

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Primary Upset in State Senate District 34

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Sunday, Aug. 26, the City Island Civic Association sponsored a debate between Alessandra Biaggi (top photo, speaking) and incumbent Jeffrey Klein (bottom photo), candidates for the Democratic party nomination for State Senator in District 34. The debate, introduced by Gary Axelbank, attracted a large crowd, which listened with interest as the candidates answered questions posed by moderator Patrick Rocchio.

City Islanders were as surprised as anyone in the New York State Senate's Democratic primary race for District 34 when newcomer Alessandra Biaggi won over State Senator Jeff Klein, who has represented the district since 2004. Even on City Island, Ms. Biaggi won 62.5 percent of the vote to Senator Klein's 37.5 percent. Her victory here was clearly the result of intensive local campaigning, although the Klein campaign spent well over \$2 million district wide, nearly 10 times what the Biaggi campaign spent.

On Sunday, Aug. 26, the City Island Civic Association sponsored a debate between the two candidates in the parish hall of Grace Church, and more than 100 people came to listen to their positions on various issues. Jeff Klein, who has been one of the state's most powerful lawmakers, and Ms. Biaggi, a former aide to Governor Andrew Cuomo, answered questions about issues ranging from public education vs. charter schools and corruption in Albany to transportation issues relating to the MTA and City Island.

Both candidates were asked to discuss the role of the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), and Senator Klein's role as the conference's leader. For more than seven years, he led a group of senators who split from their Democratic colleagues to form their own conference and to partner with the GOP for control of the Senate. The IDC was disbanded earlier this year, and the eight members rejoined the Senate Democrats, but all of them faced challeng-

ers who highlighted their opponents' ties to the Republican party. Jeff Klein was one of six former IDC members who lost in the primary election.

Alessandra Biaggi is the granddaughter of Mario Biaggi, a former New York City police officer who served as a U.S. representative from 1969 to 1988. In 1987 and 1988, he was convicted in two separate corruption trials and resigned from Congress in 1988, but many Islanders remember him fondly as he faithfully represented City Island's interests.

Senator Klein has also contributed a great deal to City Island over the years. Most recently, he partnered as in previous years with the Chamber of Commerce in its clam chowder contest during the September craft fair, and he also sponsored concerts by Alive N Kickin at the Little League field and a fireworks display at Orchard Beach. More seriously, he was very supportive of the community's efforts to change the design of the new City Island Bridge, and he helped City Island by communicating with the MTA (a state-run agency) in dealing with the Island's inadequate bus service.

Although it is possible that Senator Klein may choose to run in the November election on the Independent ticket, this has not been confirmed.

Ms. Biaggi told *The Current*: "I want to thank all the City Island Democrats who voted for me in the primary and made me the Democratic candidate for State Senate in District 34. I am so immensely grateful

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## THE BLACK WHALE RESURFACES AFTER BRIEF DIVE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER

On Sept. 15, 2018, the decades-old sign above the Black Whale restaurant was removed by owner Richie DePierro (top photo, right) following an order from DOT. The sign dates back to the 1960s (bottom photo), but was restored the same day after community protests.

Early in 2018, a 311 caller reported that the sign above the Black Whale, at 279 City Island Avenue, was illegal because it was larger than allowed by law and had been put in place without a permit. The Department of Buildings responded by declaring the sign in violation of current laws regarding signage on commercial buildings, and on Sept. 15 the sign was removed.

The owner of the Black Whale, Richie DePierro, was horrified to learn of the violation, because the sign had been in place for nearly 60 years, and he appealed the violation, which finally came before a judge on Sept. 15. Although the judge declared that she was a fan of the restaurant and remembered the old wisteria tree, she had no choice but to fine Mr. DePierro \$500 and rule that the sign had to be removed.

The judge suggested that a new smaller sign could be installed with a proper permit or that "Black Whale" be painted above the entrance, but Mr. DePierro told *The Current* that he wasn't interested in doing that. And so, on Saturday, Sept. 15, passersby watched workers remove the sign, as Ron Turner photographed the event, which has aroused widespread unhappiness throughout the City Island community. A post on Facebook the previous evening had re-

ceived hundreds of responses, including the proposal that a GoFundMe page be set up to cover the costs of the fine and a new sign. Mr. DePierro said that he didn't want any money, but he recognized that the effort indicated he had widespread support within the City Island community.

Within a couple of hours, however, the tide definitely turned. As soon as Councilmember Mark Gjonaj heard about the situation, he came to City Island and ordered that the sign be put back up. He said that he would provide Mr. DePierro with legal support, cover the cost of the fine and work with the City Council and the Mayor's Office to revise the current laws, which are being disregarded all over the city. According to NYC rules, no signs can be larger than 12 square feet, signs must be at least 100 years old to be grandfathered in, and permits must be filed by a registered architect, professional engineer or licensed sign contractor.

There are many unreported illegal signs on City Island, but this issue in particular has rallied Islanders to question the reason behind the call on the Black Whale, which apparently arose out of a personal dispute between an Island resident and an

Continued on page 7



## BRIEFLY...

**ISLAND-WIDE TAG SALE** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, sponsored by the City Island Drift group (an offshoot of the Viacomunity Day volunteers). Residents are encouraged to hold tag sales that day at their own homes and to alert the Drift in advance so they can provide interested customers with maps showing locations of the sales. To register a sale, e-mail Maria Caruso or Laurie Vega at [cityislanddrift@gmail.com](mailto:cityislanddrift@gmail.com).

**C.I.'S HALLOWEEN PARADE** will be on Halloween night, Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 5:30 p.m. starting from Hawkins Park. The parade is sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce and Atlantic Emeritus Realty. Prizes are donated by local merchants and organizations. Costume prize winners and merchant donations will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Current*. Haunted Mansion Tours will be at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Saturday, Oct. 27, starting at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 (not recommended for children under 10).

## 45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Aug. 22 to Sept. 17, 2018.

8/24 – An off-Island female told police that an unknown person had removed her fanny pack, including credit cards, from the back of her chair at a commercial establishment on Bridge Street at 3:30 p.m. in an act of grand larceny.

8/26 – A female Islander reported an incident of harassment on City Island Avenue at 3:05 p.m. She told police that while she was opening her store, a perpetrator became irate during a verbal dispute causing fear and alarm.

8/27 – At 6:35 p.m. on City Island Road just over the City Island Bridge, an off-Island female was driving outbound when another vehicle attempted to overtake her by driving in the fire lane. The unknown driver struck her vehicle and then fled the scene.

9/2 – Police from the 45th Precinct responded to an incident of harassment between two Island females on City Island Avenue at 9 a.m. One female threatened to hurt the other female and her child.

9/3 – On City Island Avenue at 9:14 p.m., an off-Island male reported an incident of petit larceny. The complainant observed another person removing items from a boat without permission.

9/6 – At 10:11 a.m., police responded to an incident of aggravated harassment between two female Islanders. The complainant told police that she received a text and phone call stating “I’m going to ruin you.” The dispute allegedly arose over money given for a business.

9/6 – Police observed a possibly rabid deer near the City Island circle around 10 a.m. They surrounded the deer until New York City Park Rangers arrived to resolve the situation.

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Photo by KAREN NANI

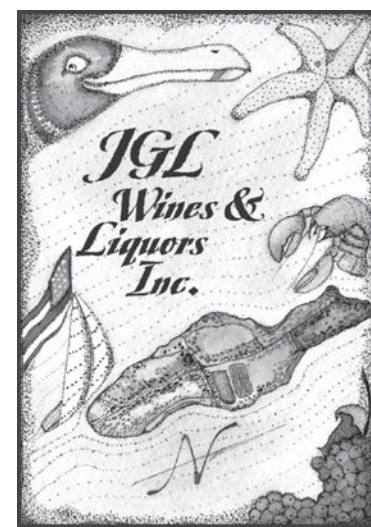
Police from the 45th Precinct surrounded a deer they suspected was rabid at the City Island circle on Sept. 6, 2018.

## Primary Upset

Continued from page 1

for your support and enthusiasm. I’m going to continue working very hard from now until November listening to the needs and concerns of everyone on City Island and in the district.

“Our campaign will continue to be about the same issues it has been from the start and about mobilizing to ensure they are passed: guaranteeing a woman’s right to choose in New York, effective laws to protect tenants, access to affordable health care and affordable housing, criminal justice reform, fully funding our schools, rebuilding and expanding mass transit and more. I look forward to working with the Governor and the legislature to deliver for the working people in the Bronx, Westchester and all of New York.”



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# THE LAST STUTTIGS LEAVE CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI

For the first time in 80 years, there will be no members of the Stuttig family living on City Island. Long-time *Island Current* contributor and clam digger Bill Stuttig, Jr. is retiring and moving to Nevada with his wife, Chris. His mother, Alice, moved to Florida in 2016, after living on Marine Street for almost 70 years.

Bill is retiring from a 40-year career in journalism. *The Current* is only one of the newspapers for which he has been a dedicated reporter. He worked for 12 years at the New York Daily News. He covered the Bronx and Co-op City for three years as editor-in-chief of the Bronx Times Reporter, and for the last 19 years he was associate editor of the Co-op City Times.

Bill's City Island story began when his mother, then Alice Anderson, first came to City Island as a teenager, and, as she told *The Current* in 2016, it was love at first sight. She had spent her childhood in Hoboken, NJ, and her friends there, the Chornuks, kept a boat at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club on Centre Street. Their daughter, Olga, was Alice's best friend in high school, and every summer the family invited her to spend a week on their boat.

Alice recalled: "I loved City Island from the moment I stepped onto it that summer. We had such a wonderful time around the boat, swimming in the water and just enjoying summer on City Island. It was simple people, simple times; everyone was nice to each other."

Alice spent many summer weeks with the Chornuks in the years that followed, but everything changed when World War II started. She remembers that "the war was a terrible time. Everything was rationed. I lost a lot of friends in the war, but many made it back as well. I actually met my husband, Bill, while on vacation in the Catskills a week before he was to be sent overseas by the Navy. It was just a quick hello then, and I didn't think anything would come of it. But then his mother contacted me and asked me to write him."

So they started writing each other and in 1943, when he returned to the United States on leave from the U.S. Navy, he went to see Alice at her job in Hoboken. A romance started from there, and when he returned for good after the war, they continued dating and were married in December of 1946.

As newlyweds, Bill and Alice first lived in a small apartment in the Pelham Parkway section of the Bronx. But the couple would go to City Island regularly to visit Olga and the rest of the Chornuks, who by that time had bought homes on City Island.

"We rented an apartment in a three-family home at 109 Pilot Street," Alice recalled. "The owners of the house were in the middle apartment, and Frank and Dorothy Urban were in the other apartment." The friendship with the Urbans would last

for 60 more years.

