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One Dollar

New Bridge Design Proves “You Can Fight City Hall”

By KAREN NANI



Renderings courtesy of the NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Photos by KAREN NANI

On May 4, 2014, the new Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner, Polly Trottenberg, unveiled a revised design to replace the 113-year old City Island Bridge, to the relief of Islanders who opposed the original 164-foot cable-stayed design proposal by DOT. The new causeway bridge is a “plain vanilla” design, according to Ms. Trottenberg, and consists of a 650-foot roadway supported by two piers in the water with three wider lanes for traffic. In addition, there will be a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path on each side of the bridge (see schematics above). The commissioner was joined at the press conference by State Senator Jeff Klein, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., City Councilmember James Vacca and Comptroller Scott Stringer. In a humorous tribute to her efforts, Skip Giacco, president of the Chamber of Commerce (second from left, top photo right) and owner of Lickety Split, handed out “Polly’s plain vanilla” ice cream to everyone who attended the press conference, including (l. to r.) John Doyle, Ms. Trottenberg and Barbara Dolensek. Paul Nani of the Civic Association (center, bottom photo right) also met with Ms. Trottenberg and Bronx DOT Commissioner Constance Moran to review the traffic light situation around the bridge.

After a 14-year battle against the “Godzilla bridge” proposed by the Bloomberg administration, civic leaders and City Island residents had reason to cheer on May 4, 2014, when the new Department of Transportation commissioner, Polly Trottenberg, unveiled a revised design to replace the 113-year-old City Island Bridge. The proposed causeway-type bridge is being hailed as more appropriate for our nautical community and will reportedly cost \$5 million less to build than the previous design.

New York State Senator Jeff Klein was clearly elated at the turnaround since Ms. Trottenberg took charge of DOT in January. “This is a great day for City Island, which demonstrates a simple truth: you can fight City Hall, but it is nicer to work with them.” Senator Klein had stood with the community in opposition to the 164-foot cable-stayed bridge and helped the Civic Association file a lawsuit to delay the approval of permits for the original design. He applauded DOT for working feverishly to come up with a simple, creative solution that will cost less and be easier to maintain.

“This change in design proves that when City Hall listens to and engages local communities, great things can happen,” said Councilman James Vacca, a long-time opponent of the original design and a member of the City Council’s Transportation Committee. His first meeting with Ms. Trottenberg after she took office was to press for a reconsideration of the bridge design, and she agreed to do so.

When she saw the banner designed by the *Island Current’s* own Marguerite

Chadwick-Juner denouncing the “Godzilla bridge” hanging on the Black Whale, she recognized that a simple causeway bridge was what the community preferred. And so DOT proceeded with what Ms. Trottenberg referred to as a “plain vanilla” design, consisting of a 650-foot roadway supported by two piers in the water with three wider lanes for traffic (incoming, outgoing and the fire lane). In addition, there will be a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path on each side of the bridge (north and south sides).

Additional permits are still required for the new bridge, including approval from the Public Design Commission, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as land-use applications that the community originally rejected in order to delay the project past the Bloomberg administration. Barbara Dolensek and Jane Protzman of the Civic Association delivered testimony at the City Planning public hearing on May 7 in support of the new design, expressing satisfaction that the community had finally been listened to and explaining that the Civic Association would no longer object to the land-use applications filed by DOT and rejected by the Community Boards 10 and 12 and the Bronx Borough President.

At the general May meeting of Community Board 10, held at P. S. 175 on Thursday, May 15, the board voted unanimously to support the new bridge design and withdraw its objections to the land-use applications. On Wednesday, May 21, the Department of City Planning voted to approve the land-use applications, which will now go to



the City Council for a vote and then to the Mayor for signature. Once the applications are approved, construction can start on the temporary bridge.

DOT’s chief engineer, Bob Collyer, said that if work begins soon, the temporary bridge can be completed before the end of the year. DOT estimates that the temporary bridge will be about 300 feet longer than the permanent bridge because of its location south of the current roadway. The existing bridge will then be dismantled, and construction of the new causeway bridge will begin, with completion anticipated by the end of 2017.

The renderings shown at the press conference and again at the Community Board meeting, as well as in many local news media, are intended to indicate the basic structure of the bridge. Details, such as lights, fencing, and signage, will be determined in conformance with the DOT design manual but in consultation with the City Island community.

“The City Island Bridge is more than a means of transportation. It is literally a lifeline for the residents of this Bronx neighborhood and its visitors,” said City Comptroller Scott Stringer at the May 4 press conference. “Thanks to efforts by the community and local elected officials, I am pleased today that we can announce the City is altering its plans and contracts for a better bridge that fits the needs of the residents.”

