to Christina Buckley and David Hennessy, who were married on April 14 at St. John the Baptist Church in Wading River. A reception followed at the Long Island Aquarium. The bride, who was born and raised on Long Island, is the Director



Christina Buckley and David Hennessy were wed on April 14, 2018.

of Client Services for Siwel Consulting. The groom, who was born and raised on City Island, is the Cargo Manager for Emirates Airlines. They reside in South Boston, MA.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth, who will celebrate her big day on June 29, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Lots of love from Mom, Elzie and Ken is being sent to Minneford Avenue's Debra G. Erickson, who will celebrate her big day on June 19. Enjoy!

Congratulations to the Lacina Family of Hawkins Street. Last month, Team Legal Eagles, captained by Charles, raised over \$8,000 for WALK MS to support research to end multiple sclerosis. Charles was, once again, a top fundraiser! On May 1, Stacy was inducted into the Fordham University Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, which is the same chapter her father joined when he was at Fordham. And Natalie was recently named as the recipient of the 2018 Above the Bar Most Socially Conscious Attorney Award by the Westchester business



Arianna Cepek and Kristopher Gaston were wed on April 23, 2018.



Photo by MATT PANZA

Nineteen children received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Star of the Sea church on May 5, 2018.



The "Legal Eagles" Lacina family team raised over \$8,000 for Walk MS in May 2018.

and legal communities for her work in providing free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual assault. Natalie will receive her award at the Whitby Castle in Rye. Way to go!

Congratulations to Arianna Cepek and Kristopher Gaston on their recent marriage

on April 23 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. A fabulous reception followed at the Harlem Yacht Club under the direction of caterer Anne Booth and her wonderful staff. May the newlyweds have a long and happy life together and may God bless them always. Love, Uncle Robby, Uncle Bill, Aunt Tete, Irainna and Ben.

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

And a very happy Father's Day to all our dads and grandfathers. We appreciate everything you do!

Maria Swieciki

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