Alice had her first daughter, Cathy, there, but after two years on Pilot Street, she and Bill started looking for a house to buy because prices were very reasonable. They ended up paying \$12,000 for the house on Marine Street, and shortly after moving in, her other two children, Carol and Billy, came along, about two years apart. "City Island was a wonderful place to raise a family," she says, "and I would still recommend it highly to young couples."

Bill echoes his mother's sentiments. "I am a lucky person to have grown up here. It's a self-contained community that was safe, and everyone looked out for one another. I would go out after school and play in the streets with my friends Eric Rauhauser, Jimmy Juner, Steve Zabriskie, and Kevin O'Rourke. It was great, but if we did something wrong, our mothers always found out about it."

Bill attended P.S. 17, Christopher Columbus High School and Lehman College. He majored in English and began writing for *The Island Current* in 1975 while he was in college. "Sally McPherson, then the *Current* editor, asked me to do some movie reviews early on. Later, in 1996, we both worked at the Bronx Times, and then she asked me to cover more stories. Sally seemed to think that I was a promising journalist," he joked modestly in an interview for this profile.

Sally concurs: "Bill was serious, ambitious, and he cared about his community, which showed in his writing." She was right in her assessment, and Bill's journalism career took off. Bill was the primary reporter over for almost 1,000 issues of the Co-op City Times. He was praised by his editor, Rozaan Boone: "Bill leaves an outstanding legacy of service and excellent reporting that will live on for many, many years to come as a treasure trove of reference and background material for researchers and historians, as well as current and future journalists who carry on the important work of documenting the history of Co-op City, and the battles, triumphs and achievements of its shareholders."

He reported on major issues in the history of Co-op City, still the largest cooperative development in the United States, with 35 buildings and 50,000 residents. He covered annual board elections and informed the community each week about public safety, maintenance, education and political issues that affected the daily life of all residents. Bill also produced numerous feature stories through the years, sharing the lives of individual Co-op City (and City Island) residents through his inspiring portraits of their many accomplishments.

According to those who worked with him at the Co-op City Times, he was always the first one in the office each morning, the last to leave when assigned to cover one of the many night meetings he reported



**Bill Stuttig Jr. and his wife, Chris (top photo), are retiring and moving from City Island to Nevada by the end of the year. Bill is the last of the Stuttigs to leave City Island since his mother, Alice, moved in 2016 (bottom photo, seated with her children Carol, Cathy and Bill).**

on over the years, and a constant presence in the newsroom who helped anyone and everyone who needed a hand.

But Bill is not the only Stuttig retiring. Chris Stuttig, his wife of 24 years, is retiring from a 40-year career with various financial institutions. She was most recently the office manager at Barrett Asset Management in Manhattan.

Bill and Chris met in 1993 on a trip arranged by longtime City Island travel agent Dianne O'Sullivan. "Dianne was trying to get us together. She arranged a vacation trip for me to Las Vegas and then persuaded me to leave my chaise lounge by the pool and go on a van trip to the Grand Canyon. It was a small group of mostly City Islanders: the Eberhardts, the Ambrosinis, me and Chris. We got to know each other and I asked her out the day after we returned from Vegas."

After the couple married in 1994, they returned often to Las Vegas on vacation. In 2008, Chris suggested they rent a car and drive around. They looked at houses and finally bought one in a Las Vegas suburb in 2016. "The prices really dropped after the crash of 2008," Bill told *The Current*. "After we sell our house on Buckley Street, we expect to be moving to Henderson, NV, where our home is on a golf course. Now I just have to learn to play golf!"

Sally McPherson summarized the views of the editorial board: "We are grateful to him for his work. We will miss his reporting in *The Current* and hate to lose him, but we wish him well in Nevada!"

Alice Stuttig is also very proud of her son's accomplishments. "He was a diligent worker, and he did a good job for *The Island Current*, which I encouraged him to write for." Her husband, Bill Sr., passed away in 2003, and his sister Carol lives in Maryland with her husband, Charles Robertson, owner of American Cruise Line.

His sister Cathy lives near their mother in Vero Beach, FL, with her husband, Gerry Reichert.

Bill's wife, Chris, told *The Current*: "I have been a true musselsucker for over 60 years. I have been proud and happy to call City Island my home. It was an oasis to come home to every night after working all day in Manhattan. Hearing the singing of the grates on the old City Island bridge as the bus drove over it meant that I was home. I remember that when I first started working, people would say 'Where do you live? Staten Island?' Not anymore! City Island is on the map to stay. I may be leaving City Island but it will never leave me. I'm sure that most people who grew up here feel the same way. It's a very special place and those of us lucky to have lived here will never forget it."

He also shares the love of City Island expressed by his mother and his wife: "I consider myself a very lucky person for many reasons, chief among them is my great marriage to Chris, and sharing life with her over the last quarter century. But the second reason I have been so lucky is my having the privilege to grow up on City Island and to live most of my life here. It was and still is a special community. No matter where I go in life, City Island will always be my hometown. My life has been touched by so many great people I have known here during all phases of my life—from childhood to retirement. I love them all. City Island will remain in my heart forever."

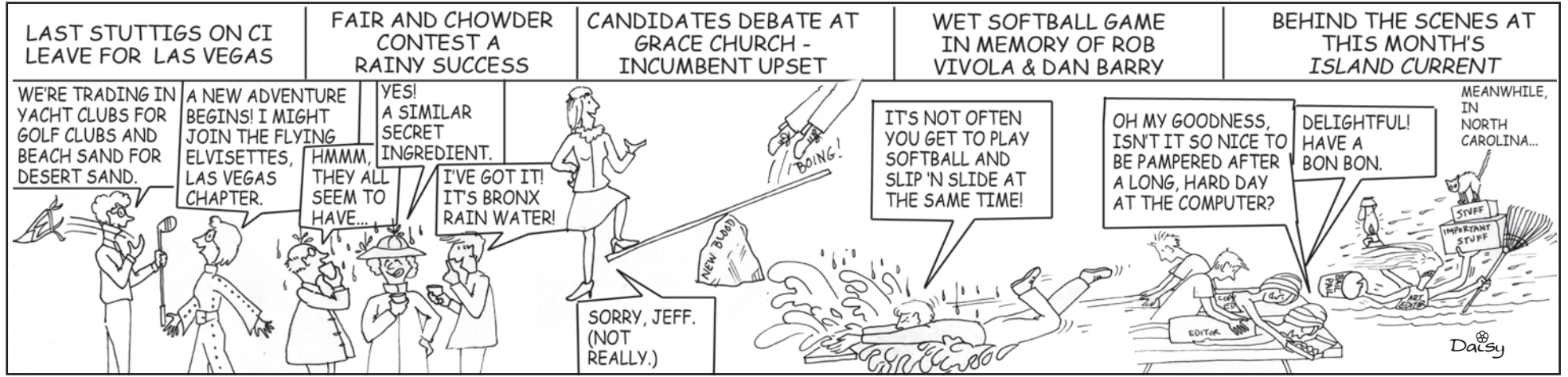
Happily, Bill provides hope that he may still want to do some work for *The Current*. "Thanks for all your support over the years. I'll be retired and probably looking for something to do. You know what they say: For better or worse but not for lunch."

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**Editorial: Come Together**

The last few months have tested the resilience of City Islanders. Sadly, a number of clam diggers and much-loved Islanders passed away. At the same time as Islanders joined together to support those who mourn, divisiveness over local and statewide political issues arose.

The State Senate campaign waged by supporters of Jeff Klein and Alessandra Biaggi was intense, and well over 100 residents turned out for a debate between the two Democratic primary candidates on Aug. 26. Political flyers, social media postings, mailings and signs abounded on the Island, with both younger and longtime residents on both sides of the contest. The primary is over, and Islanders should now focus on voting in the general election on Nov. 6.

In addition, rancorous meetings since April of the City Island Civic Association (CICA) brought to the surface a number of issues, including term limits for board members, conflicts with individuals who have been calling 311 to report residential and business violations, and complaints about certain elected officials and police officers (see story in September issue of *The Current*).

However chaotic the situation facing the Civic Association may be, it is highly likely that we, as a community, will survive this crisis, as we have in the past. The political temperature seems somewhat higher than it used to be, thanks to Facebook and Twitter, in addition to the usual gossip. These social media seem to give people license to say whatever they think, no matter how nasty, personal or badly spelled.

On the other hand, social media have enabled the City Island community to share positive thoughts and actions, as in the case of the Black Whale sign removal and restoration (see story page 1). During the months leading up the CICA election in November, we hope the remarkable sense of community shared by most Island residents will come to the surface and put an end to the counterproductive squabbling.



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

**Pharmacy History Correction**

To the Editor:

In an article about pharmacies on City Island published in *The Island Current* in April 2017, a couple of errors were made on the history of Bierman's Pharmacy that I'd like to correct for the record.

My father was Peter Kalemkerian (not Kalamakarian), the owner of first Bierman's Pharmacy at 311 City Island and then Gilbert's Pharmacy. I believe my father took over Bierman's from Sam Bierman in 1962 or 1963. I have fond memories of that store. My brothers and I used to go with dad on Saturdays to "help" him out in the store. We used to fill in the candy counter with fresh merchandise assisted by our grandfather, John. Sometimes we used to make deliveries to the customers. Marie Cullen used to work in the store for my father, and he always had a delivery boy working for him as well. Jimmy Raimondi is one name I remember. Another was named Anthony but I don't know his last name. I remember many of

Dad's customers but one in particular was Mr. Kroepke. His son, Bill, lived in the same town as we did in New Jersey, the Township of Washington, and Bill was a member of the Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

I remember the diner was across the street from the pharmacy, and we would have our breakfast there. It was an old-fashioned silver dining car. It was beautiful. In the afternoons, we would walk down Fordham Street to Eastchester Bay. Our grandfather taught us how to skip rocks there. On our way home sometimes we would stop at the pizzeria and grab a slice or an Italian ice.

My dad moved to 282 City Island Avenue because the landlady at 311 City Island Avenue wanted too much rent, so he bought the business and moved. He closed the store in November 1988 (not in the 1970s) due to health issues, and he passed away in October 1996. He spent more than 25 years serving the residents of City Island. He probably would have spent many more years running his business if things had been different.

Lori Kelledjian

**Thanks on Behalf of Ed**

Just a note to thank everyone who sent food, flowers, cards, or visited during this difficult time after the passing of my husband, Edward Esposito. I have seen and now experienced first-hand how our community comes together for each other. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by so many caring, giving people. I know my husband, Ed, would have been so proud and grateful.