Traffic Control

On May 9, the DOT Community Liaison, Huascar Robles, announced the schedule for traffic agents to help with congestion around the bridge. “Starting Saturday May 10 through September 15, the NYPD began assignment of construction traffic agents associated with the DOT project for the reconstruction of the City Island Bridge.”

According to Mr. Robles, agents will be in place Monday to Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bronx DOT commissioner, Constance Moran, also addressed the concerns of Islanders regarding the new traffic lights on both sides of the bridge at the May 4 press conference. The light had been turning red on City Island Avenue in a set sequence whether or not there was any reason to stop traffic entering or leaving the Island. This caused traffic to back up in April onto City Island Road and the avenue.

A sensor was added in May and appears to have helped ease the traffic congestion on Bridge Street, as well as moving on and off City Island Avenue. Now the light on City Island Avenue is always green unless a pedestrian pushes the crossing button or a vehicle approaches from Bridge Street. Paul Nani, of the Civic Association,



thanked Commissioner Moran for adjusting the signal but reported that for one day it was blinking yellow on both sides of the bridge. She said this was due to the heavy rain the day before, which tripped the circuit. Normally, it will not blink on the City Island side but will continue to blink yellow on the park side unless a pedestrian pushes the crossing button.

The commissioner reiterated that the new lights were necessitated by the closure of the south pedestrian walkway on the bridge for the relocation of the water main in preparation for the temporary bridge. This closure forces pedestrians to cross City Island Avenue to get to the north walkway in order to jog, walk or ride bicycles over the bridge.

The new bridge will still be built by Tutor Perini, the company that was awarded the contract in 2013. The company and its subcontractors have been working along with Con Edison and the Department of Environmental Protection since last year in preparation for the temporary bridge, which needs to be in place before the old bridge is dismantled. The work to date has included elevation surveys, tree removal, preparation for the installation of a temporary water main and relocation of Con Edison conduits. Tutor Perini and DOT are using various sites on City Island to store the equipment and materials for all the construction.

Islanders who have questions, complaints and comments should contact Huascar Robles at 917-626-8391 or email him at cityislandbridgehbx1164@gmail.com. Be sure to copy the Civic Association at city.island.civic@mac.com and to attend upcoming meetings about the bridge.

Traffic Alert!

On Wednesday June 4, Bronx-born singer Jennifer Lopez (JLo) will give a concert at Orchard Beach at 7 p.m. Thousands of fans are expected to attend, with cars entering from Orchard Beach Road. The free general admission tickets were all distributed in May, but there may still be some Premier Partner Zone tickets available at www.eventbrite.com (\$150). The gates open at 5 p.m. and heavy traffic is expected on the roads around City Island, so plan accordingly.

BRIEFLY...

2014 CITY ISLAND REUNION: Once again, by popular demand, there will be another spectacular and memorable City Island reunion, which will take place on Aug. 23, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Ambrosini Field. Come reunite and celebrate with friends and family while listening to live music from local bands, past and present. There will be lots of entertainment for kids of all ages, including volleyball, basketball and softball. There will be a memorial board for posting photos of our beloved friends and family. A very large tent and Porta-Potties will be provided, as well as condiments, napkins, plastic ware, and delicious cakes from Costco. Bring your own food and beverage, chairs, tables and even pop-up tents. Admission is \$15 to cover expenses; kids 14 and under get in free; and proceeds will be donated to a City Island cause, to be determined. If anyone needs any special accommodations or if you have any questions at all, please call Bob at 347-242-4393, Lynn at 760-805-5547, or email cityisland2014@yahoo.com. See you there!

BLESSING OF THE FLEET: The City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post will sponsor a multi-denominational blessing from the dock of Fenton's Marine on Sunday, June 29, at 1 p.m. For those participating by the water, the rendezvous is City Island Harbor by the ferry dock to Hart Island; communications: VHF Channel 71 beginning at 1230 (12:30 p.m.).

COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL LAST VOYAGE: The closing of Columbus High School signals the end of an era. Join the celebration of over 75 years of educational excellence at Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, on Friday, June 27, at 7 p.m. Price: \$100 per person includes Tuscan buffet cocktail hour, open bar, sit-down dinner, dessert, espresso bar/cordials, a memento gift bag, a Stroll Down Memory Lane Tribute and entertainment by DJ Serg. Meet up with Jackie Kall at the event for a group photo of all City Islanders in attendance. To purchase tickets, visit www.columbuslastvoyage.org or mail check or money order to Maria Ievoli, 925 Astor Avenue, Bronx NY 10469. Make checks payable to Christopher Columbus High School. The deadline is June 13, 2014.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and May 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – ASSAULT*
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 2 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWD)*
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests* for the period from April 22 to May 21, 2014.