Carol Esposito and Family

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# COOL AND CLAMMY FUN



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MATT PANZA

It was not the best weather for the 2018 Fall Arts and Crafts Fair on Sept. 8 and 9. However, vendors and Island organizations, like Grace Church (photo above), welcomed customers and did a brisk business. This year's Chamber of Commerce clam chowder contest was an especially successful event, because the real chowder enthusiasts braved the wind and rain to taste the different entries and choose their favorites. The people's choice winners for New England (white) chowder were the Sea Shore for first place and the Lobster House for second place; for Manhattan (red) chowder, the people selected Sammy's Fish Box for first place and the Harlem Yacht Club for second. State Senator Jeff Klein was on hand as in previous years to cast his vote for the best chowders. He too picked the Sea Shore's New England clam chowder for first place, and he awarded the Harlem Yacht Club for its Manhattan chowder. The winners joined Senator Klein and the Chamber of Commerce organizers (top photo, l. to r.): Bliss Fager and Chef Anne Booth (Harlem Yacht Club), Senator Klein, Skip Giacco, Ralph Diaz (Lobster House), Maria Caruso, Abel Gamiz (Sammy's Fish Box) and John Arminio (Sea Shore).



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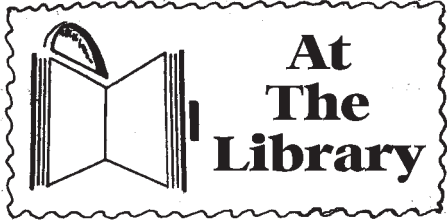
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718-885-1703

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.

### OCTOBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

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

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

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Oct. 19, at 11:30 a.m.

### OCTOBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

**Glorious Gothic Calligraphy:** Dress up your writing with this beautiful script! A great favorite during the Middle Ages, Gothic-style letters are very appealing to most artists with their bold forms made from simple strokes. For ages 13-18 years old. Monday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

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

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** On Fridays, at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Oct. 5: Wii and Board Games; Oct. 12: Teen and Tween Literacy Review; Oct. 19: Wii and Board Games; Oct. 26: Halloween Bluff.

### OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAMS

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

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, Oct. 11 and 25, at 1 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Oct. 1 and 22, at 5 p.m.

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

**One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resume 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. Oct. 6: "October Sky"; Oct. 13: "The Burn-

ing Times"; Oct. 20: "The Little Shop of Horrors"; Oct. 27: "Hocus Pocus."

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



Mary Colby Studio/Gallery at 276 City Island Avenue will offer oil painting classes on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Four three-hour classes for \$150. Call 917-804-4509. The class will start in October or as soon as the class is filled.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

A gathering of art enthusiasts joined Ron Turner (in doorway on the right) as he celebrated Focal Point Gallery's 44th anniversary on City Island. An exhibition of Ron's sculptures will run through Oct. 31.

**Now Booking  
Holiday Parties &  
2019 Weddings!**

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Photo by RON TERNER

After Councilman Mark Gjonaj (above left) intervened, the Black Whale sign was reinstalled.

### Back Whale Sign

Continued from page 1

employee of the restaurant. This is not the first but hopefully it is the last of these 311 complaints, which have been registered against numerous Island establishments, including an old awning in front of AER Realty that had been in place for decades

and a new awning that had been installed at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post.

The individual or individuals who have called in complaints of this kind have been criticized on Facebook and at Civic Association meetings. But the response to the Black Whale issue seemed to rally many in the community to a single cause that gained everyone's support.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Now that the temporary bridge has been removed, tugs moved the crane away from the new bridge on Sept. 14. Work continues on the seawall alongside the Catherine Scott Promenade, which will now undergo restoration, as will the parkland areas used for the bridge project.



*The City Island Chamber of Commerce  
Cordially Invites You To Attend  
Our 108th Annual Dinner Dance*

**Honorees:**

Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award  
Richie DePierro

Tom Ceretta Community Service Award  
Congressman Joseph Crowley

Catherine Scott Achievement Award  
for 20 years or more in business  
Art of Beauty, Arties Steak & Seafood  
& Cottam Heating and Air Conditioning

Special Certificate of Appreciation for  
Service to the City Island Chamber  
William White of Con Edison

Nautical Heritage Award  
Jack's Bait & Tackle, City Island Yacht Club,  
Harlem Yacht Club & The Morris Yacht Club

Special Recognition Certificate for 100 years of Service  
Leonard Hawkins Post #156 of the American Legion

New Business Recognition:  
Cathi Swett Esq.  
and Complexions Salon

**Saturday, December 8, 2018**  
**Pelham Split Rock Golf Course**  
**870 Shore Road, Bronx, NY 10464**  
**Cocktails 7 PM - Awards 8 PM**  
**Dinner 8:30 PM**  
**\$85 Per Person**  
**RSVP by November 15th**  
**Reservations: 718-885-9100**



## City Island Drift

**FIRST ANNUAL  
CITY ISLAND-WIDE YARD SALE**

**SPONSOR: THE CITY ISLAND DRIFT**

**DATE: 11/3/18**

**WHERE: Your yard, porch, sidewalk**

For more information on how to have your location

on the Drift Island-Wide Yard Sale Map,

Contact: Maria Caruso or Laurie Vega at

**cityislanddrift@gmail.com**

We will be promoting the sale in the Bronx Times,

the Island Current, and on [thisistheBronX.info](http://thisistheBronX.info)

A good crowd is anticipated.

Contact us by: **10/27/18**



### Island Dog Walkers

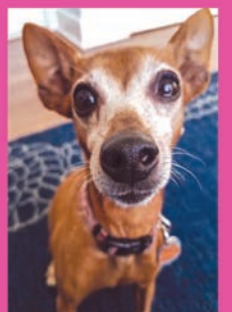
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# Accused Witches Ralph and Mary Hall, City Island's Earliest Recorded Residents

By BLAKE BELL

*Editor's Note: With all the talk these days of witch hunts and with Halloween coming up at the end of the month, we thought readers would be interested in learning about City Island's first witches, as recorded in the following story by historian Blake Bell.*

In 1665, a couple named Ralph and Mary Hall found themselves battling for their lives. The pair was accused of using witchcraft and sorcery beginning on Christmas Day in 1664 and at various times thereafter to cause the sicknesses and subsequent deaths of George Wood and the new baby of his widow, Ann Rogers. The Constable and Town officials of Seatacote on Long Island charged the pair with murder by sorcery and witchcraft. Ralph and Mary Hall were dragged before the first session of the first Court of Assizes for the Colony of New York.

The following witchcraft charge was read against Ralph Hall on Oct. 2, 1665. "Ralph Hall thou standest here indicted, for that having not the feare of God before thine eyes Thou did'st upon the 25th day of December, being Christmas day last was 12 Moneths, and at severall other times since, as is suspected, by some wicked and detestable Arts, commonly called witchcraft and Sorcery, maliciously and feloniously practice and Exercise, upon the Bodies of George Wood, and an Infant Childe of Ann Rogers, by which said Arts, the said George Wood and the Infant Childe (as is suspected) most dangerously and mortally fell sick, and languisht unto death. Ralph Hall, what does thou say for theyselve, art thou guilty, or not guilty?"

It seems that a man named George Wood had grown sick, languished, and died. After his death, his widow had a child

who also grew sick, languished and died. Something was terribly wrong in the English settlement of Seatacote (also known as Setauket) on Long Island (today's town of Brookhaven). The only explanations for such incomprehensible losses were the "wicked and detestable Arts" known as "witchcraft and Sorcery." A monumental witch hunt followed.

The Court of Assizes for the Colony of New York was established under the Duke's Laws in 1665. One of the 13 actions tried by the new Court of Assizes during that first session in the fall of 1665 was the murder trial of Ralph and Mary Hall, which was held in an adjourned session of the court on Oct. 2, 1665. The court met "at New Yorke on the Island of Manhattan."

The two prisoners, Ralph and Mary Hall, were brought before Sheriff Allard Anthony, who read the indictment against them. The two likely were terrified as they faced murder charges that could cost them their lives. Court authorities read depositions from witnesses to the jury. Not a single witness, however, appeared in person to testify against the prisoners. After the deposition testimony was read, the Clerk of the Court of Assizes had each of the two prisoners stand and raise their hands, and he asked them how they plead: "Art thou guilty, or not guilty?" Both pleaded not guilty and "threw themselves to bee Tried by God and the Country."

The twelve jurors deliberated and soon returned with the following verdict: "Wee having seriously considered the Case committed to our Charge, against the Prisoners at the Barr, and having well weighed the Evidence, wee finde that there are some suspitions by the Evidence, of what the woman is Charged with, but nothing con-

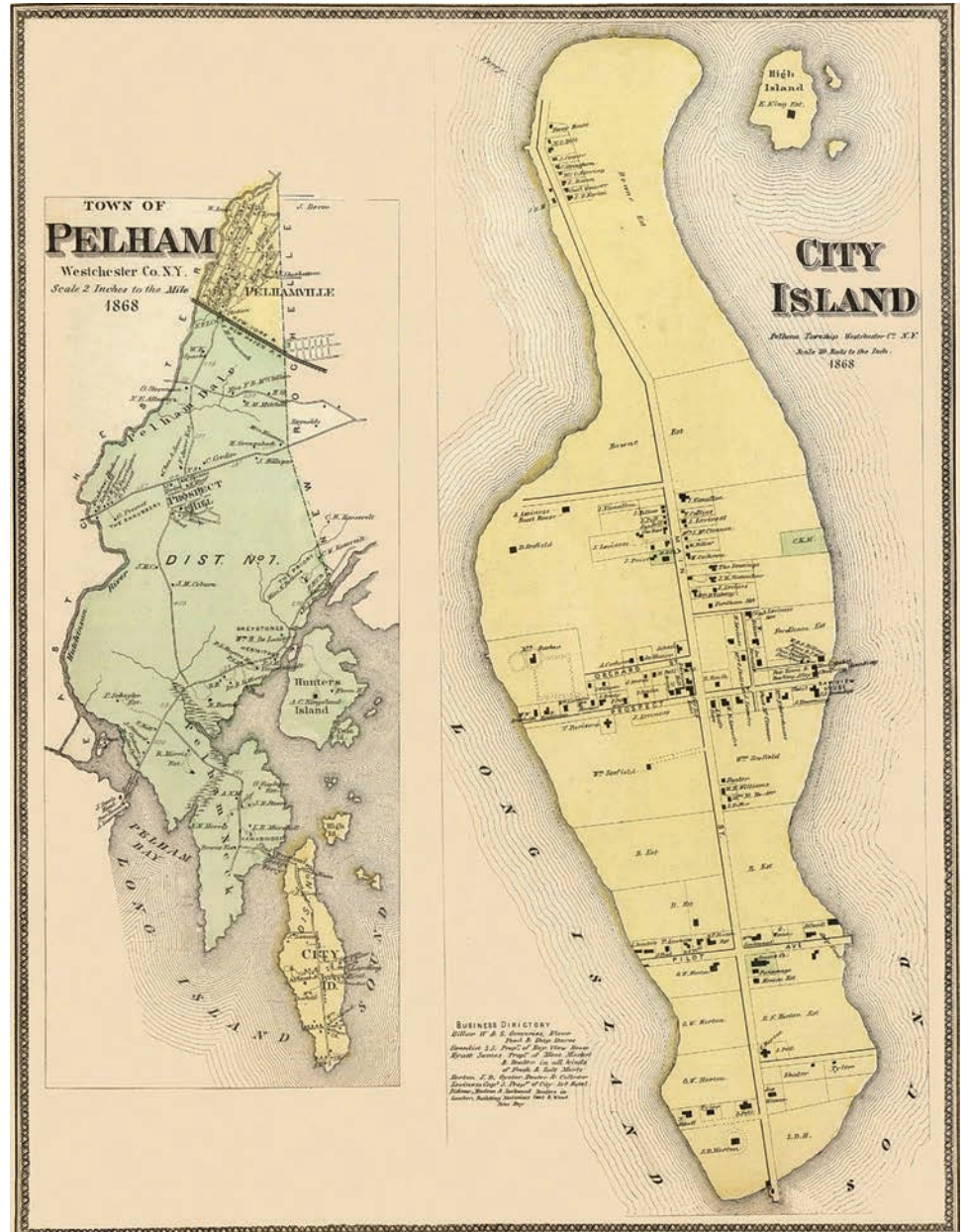


Photo courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

This map was drawn in 1868, 200 years after the Halls lived on City Island, which belonged to Thomas Pell and was then called Great Miniford's Island.

siderable of value to take away her life. But in reference to the man wee finde nothing considerable to charge him with."

The Court of Assizes immediately imposed sentence on the two prisoners. The Court directed that Ralph Hall "should be bound Body and Goods for his wives Appearance, at the next Sessions, and so on from Sessions to Sessions as long as they stay within this Government, In the meane while, to be of and upon Entering into a Recognizance, according to the Sentence of the Court they were released."

Poor Ralph and Mary Hall must have fled Setauket soon afterward; indeed, they seem to have fled in August 1668 to the island owned by Pelham founder Thomas Pell that we now know as City Island but that was then known as Great Miniford's Island. The Reverend Nathaniel Brewster, who began preaching in Setauket the same year the Halls were accused of witchcraft and sorcery, was a stepson of Pelham founder Thomas Pell and may well have played a role in helping Ralph and Mary Hall settle on his stepfather's island.

The reason that Thomas Pell would have given refuge to the Halls in 1668, the year before his death, is not known, but it is possible that he felt pangs of remorse over his family's earlier involvement as witnesses at the witchcraft trial of Goody Knapp, who was executed after a finding that she was a witch.

In 1653, Pell's wife, Lucy, and his step-daughters Elizabeth and Mary were involved in a witchcraft persecution that

led to the execution of Goodwife "Goody" Knapp in Fairfield, CT, barely a year before Thomas Pell acquired the lands that became Pelham and surrounding areas. There is no evidence of Thomas Pell's direct involvement, but he cannot escape culpability for what happened to Goody Knapp.

First, his family's participation in the events that led to the hanging of Goody Knapp cannot be ignored, and second, Pell's wife clearly kept him apprised of her involvement in the travesty of justice. Indeed, there is a record of testimony in which Lucy Pell testified that regarding her efforts to force Goody Knapp to confess to being a witch, she told no one "but her husband." Third, since Pell's wife and stepdaughters were present at the execution of Goody Knapp, it is not far-fetched to surmise that Thomas Pell also attended, as did other Fairfield citizens, who each bear a portion of the blame for the murder by hanging of the poor woman.

It is not known how long Ralph and Mary Hall lived on Great Miniford's Island (which would become known as City Island a century later), nor where they lived. Thomas Pell never lived on the island, which had been part of his original purchase from local Wiechquaeskecks on June 27, 1654, but he is known to have built a house, barn and working farm in Pelham, which according to tradition stood not far from the tip of today's Rodman's Neck. In 1669 that property was inherited by his nephew John Pell, who attempted over the next few decades to plant families on portions of his land, including what is now City Island. Although some of the settlers may have been escaping the mainland for a reason, Ralph and Mary Hall were probably the last ones to have narrowly escaped being sentenced for witchcraft.

Historian Blake Bell is the editor and publisher of the award-winning *HistoricPelham.com* website. For many articles about City Island, which was part of Pelham until 1895, when it was annexed by New York City, see <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/>.

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat., and Sun., Oct. 5, 6 and 7, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale.** Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 27, **Haunted Mansion Tours, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum,** 895 Shore Road, 7 to 10 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 27, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

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

Wed., Oct. 31, **City Island Halloween Parade,** starting at Hawkins Park, 5:30 p.m.

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 6, **Election Day,** P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Fri., Sat., and Sun., Nov. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18. **City Island Theater Group's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,"** 8 p.m. or 3 p.m. (Sunday matinee), Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

#### Garden Club of City Island

Thanks to donations to the Garden Club's Beautification Fund, CJS Property Care has been busy this summer cleaning up and weed-whacking around trees and along grassy strips on City Island Avenue. The huge amount of rain meant that weeds were growing like . . . well, like weeds.

The Garden Club recognizes that this is really a stop-gap measure to keep the avenue looking reasonably clean and neat and is not meant to substitute for the property owners' responsibility to maintain the area between the sidewalk and the street. Although the sidewalks are owned by the City, businesses should be aware that they are responsible for their upkeep. Many property owners do a beautiful job of maintaining this space, which has a huge positive impact on the look of the Island. Thank you to all the owners who keep the sidewalks clean and the trees and grassy strips landscaped, and a special thank you to those who help us by watering the plants in the planter boxes along the avenue.

At the Garden Club's September meeting, we were treated to a presentation on vegetable gardening given by Nick Storrs of Homegrown Nurseries and Farm at the Lyndhurst estate in Tarrytown. Did you know that you can create a vegetable garden in milk crates lined with landscaping cloth? As an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and manager of the Randall's Island Urban Farm, Nick gave us invaluable information and answered our many questions on the subject.

A group of Garden Club members are looking forward to a tour of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture later in October. This 90-minute behind-the-scenes view of the farm, followed by a buffet lunch catered by the Blue Hill Café, was arranged by our program co-chair Jane Protzman.

Next month's Garden Club meeting will be Monday, Nov. 5, when we will have another presentation, the speaker as yet unconfirmed. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All of our meetings conclude with home-baked goods and refreshments served by our Hospitality Committee. Everyone is invited to join us!

**Sharynne Wilder**

#### City Island Theater Group

We close our 2018 season with Christopher Durang's comedy "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." The play revolves around the relationships of three middle-aged single siblings, two of whom live together and have spent their lives caring for their aging parents. Their often-wrong, future-predicting maid adds an element of weirdness to the play until a visit by Masha, the third sibling, who carries the entire financial burden for the family home, her siblings and her parents. They discuss their lives, their loves, their losses, their regrets and their missed opportunities. They argue a lot. At one point, Masha even threatens to sell the house.

Some of the show's elements are a comedic adaptation of the works of Anton Chekhov, including several of the characters' names, but the audience needs no familiarity with Chekhov to enjoy this show.

Performance dates are Nov. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18. Nick Sala, CITG president, will direct this production. Please see the November issue of *The Island Current* for more information.

**Mary McIntyre**

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Watch for our overstock sales of coats, sweaters, shoes, bags and boots. We also have Halloween costumes for kids and adults and holiday bric-a-brac. Come have some coffee and chat.

**Arlene Byrne**

#### 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.

Sunday School has resumed. The 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. The older students will begin preparing for the sacrament of confirmation when the bishop visits Grace Church on Dec. 23. If you are interested in enrolling your children in Sunday School, e-mail Karen at [karenrni@optonline.net](mailto:karenrni@optonline.net) or leave a message on the church phone 718-885-1080.

The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is in our 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 be singing at United Hebrew on Oct. 21. 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](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

**Sandy Dunn**

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

Our Religious Education Program is off to a great start. If you would like to register your child/children, please do so as soon as possible.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Something for everyone!

Our monthly holy hour will resume in October on the First Friday, Oct. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which occurs on Thursday, Oct. 4, our Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain.

Our monthly coffee hour will resume on Sunday, Oct. 14, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come and enjoy light refreshments with your fellow parishioners.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, there will be a special Commitment Mass at 11 a.m. for our eighth-grade students.

Thursday, Nov. 1, is the Feast of All Saints and a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

**Rose Dietz**

#### 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. Services are followed by 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 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 5: Community-led  
Oct. 12: Clergy (Shabbaton weekend)  
Oct. 19: Community-led  
Oct. 26: Clergy

#### Other activities:

Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spiritual Shabbos morning. Depending on congregation preferences, this Shabbat may be a Torah shabbat at synagogue or a Shabbat morning in the NY Botanical Garden. Stay tuned.

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

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

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

Oneg sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to obtain more information, please contact

Violet Smith at [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com) or 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

**Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol**

#### PSS Senior Center

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

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

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

#### Highlights

Oct. 3, Wednesday: Botanical Garden tour and lunch sponsored by Assemblyman Gjonaj

Oct. 4, Thursday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.: Active Shooter and Emergency Preparedness Presentation

Oct. 5, Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Hearing van, for those who haven't had a recent hearing test and for those who do not wear hearing aids

Oct. 8, Monday: Closed for Columbus Day

Oct. 18, Thursday: Westchester Broadway Theatre "Phantom of the Opera," \$58

Oct. 31, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.: Halloween Party and Baking Contest/Sale (Pumpkin baked goods)

If you are interested in receiving the new singles shot call the center ASAP, so we can sign you up.

#### 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

##### 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:

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

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

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy

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

##### Thursdays:

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

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

12:30, Oct. 25: Birthday party and DJ

1 p.m. Skits

##### Fridays:

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

10:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Walking Club at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park or Mall

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

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

*Continued on page 17*





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

You are cordially invited to our second annual Harvest Dinner Dance on Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. Enjoy a delicious dinner with friends while listening to the beautiful music and the wonderful voices of Freddie Lando and Caroline Del Giudice. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 per person by contacting Maria Sipas at 917-885-2100 or 718-885-2100.

Our annual membership drive will soon be under way, and forms will be distributed shortly. We depend on your support to keep the Center going. Remember, 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 up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://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 SOON**

**NEW Calligraphy and the Art of Beautiful Writing:** Beginning Sunday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$75 for five weeks plus a \$25 materials fee. To register or for more information, contact Regina Sanglier at 369-873-2385 or [rsanglier10464@gmail.com](mailto:rsanglier10464@gmail.com).

**City Island Knitting Club:** Beginning in November, day and time to be announced. Enjoy knitting with others. Beginners and all levels welcome. For information or to register, contact Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or [cdcaton@gmail.com](mailto:cdcaton@gmail.com).

**Harvest Dinner Dance:** Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets, call Maria Sipas at 917-885-2100 or 718-885-2100. See above for details.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance:** Tuesday, 6 p.m. for Teens/Adults. Join Lalitha Cosme at this new time, to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

**Irish Dance for Children:** Monday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. resumes Sept. 17. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For day and time or information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

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

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. Register now for classes that will begin in late September. 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](http://www.espanolexperience.com).

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

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

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

**Ballroom Dance:** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. but currently on hold. Maurice Bonilla teaches 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. Amira fun-filled dance experience and with benefits of feeling fit and limber. Beginners and all levels welcome. Call 917-251-1269 to join or to get more information.

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

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

**City Island Culinary Club:** Mondays at 7 p.m., Oct. 8 and 22. Share recipes of Oktoberfest foods both German and Polish, 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 September meeting dates, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or [cityislandtrg@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandtrg@gmail.com) or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

**NEW Feldenkrais Class:** Monday at 6 p.m. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information about how to improve the way your body feels and functions. For information, please call Julie Kavee at 347-266-6247 or e-mail [juliekavee@gmail.com](mailto:juliekavee@gmail.com).

**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 to lead to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to the Community Center. Visit [www.thehealingforce.net](http://www.thehealingforce.net). For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

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

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

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

**Patty Grondahl**

**AARP Chapter 318**

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. We will have a regular meeting on Oct. 3, when we will discuss plans for our annual Penny Auction, which will be held on Oct. 17, followed by Pizza/Bingo. The doors will open at 12 noon, and the entrance fee is \$10 in advance (\$15 at the door), which includes lunch and auction tickets. All proceeds of the Penny Auction will be donated to local charities.

We are planning a trip to Hunterdon



Photo by RON TERNER

The Quilts of Valor sewing participants Harlan Sexton and Mary Carman display the new American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 Star quilt. The handmade quilt will be presented to a Legion veteran this fall.

Hills Playhouse on Nov. 30 to see their annual Christmas show. The fee is \$68, which includes a great show and a delicious lunch (including an entire room of desserts). Non-members must pay an additional \$20 for the bus. If you are interested, call Elaine Walts at 914-632-6707.

**Carroll Reid**

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156**

Our first meeting, on Tuesday, Sept. 4, was well attended. We thank all members for their support.

Our first event of the season will be Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. We will host our annual Baby Shower. Meaghan Clancy, chair of the event, will deliver clothes to the Fort Drum military base. The biggest demand this year is clothing for newborns to five-year-olds. If anyone would like to donate an item, please drop off at the Legion post.

Our second event will be Saturday, Oct. 6, when we will sponsor our Bake Sale and Membership and Poppy Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Legion Pumpkin Sale. We are in need of baked goods. If anyone would like to donate, please drop off at the Legion post on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Judy McCormick, who was nominated Unit Member of the Year and received a parliamentary award. She also received a home service pin, as did Sandra Panzarella, Harlan Sexton and Joanne Valletta for 500 hours of community home service. Thanks to all for your service and support throughout the years.

Congratulations to our president, Laura Booth, who received the Department of NY 100th Centennial coin from our commander, Peter Del Debbio.

Our Zumba class will continue in the fall on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at \$10 per person, on Oct. 4, 18 and 25 and Nov. 1, 15 and 29. Please pass this information on to family and friends.

**Joanne Valletta**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee

hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Following worship is a special program: "Seeking, growing, and sharing . . . more Love, Joy and Peace." Looking to God, placing ourselves "under the wings of Jesus," how can each of us and our families have more love, joy and peace? Pastor Jolly will lead this program. All are welcome; food will be shared. What would you give up to have more love, joy and peace? Come and see!

Please join us for the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m. following worship. The rain date is Oct. 21. All are welcome.

The Budget Shop has reopened. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

**Rick DeWitt**

**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





### A Selected Filmography of Al Pacino

Born in East Harlem, 78-year-old Al Pacino has had an acting career that has spanned more than five decades. He is the winner of a Best Actor Oscar (nominated eight times), two Tonys, two Emmys, four Golden Globes (17 nominations) and a National Medal of Arts. With a few excellent exceptions, he has played many characters who have been on either side of the law, as criminal or as cop.

His first leading film role was in **Panic in Needle Park** (1971). However, although it was critically acclaimed, I cannot recommend this very depressing film, which follows the life of a heroin addict. Rather, I would like to begin with **The Godfather Trilogy** (1972, '74, '90). The series depicts the rise of the Corleone family, whose patriarch, Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando), becomes a major figure in American organized crime. **The Godfather** (1972) is seen by many as one of the greatest films of all time, while **The Godfather Part II** (1974) is viewed by many as the best sequel in cinematic history. Pacino stars as Vito's son Michael, who eventually takes over for Vito as head of the crime syndicate. The stellar cast includes Robert DeNiro playing young Vito, as he begins his life in Sicily and comes to America, where he founds the family empire. James Caan and John Cazale play Michael's brothers, Sonny and Fredo; Robert Duvall is family lawyer Tom Hagen; Diane Keaton is Michael's wife; and Andy Garcia is Vincent Corleone (Sonny's illegitimate son, who is featured in the third film).

Based on a true story, **Serpico** (1973) stars Pacino in the title role as an idealistic New York City cop who refuses to take bribes, an action that places him in danger as he is shunned by the other officers. His anti-corruption efforts in the 1960s and early 1970s led to the creation of the Knapp Commission and the uncovering of widespread corruption among police officials on all levels.

In **Dog Day Afternoon** (1975), inexperienced criminal Sonny Wortzik (Al Pacino) leads a bank robbery in Brooklyn, but things quickly go wrong, and a hostage situation develops. As Sonny and his accomplice, Sal Naturile (John Cazale), try desperately to remain in control, a media circus develops and the FBI arrives, creating even more tension. Gradually, Sonny's surprising motivations behind the robbery are revealed, and his standoff with law enforcement moves toward its inevitable end.

A remake of the 1932 film **Scarface** (1983) stars Pacino as Tony Montana, an exiled Cuban criminal, who with his best friend, Manny Ribera (Steven Bauer), goes to work for Miami drug lord Frank Lopez (Robert Loggia). Montana manages to rise to the top of Florida's crime operation, replacing Lopez and marrying Lopez's cokehead mistress (a then unknown Michelle Pfeiffer). Viewers must be forewarned that this is an extremely gory movie, with blood by the bucketful, especially in the now-infamous buzz saw scene. One carry-over from the original **Scarface** (1932) is Montana's incestuous yearnings for his sister, Gina (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio). The screenplay for the 1983 version was written by Oliver Stone, who was then battling his own cocaine addiction.

Moving to a steamy crime drama, there is **Sea of Love** (1989) co-starring Ellen Barkin as Helen Cruger, the manager

of a shoe store. She becomes an object of affection for Detective Frank Keller (Al Pacino), when he meets her while working on a case. Frank is in charge of the investigation of a serial killer who shoots his victim in the neck and leaves a record playing "Sea of Love." He partners with Detective Sherman (John Goodman), from a district outside of Manhattan, when a second victim is killed with the same MO.

Michele Pfeiffer and Pacino work together again in **Frankie and Johnny** (1991), where Pfeiffer absolutely shines as the damaged waitress, Frankie. Just released from prison, Johnny (Pacino) is hired by restaurant owner, Nick (Hector Elizondo), as the new cook. While pursued by the lonely Cora (Kate Nelligan), he ultimately falls for Frankie. Nathan Lane is his usual hilarious self as Tim, Frankie's gay best friend. This is a touching, poignant romance.

David Mamet's award-winning Broadway play **Glengarry Glen Ross** (1992) is a character study about a group of desperate real estate agents whose time has passed. Alec Baldwin appears as a sales motivator, informing the group of hard-luck salesmen that they must compete in a sales contest where the losers will be fired. The agents work their same tired leads, until one hatches a scheme to burglarize the office, steal the leads and sell them to a rival. The extraordinary ensemble cast includes Pacino as the office's sales leader, Jack Lemmon as an elderly loser, Alan Arkin and Ed Harris as frustrated salesmen, Kevin Spacey as the harassed office manager and Jonathan Pryce as a client.

Pacino received his only Oscar for his tour-de-force performance as Frank Slade, a belligerent, blind, retired army colonel in **Scent of a Woman** (1993). Over a Thanksgiving weekend, he hires poor college student Charlie Simms (Chris O'Donnell) to take care of him. The two go to New York, where they have a contentious visit with Frank's family and eat a few terrific meals. Finally, Frank attempts his stated goal, which is to commit suicide. Philip Seymour Hoffman is on hand as Charlie's classmate George, and Rebecca Anwar appears as Donna, a young woman with whom Frank dances a memorable tango.

Another crime drama based on a true story is **Heat** (1995). It concerns Neil McCauley (Robert De Niro), a master criminal planning one last big heist before he retires, with the help of his partner, Chris Shiherlis (Val Kilmer). Meanwhile, LAPD Major Crimes Lieutenant Vincent Hanna (Pacino) attempts to track down McCauley as he deals with the chaos in his own life, including the infidelity of his third wife, Justine (Diane Venora), and the mental health of his stepdaughter, Laura (Natalie Portman). McCauley and Hanna discover a mutual respect, even as they try to thwart each other's plans. The supporting cast of this engrossing crime drama includes Amy Brenneman as McCauley's love interest; Ashley Judd as Shiherlis's wife, Charlene; and Jon Voight as McCauley's fence, Nate.

In **The Devil's Advocate** (1997), Keanu Reeves stars as up-and-coming lawyer Kevin Lomax. He and his wife, Mary Ann (Charlize Theron), leave their Gainesville, FL, home to join a top Manhattan law firm, run by the smarmy, all-powerful John Milton (Pacino). Seduced by the high living Milton provides, Kevin becomes driven by his job, neglecting Mary Ann in the process, and she starts to go "mad," in the certifiable sense.

**Donnie Brasco** (1997) is the true story of an FBI agent who infiltrates the mob. The film is loosely based on the true story of Joseph D. Pistone (Johnny Depp), an FBI undercover agent who infiltrated the Mafia Bonanno crime family in New York City during the 1970s, under the alias Donnie Brasco. Brasco maneuvers his way into the confidence of an aging hit man, Lefty Ruggiero (Pacino), who vouches for him. As Donnie moves deeper into the Mafia, he

realizes that not only is he crossing the line between federal agent and criminal, but he is also leading his friend Lefty to an almost certain death.

**The Insider** (1999) stars Russell Crowe as scientist Jeffrey Wigand, a whistleblower who is convinced against his better judgment by producer Lowell Bergman (Pacino) to tell the truth about the tobacco industry on "60 Minutes," much to the horror of his unsupportive wife, Liane (Diane Venora). The tobacco industry exercises its considerable clout on CBS, making life uncomfortable for Mike Wallace (Christopher Plummer) and the CBS news team. Although the facts are somewhat twisted, this is an extremely powerful, thought-provoking film.

**Insomnia** (2002) is a psychological thriller set in a small Alaskan town where LA Detectives Will Dormer (Pacino) and his partner, Hap Eckhart (Martin Donovan), have arrived to assist the police chief (Paul Dooley). A young woman has been killed, and Will and Hap are supposed to help crack the case. They are followed by an eager young detective, Ellie Burr (Hillary Swank). Although he doesn't appear until halfway through the film, Robin Williams is Walter Finch, a small-time crime novelist who happens to be the murderer. There are many twists and turns that are exacerbated by the fact that Dormer is under investigation by Internal Affairs back in LA.

In director Barry Levinson's made-for-HBO biopic **You Don't Know Jack** (2010), Pacino stars as Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a former Michigan pathologist; the film depicts his efforts to help the terminally ill and the profoundly disabled end their lives. Dr. Kevorkian (aka "Dr. Death") creates a machine that allows terminally ill medical patients to end their own lives in a peaceful, humane manner. When he is forced to defend his philosophy and practices in court, a media firestorm erupts over a patient's right to die. Kevorkian is assisted

by his attorney, Geoffrey Fieger (Danny Huston); his sister, Margo Janus (Brenda Vaccaro); his longtime friend and medical technician, Neal Nicol (John Goodman); and right-to-die advocate and patient Janet Good (Susan Sarandon). Pacino won a Primetime Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild award for his performance.

Inspired by a true incident, **Danny Collins** (2015) stars Pacino in the title role of an aging pop singer, whose manager/best friend Frank (Christopher Plummer) presents him with an extraordinary birthday gift, a 1971 letter that was written to Danny by John Lennon but that he never received. Disenchanted with his extravagant empty life of drugs, booze and absurdly younger women, Danny embarks on a journey to connect with his grown son, Tom (Bobby Cannavale), a blue-collar worker who lives in New Jersey with his pregnant wife, Samantha (Jennifer Garner) and their special-needs daughter, Hope (Giselle Eisenberg). How Danny slowly but deliberately insinuates himself into their lives is a fascinating and touching process. This poignant film features Annette Bening as Mary, the hotel manager of the Hilton where Danny is staying and with whom Danny enjoys wonderful banter.

And until next time, happy viewing...



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# Having a Conflict with a Family Member? Try the Sandwich Technique!

By JOHN SCARDINA

Let's face it: conflict is inevitable. We all cannot get what we want the way we want it all of the time, and thus our needs and wants and personalities will collide. So, let me suggest that the goal is to handle conflict well so that: we maintain mutual respect; we look for win-win (rather than win-lose or lose-lose) solutions; we restore domestic tranquility; life is too short to stay in the fight!

Here is a valuable technique that can achieve these goals, which I first learned from Mary Pipher's book "Reviving Ophelia" (which is still a must-read for parents of daughters). The sandwich technique has **praise** as the top piece of bread, your **criticism** as the "fixings" of the sandwich and **hope** as the bottom piece of bread.

Here's a scenario you might relate to. You come home from a long day at work to find the kitchen full of empty jars and boxes, a sink filled with dishes smeared with tomato sauce and a half-empty gallon of milk on the counter. This is the result of a pasta-cooking event led by your son and his football buddies. You want to get dinner started, and now the kitchen is a mess. How to proceed?

**Praise:** Hey John, I really appreciate how you take care of your buddies and share our home with them. You are a good friend to them, and I enjoy having your friends at our house.

**Criticism:** I do feel, however, that cleaning up after yourselves before I get home is an important part of our shared family agreement. Today's mess in the kitchen is just too much for me to deal with right now, and it needs to be cleaned up before I make dinner.

**Hope:** I hope we can continue to respect our common spaces in the house and take care of one another. I know you can be a kind and conscientious kid, and I believe this won't happen again.

Let's look a bit closer: Praise that is specific, helpful and true opens up the listener's ears and heart and helps our message to get through to others. Criticism that looks at the "directly observable data" (the dirty kitchen) and avoids labeling ("lazy" and "slob") is most likely to get good results. Hope in the message getting across suggests faith in the other person and a positive attitude when looking ahead.

So, why not give it a try?

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**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

**OCTOBER 2018**

| DAY    | TIME<br>HH MM | HEIGHT<br>FEET | TIME<br>HH MM | HEIGHT<br>FEET | TIME<br>HH MM | HEIGHT<br>FEET | TIME<br>HH MM | HEIGHT<br>FEET | DAY    |
|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 01 Mon | 0353          | 7.34           | 1006          | 0.82           | 1612          | 8.01           | 2252          | 0.68           | Mon 01 |
| 02 Tue | 0454          | 7.08           | 1107          | 1.11           | 1715          | 7.72           |               |                | Tue 02 |
| 03 Wed | 0014          | 0.87           | 0606          | 6.96           | 1225          | 1.25           | 1830          | 7.52           | Wed 03 |
| 04 Thu | 0203          | 0.72           | 0747          | 7.11           | 1422          | 1.00           | 2011          | 7.59           | Thu 04 |
| 05 Fri | 0312          | 0.34           | 0906          | 7.54           | 1534          | 0.44           | 2131          | 7.89           | Fri 05 |
| 06 Sat | 0410          | -0.08          | 1004          | 8.01           | 1633          | -0.15          | 2230          | 8.19           | Sat 06 |
| 07 Sun | 0501          | -0.43          | 1056          | 8.40           | 1726          | -0.64          | 2322          | 8.37           | Sun 07 |
| 08 Mon | 0550          | -0.65          | 1142          | 8.65           | 1816          | -0.95          |               |                | Mon 08 |
| 09 Tue | 0010          | 8.40           | 0635          | -0.68          | 1227          | 8.73           | 1903          | -1.03          | Tue 09 |
| 10 Wed | 0056          | 8.29           | 0719          | -0.53          | 1310          | 8.64           | 1949          | -0.89          | Wed 10 |
| 11 Thu | 0141          | 8.05           | 0800          | -0.23          | 1352          | 8.42           | 2035          | -0.57          | Thu 11 |
| 12 Fri | 0226          | 7.73           | 0840          | 0.18           | 1433          | 8.10           | 2121          | -0.12          | Fri 12 |
| 13 Sat | 0313          | 7.38           | 0918          | 0.65           | 1517          | 7.74           | 2209          | 0.38           | Sat 13 |
| 14 Sun | 0405          | 7.06           | 0955          | 1.11           | 1608          | 7.37           | 2302          | 0.85           | Sun 14 |
| 15 Mon | 0505          | 6.83           | 1042          | 1.52           | 1715          | 7.08           |               |                | Mon 15 |
| 16 Tue | 0000          | 1.21           | 0608          | 6.75           | 1201          | 1.81           | 1827          | 6.93           | Tue 16 |
| 17 Wed | 0058          | 1.42           | 0709          | 6.81           | 1312          | 1.89           | 1931          | 6.94           | Wed 17 |
| 18 Thu | 0153          | 1.46           | 0805          | 7.00           | 1412          | 1.77           | 2026          | 7.06           | Thu 18 |
| 19 Fri | 0244          | 1.36           | 0855          | 7.24           | 1503          | 1.51           | 2115          | 7.22           | Fri 19 |
| 20 Sat | 0328          | 1.18           | 0939          | 7.47           | 1548          | 1.18           | 2159          | 7.37           | Sat 20 |
| 21 Sun | 0407          | 0.96           | 1017          | 7.68           | 1627          | 0.80           | 2234          | 7.50           | Sun 21 |
| 22 Mon | 0438          | 0.73           | 1044          | 7.87           | 1701          | 0.43           | 2259          | 7.60           | Mon 22 |
| 23 Tue | 0501          | 0.48           | 1059          | 8.08           | 1729          | 0.09           | 2319          | 7.71           | Tue 23 |
| 24 Wed | 0526          | 0.24           | 1124          | 8.34           | 1800          | -0.21          | 2349          | 7.82           | Wed 24 |
| 25 Thu | 0600          | 0.06           | 1158          | 8.56           | 1834          | -0.41          |               |                | Thu 25 |
| 26 Fri | 0027          | 7.88           | 0638          | -0.03          | 1237          | 8.69           | 1914          | -0.48          | Fri 26 |
| 27 Sat | 0109          | 7.85           | 0720          | 0.01           | 1321          | 8.68           | 1959          | -0.40          | Sat 27 |
| 28 Sun | 0155          | 7.72           | 0806          | 0.19           | 1408          | 8.52           | 2048          | -0.17          | Sun 28 |
| 29 Mon | 0245          | 7.51           | 0857          | 0.47           | 1500          | 8.22           | 2144          | 0.14           | Mon 29 |
| 30 Tue | 0341          | 7.25           | 0955          | 0.81           | 1558          | 7.81           | 2254          | 0.46           | Tue 30 |
| 31 Wed | 0448          | 7.04           | 1108          | 1.08           | 1706          | 7.42           |               |                | Wed 31 |

**NOVEMBER 2018**

|        |      |       |      |      |      |       |      |      |        |
|--------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|--------|
| 01 Thu | 0035 | 0.59  | 0621 | 7.01 | 1303 | 1.04  | 1844 | 7.21 | Thu 01 |
| 02 Fri | 0153 | 0.44  | 0754 | 7.30 | 1423 | 0.62  | 2022 | 7.37 | Fri 02 |
| 03 Sat | 0256 | 0.15  | 0857 | 7.72 | 1526 | 0.07  | 2125 | 7.62 | Sat 03 |
| 04 Sun | 0252 | -0.15 | 0852 | 8.11 | 1522 | -0.46 | 2120 | 7.84 | Sun 04 |
| 05 Mon | 0343 | -0.39 | 0941 | 8.40 | 1613 | -0.86 | 2210 | 7.95 | Mon 05 |



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

**WATCH OR WARNING?**

Given the news of Hurricane Florence's impact (at the time this column was going to print), we thought it might interest readers to have another go at an old article of ours on the subject of extreme weather.

Meteorologists these days just can't leave well enough alone. Just when we were beginning to get a handle on some of their most popular weather words and catch phrases, they have to go ahead and introduce new jargon into the lexicon, such as an *extreme weather event* or a *polar vortex*. And who can forget the subtle shift away from *global warming* to *climate change*? It's almost as if they do it on purpose, as if getting the forecast right has become less a priority than talking about weather in sexy new ways.

It isn't as if there isn't plenty to talk about already where our weather is concerned, either. Take a hurricane, for example. A hurricane is a tropical cyclone, or to put it simply, a large circulating system of thunderstorms, with sustained wind speeds of 74 mph or higher. On the Saffir-Simpson scale, which breaks hurricanes down into five categories, a category 1 hurricane has sustained wind speeds of 74 to 95 mph; a category 2 hurricane has sustained wind speeds of 96 to 110 mph; and categories 3 through 5, which are considered major hurricanes, have sustained wind speeds within the ranges of 111 to 129 mph, 130 to 156 mph, and 157 mph or higher, respectively. As we write this, Hurricane Florence is being identified as a category 3 (major) hurricane.

*Sustained wind speeds* is another interesting little locution that meteorologists like to use. In the United States,

sustained wind speeds are calculated by finding the average wind speed of the air that is moving 10 meters above the ground over a period of time equal to one minute. For most of the rest of the world, however, the calculation is completed over a 10-minute period of time. This is significant because that difference—one minute versus 10 minutes—would seem to account for a 14 percent higher average sustained wind speeds in the United States than in the rest of the world. Maybe that is why our meteorologists like to talk so much about sustained wind speeds: for that feeling of superiority it affords them.

A *tropical storm* is the tropical cyclone one notch below a hurricane (and a *tropical depression* is two notches). It's good to know this because the imminent arrival of tropical storms are what the National Hurricane Center (NHC) uses to distinguish between a *watch* and a *warning*. It works this way: 48 hours before the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds (i.e., 39 to 73 mph, sustained) the NHC issues a hurricane watch. It is possible, the NHC has determined, that the approaching tropical storm may become a hurricane. A hurricane warning, on the other hand, is issued 36 hours before the impending event. NHC does it this way so that there is ample time to prepare for the expected hurricane. So there you have it: hurricane watch/hurricane possible; hurricane warning/hurricane expected.

For Hurricane Florence (at the time of this writing, anyway), a warning was issued for most of the North Carolina coast and about half of South Carolina's. It is clear that the good folks at NHC take their weather and the words they use to talk about weather seriously. They have to: people's lives may depend upon it.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Allium hollandicum 'purple sensation'

## Bulb Planting in Autumn

Autumn comes softly. The maples blush in fiery tones. Tomato canning is in full swing, and I imagine the bees are making the last of their honey from goldenrod and sedum. Migration begins south. The birds can be seen in great masses sweeping the sky, as a chorus of frogs and peepers dies down to a whisper. The garden shimmers blue with asters and begins its ragtag descent, and the gardener is busy planting bulbs, clearing debris and moving shrubs or digging in new ones.

Bulb planting is really all about preparing for spring, and this fall I will be planting alliums. After the tulips have faded, the alliums dramatically dot the garden in May with their beautiful spherical heads made up of tens and tens of star flowers. Alliums are part of the onion family, and as long as you have free-draining soil in full sun, they will provide bright color and decorative interest throughout the gardening year. They dry perfectly and are a great ornament in the border or in a vase.

Plant the alliums in drifts, as the wind may scatter them, or in curvilinear lines snaking through the garden. They look great with the annual grass *Stipa tenuissima* or poking out between the fresh clumps of perennial flowers to come, mixing well with Mediterranean plants like lavender, artemisia and sage.

Allium christophii are huge with globular heads made up of metallic lilac purple stars; Allium atropurpureum is the darkest of all, being dense black purple on three-foot stems; Allium hollandicum 'purple sensation' is the best known and I can't have enough of them, three feet tall with rich purple heads; Allium karataviense are shorter with pinky beige flowers the size of tennis balls; Allium sphaerocephalon come later on tall lean stems that carry wine-red slightly tipped balls that can enhance a wild planting scheme. Plant at least 100 with three or five together in drifts.

Last year in March, I attended David Culp's Galanthus Gala in Downingtown, PA. It seems that some people are simply mad for their snowdrops. That is, of course, because they appear first on the scene beginning in late February and early March. Despite the ferocious cold weather, snowdrops appear delicate with unusual green markings. There are many rare jewels in this family to collect, but I favor Galanthus nivalis, which self-sows, and G. elwesii, which happens to be the least expensive. Plant them beneath deciduous shrubs and around trees in part sun or shade. When they arrive by post, plant them immediately, as they do not fare well otherwise.

Do you have tulip mania? The viridiflora tulips look elegantly painted, and the parrots are sumptuous and fringed. Dafodils should be planted among daylilies, and at the New York Botanical Garden, that border is marked later with alliums, all happy companions coexisting in a perfect world.

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Photos by MATT PANZA

Between the bad weather following Labor Day and the rain expected from the remnants of Hurricane Florence, the skies were clear for OLA/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church's annual outdoor mass on Sept. 15. Led by Fr. Knapp, Fr. Augustus and Deacon Mueller, congregants joined the choir to sing praises and thanks for a beautiful service.

## Organization News

Continued from page 11

Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information and for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

### City Island Republicans

We all need to get out and support Marc Molinaro for governor and Keith Wofford for attorney general. They both have a decent shot at winning.

The annual Bronx Republican dinner has been moved to next year in order to focus on the 2018 election.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post.

Fred Ramftl Jr.



### American Legion Post #156

The next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 7, at noon. Dues (\$55) can be dropped off at the Post. Please put them in an envelope with your name on it for us to properly process your membership.

We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576.

Remember to play the Queen of Hearts game each week. The drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone hits. The game is open to all. Proceeds from the game helped fund projects around the Post.

The weekend of Oct. 5, 6 and 7 will be the annual Post Pumpkin Sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Legion Auxiliary will also be hosting a bake sale throughout the weekend. Please come out and support the Legion family.

The SAL's third annual Octoberfest will

be on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Post. The cost is \$40. The menu will include several German specials, including a roasted pig. Sign up at the Post.

We had a wonderful Bronx County visitation on Sept. 12, which included a stop at the Post from Gary Schacher our new Department Commander. Also joining the visitation was statewide Auxiliary President Marie Mock and James Coates, who is state SAL Detachment Commander. For the first time, rounding out the Legion Family were Bob Wallace and his wife, Terri. The day included a visit to the new 911 Call Center (PSAC II), specifically to showcase the latest technology, as Commander Schacher retired from the NYSP IT Department.

We also traveled to the Bicentennial Veteran's Park, Winged Victory in Pelham Bay Park and finally to the City Island Nautical Museum. The day ended with a wonderful dinner at the Morris Yacht Club. Thanks to all who helped prepare for the dinner and accompany the dignitaries around the Bronx. A special thanks to members of Post 253 who provided the color guard for the evening.

And finally, thanks to Post Bronx County Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Salerno, who presented the POW/MIA Rose to President Mock at the end of the county visitation dinner.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole. Just a reminder. Please place your cigarette butts in the posted cans to help keep the Post clean.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all ourselves anymore.

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

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 99 years.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

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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.



Photo by KRISTA KING

## Wesley Lawrence Rodstrom Sr.

Longtime City Island yacht yard owner and yachtsman Wesley Lawrence Rodstrom passed away on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018, at his home in Port St. Lucie, FL. He was 90.

Son of the noted sea captain Charles Rodstrom and Cora Waterhouse Rodstrom, Wesley was a true clam digger, born on City Island on March 27, 1928, the youngest of nine brothers and sisters. He grew up in the family house at Fordham Street and Fordham Place and later at 196 Horton Street.

Wesley attended P.S. 17 and Columbus High School before graduating from SUNY Maritime at Fort Schuyler in the late 1940s. In 1948 he married his teenage sweetheart, Janet Schmidt, of Buckley Street.

Following in the family tradition, Wesley was drawn to the marine industry, and in the early 1950s, he and his brother Frank established the Rodstrom Boat Yard on the west side of Pilot Street at the City Island Yacht Club. Like all the Rodstrom men, Wesley was a consummate yachtsman and shipwright, well versed in handling a yacht whether it was on the water or in a boatyard, and he soon garnered a very favorable reputation on the Island and in the industry.

In 1959 Wesley, Frank and a syndicate that included Seward DeHart, Richard Voepel and Dr. Justin Callahan expanded the Rodstrom yard and bought Consolidated at the east end of Pilot Street. Wesley immediately began work on painting shops, sheds and offices, adding new slips and generally cleaning up the yard. The Rodstroms operated both yards for a short time before opting out of the City Island Yacht Club location. For three years they operated under the name Rodstrom Shipyard before reverting back to Consolidated Yachts, Inc. Although it was no longer a yacht building yard, Consolidated did a number of major restorations, rebuilds and overhauls on large yachts that furthered its reputation.

As the owner and operator of Consolidated, Wesley was known not only as an expert shipwright but also as a good businessman, and he influenced several local marine concerns in the way they operated. He was an avid yachtsman and was for a time a member of the Larchmont Yacht Club, a past commodore of the Saints and Sinners Yacht Club and, since 1953, a member of the Storm Trysail Club. Wesley enjoyed both sailing and power boating, and for many years he owned *Downwind* a C&C 32, *Sea Turtle*, a 42-foot Grand Banks trawler, *Dolphin*, a 42-foot ocean motor yacht and finally *Migrant*, a 31-foot Tiara power boat, named after the 222-foot schooner for which his father, Capt. Charles Rodstrom, was the professional captain.

In addition, Wesley was a longtime member of the Orienta Beach Club of Mamaroneck, and in 1977 he became a founding member of the Campfire Con-

servation Fund, an organization formed to promote the conservation of our natural resources. For 40 years, Wesley was at the helm of Consolidated Yachts on east Pilot Street before he turned the yard over to his son, Wes Rodstrom Jr., and Mike Piparo in June 1999 and retired to Florida with his wife, Janet.

Wesley is predeceased by his parents, all his brothers and sisters, his wife and his son Geoffrey C. Rodstrom (2008); he is survived by sons Wesley L. Rodstrom Jr. and Steven W. Rodstrom; Wesley Jr.'s longtime companion, Krista King, five grandchildren, Geoffrey C. Rodstrom Jr., Paul R. Rodstrom, Erik L. Rodstrom, Lindsey K. Hutchins, and Kevin W. Rodstrom and five great grandchildren.

The year 2018 marks the 60th year of Rodstrom ownership of the Consolidated Yard making it the longest running yacht yard on City Island owned by one family, not counting the years when the Rodstrom Yard was at the City Island Yacht Club.

Wesley L. Rodstrom Sr. will be interred at Pelham Cemetery.

*Historical Note: Consolidated Yachts has been the oldest continually operating shipyard on City Island, first established as a shipyard by David Carll back in the early 1860s. Carll bought the property and railway from the Horton estate after the estate had a railway built for servicing local oyster boats in the late 1850s. Samuel S. Hart operated a repair business at the railway that he passed on to Carll about 1860. The Carll shipyard operated on City Island until the summer of 1886, when it was sold to shipbuilder Henry Piepgras, who in turn operated the yard until the late spring of 1900, when it was bought by Robert Jacob. Robert Jacob and later Robert Jacob Jr. owned the yard until it was sold in 1945 at the end of World War II to Consolidated Shipbuilding, which moved its operation from the Harlem River at Morris Heights. Consolidated continued in operation until 1958, after the last 100-foot plus vessel was built and launched on City Island—the 144-foot minehunter U.S.S. Bittern MHC 43. It was at this time that the yard was bought by the Rodstroms. As a professional skipper Capt. Charles Rodstrom was closely involved with the Robert Jacob Shipyard as early as 1902 and through the 1930s, overseeing the service, overhauling and commissioning of many famous and prominent yachts.*



Photo by SANDY TORRES

## Morton Ellis

Morton Ellis, a resident of City Island since 2002, passed away of unknown causes on Friday, Aug. 31, 2018. He was 73.

He was last seen dancing in Hawkins Park on the previous weekend, in spite of the great heat, and as usual he delighted Islanders with his enthusiastic response to the music.

Mort was born on June 14, 1945, and grew up in Woodhaven on Long Island. He attended Van Buren High School and

graduated from Queens College, where he majored in education. He taught elementary school for a time but eventually joined his family's antique business in Manhattan, Midtown Antiques, which was founded 60 years ago by his father and uncle.

In 1969, Mort married Violet Papier and they lived first in Flushing, Queens, and later in Woodmere, Long Island. They moved to City Island in 2002, and brought Midtown Antiques with them, first at 310 City Island Avenue on the corner of Fordham Street and later at 278 City Island Avenue on the corner of Hawkins. Mort served Temple Beth-El in various capacities, on the board of directors and as president.

Violet passed away on Sept. 16, 2012, after a long series of illnesses. Mort is survived by his brother, Stephen Ellis, and his wife, Myra, of Bellmore, Long Island; their children, Mark Ellis and Robin Weisman, and five great nieces and nephews, who loved their "Uncle Mortie."

Mort was buried in Beth Moses Cemetery in West Babylon, NY, but as his brother put it: "Mort was the star of our family and now he is dancing with the stars!"



## Fred Karl Buelow

Fred Karl Buelow, who grew up on City Island, passed away peacefully on April 22, 2018, at the age of 83 in Palo Alto, CA.

He was born Aug. 14, 1934, in New York to German immigrants Mary T. and Frederick P. Buelow and grew up on Rochelle Street on City Island. He graduated from P.S. 17 in January 1948 and attended the Bronx High School of Science and City College New York. He was active with the City Island chapter of the DeMolay attaining the highest rank of Master Councillor.

In 1956 Fred married Janet Redlus, whom he had met at Bronx Science, and they moved to Poughkeepsie, NY, where they started their family of six children. In 1966 they moved to Los Altos, CA.

Fred Buelow began his career at IBM and then went on to work in many Silicon Valley start-ups; He was one of the founders of Amdahl Corp, president of Microtechnology and chairman of the board of Storage Technology. He also worked at AIDA, Teradyne and HAL Computer. Fred loved his work and was always delighted by new technology and the next exciting venture. He especially enjoyed economics and creating constructive charts and graphs. He also loved reading and especially appreciated a good science fiction novel

Fred was a member and president of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship in Poughkeepsie from 1956 to 1966, and after moving to the Palo Alto was president and later treasurer of the Palo Alto UU Church until 2018. Fred was very generous and philanthropic, supporting social justice and family causes throughout his entire life through the church and many other community organizations. Fred appreciated and

encouraged his young family members in their talents and interests, listening to and supporting them whenever they needed him.

Fred Buelow is survived by his children, Ron, Annette, Heidi, Alicia, Pietra and Paul; five grandchildren, Natalie, Nick, Maddy, Dante, and Charlie; his brother-in-law, Bobby; his niece and nephew, Hal and Sue; and his dog, Sophie. A memorial service was held on May 19, 2018, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. Donations can be made in his name to [ACLU.org](http://ACLU.org) or [UUCPA \(www.uucpa.org/connection/donate\)](http://UUCPA(www.uucpa.org/connection/donate)).



## Douglas Geoffrey Hearle

Douglas Hearle, who grew up on City Island, passed away in Pelham, NY, at the age of 85, on Aug. 29, 2018.

Doug was born on April 7, 1933, to Douglas G. and Regina Irene (Booth) Hearle, both of whom were clam diggers with extensive families on the Island. Doug spent his infancy on Earley Street, his toddler years on Fordham Street and his teens on Centre Street. (His letter in the April issue of *The Current* included some lively anecdotes about his childhood here.) Doug attended kindergarten at P.S. 17 but was transferred to St. Mary, Star of the Sea. He went on to graduate from Cardinal Hayes High School and then Iona College, from which he later earned an MBA. He served in the United States Navy on a destroyer for two years, assigned to anti-submarine patrol in the North Atlantic and Arctic Circle.

Doug's father was a mounted officer with the New York Police Department, and many of his relatives were also police officers, but he charted a course of his own. He took the NYPD exam, but while he awaited the results, he was offered a job as a cub reporter for *The Journal-American*, at that time the flagship Hearst paper in the country. He became a leading crime and current events reporter, but a labor strike led to the paper's closing in 1962. Doug then entered the field of public relations, first at Borden's and then at Hill & Knowlton, the largest public relations company in the world. He began as an account executive and rose to the position of vice chairman, specializing in international affairs and crisis management. In 1986 he established his own firm, Douglas G. Hearle and Associates, which he ran with his wife, Mary. His international experience included undercover work for the CIA, which provided material for his semi-autobiographical novel, "Outsource" (2014).

Doug especially loved teaching and was a consummate story teller and communicator. He volunteered many hours as a docent at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, for which he did extensive research and subsequent lectures on "The Invisible Irish," the women who were forced out of Ireland by the famine and who came to the United States as servants to wealthy American families and later became the nurses and teachers of the next generation.

Doug Hearle served as president of the Danny Fund, a Pelham charity for the families of seriously ill children. He also served for many years on the board of the Roper Center in Connecticut, two terms on the school board of Pelham and two terms on

*Continued on page 19*



# Obituaries

Continued from page 18

the board of the College of New Rochelle. He taught for several years at Iona College, the College of New Rochelle and Fordham University.

In 2017, Doug received the Marquis Who's Who Achievement Award in recognition of more than 40 years of achievements in crisis management and public relations. In 2011, he was interviewed for the Rutgers Oral History Archive, and the oral history, which is full of anecdotes about his connections to City Island, is available online and well worth reading.

Despite his many professional successes and accomplishments, Doug was, first and foremost, most proud of his family. The triumph of his life was his 61-year marriage to Mary, who stood by him through thick and thin. They lived in Pelham for more than 52 years and raised three sons, who survive him: Douglas, Chris (Kelly), and Matthew (Donna). He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Chris, Caitlin, Kylie, Catherine and Ian, of whom he was exceptionally proud.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at Holy Family Chapel at the College of New Rochelle, on Sept. 7.

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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.



Photo by DONNA MCGOWAN

On Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018, an enthusiastic group of City Islanders ignored the raindrops at Ambrosini Field to participate in the second annual memorial softball tournament in memory of Islanders Dan Barry and Robert Vivola. The event, which doubled as a fundraiser for the City Island Little League (CILL), was organized by Paul Saulnier and Timmy Byrnes, as well as other members of the community who assisted with donations, raffle ticket sales, catering, and more. The event featured multiple rounds of games, with the Red Team winning the overall tournament. Both young men shared a deep love of baseball, the community and the CILL. Despite the bad weather, it was a great day for family, friends, and neighbors to come together for a cause so dear to Rob and Dan.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Roger and Leah Nani celebrated their fifth anniversary on Sept. 7, 2018.

Happy birthday to our sports enthusiast grandson, Joseph, who turns 10 years old on Oct. 24, with lots of love from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Cait and Richie O'Dwyer, who are celebrating their second wedding anniversary on Oct. 7.

Belated fifth-anniversary wishes to clam digger Roger Nani and his wife, Leah, who celebrated with several mem-

bers from their bridal party on City Island in September.

Happy retirement to Buckley Street residents Bill and Chris Stuttig. Bill is retiring from a 40-year career in journalism, including *The Island Current*, and his wife, Chris, is retiring from a long career in the financial industry. Enjoy playing golf!

Birthday greetings on Oct. 29 sent across the miles to former Carroll Street resident Sunjay Sebastian. Your friends and former classmates send you love and hugs on your 32nd birthday.

On Sept. 8, a group of City Islanders spent the day at Ambrosini Field taking part in a softball tournament that doubled as a fundraiser for the City Island Little

League. The event also paid tribute to deceased Islanders Robert Vivola and Dan Barry, who shared a deep love for baseball, our community and the City Island Little League.

The Swieciki and Iovieno families wish Maria and Bob Swieciki congratulations on their 33rd wedding anniversary on Oct. 12. Enjoy!

Happy birthday on Oct. 22 to clam digger Mark Nani, who turns 32, with love from your family and friends.

Happy seventh birthday on Oct. 12 to Waverly and Thora Treiber, with love from Grandma Marsha.

Happy October anniversaries to Judy and Mike Rauh, John and Linda Wright and Mike and Roseann Bunyan.

If you're running in the TCS New York City Marathon on Nov. 4, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079.

Happy Anniversary to Karen and Robert, Judy and Gerry and Dottie and Phil. Happy birthday, Maryann, Robert and Roseanne's dad, Robert. Our family is growing. With love from City Island to Haslett. Family and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at Gerry and Roseanne's wedding on Aug. 25. Congratulations to a beautiful couple.

A special message of gratitude and love goes out to our indomitable art editor, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who dealt with hurricane winds, storm surges and electric outages in North Carolina to bring you this issue of *The Island Current*.

Wishing our neighbors, friends and readers a very happy and safe Halloween. Looking forward to seeing you at the parade. BOO!

Maria Swieciki

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