4/22 – On City Island Avenue at 6:30 a.m., both license plates were reported stolen from an Island resident's vehicle in an act of petit larceny.

5/1 – Police arrested an Island male, 23, and charged him with DWI at 2:35 a.m. on City Island Avenue at Fordham Street.

5/3 – On City Island Avenue at 4:39 p.m., an off-Island male, 26, struck another vehicle and fled the scene of the accident

on foot. Police apprehended the defendant and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident and DWI after it was observed that he had slurred speech and the odor of alcohol on his breath.

5/4 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 11:15 p.m., an unknown patron broke a window after being asked to leave the premises.

5/11 – An off-Islander dining at a restaurant returned at 5 p.m. to find the cell phone missing from his vehicle on City Island Avenue.

5/13 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a burglary on Minneford Avenue reported at 7:30 a.m. Unknown person(s) entered a residence through a patio door and caused damage to property.

5/17 – On City Island Avenue at 12:30 p.m., an Island female reported that an unknown person threw a brick through the windshield of her parked vehicle in an act of criminal mischief.

5/18 – An Island male, 54, was arrested at 12 midnight on Minneford Avenue and charged with assault following a domestic dispute.

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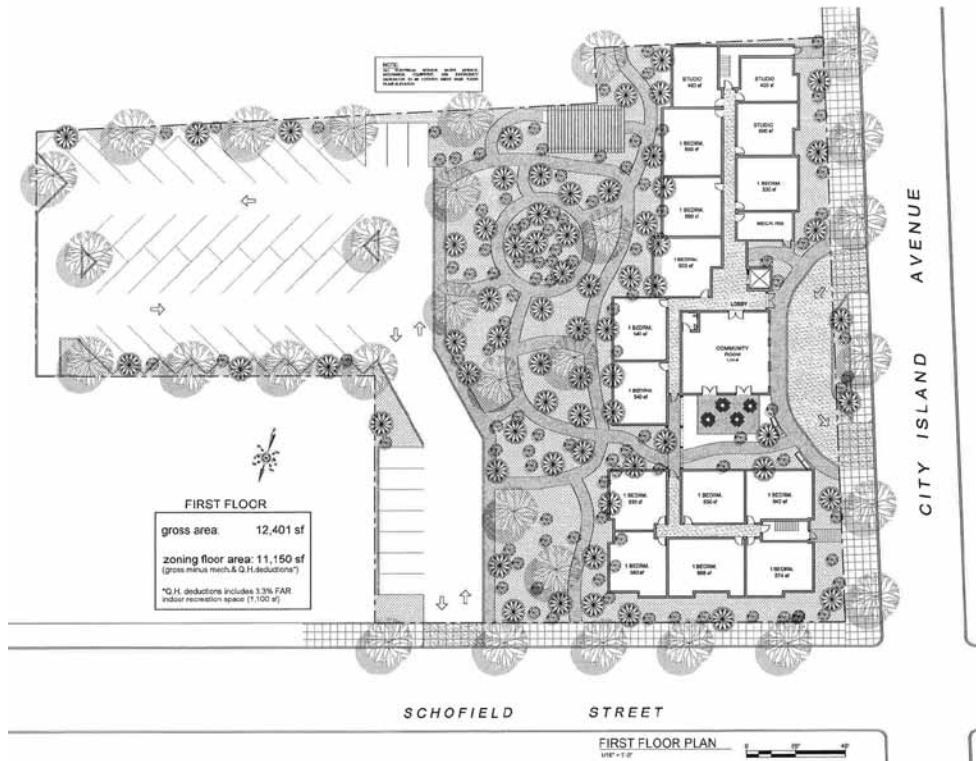
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SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT NEARS APPROVAL

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



The first-floor plan for the latest version of the senior residence proposed for 222 City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. This project is now about 80 percent less massive than the first plan proposed by the Italian Hospital Society in 2011 and is more in keeping with the scale and character of City Island, making it likely that the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals will grant a variance enabling the developer to build a residence in a manufacturing zone.

On May 20, 2014, the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) held its last public hearing on the issue of the application originally filed in 2012 for a variance that would enable the Italian Hospital Society to construct a residential development at 222 City Island Avenue, at Schofield Street, which is zoned manufacturing. The project, first introduced at a Civic Association meeting in May 2011 as a massive four-story, block-long apartment house with 200 apartments for seniors, has been through three subsequent versions, the most recent one a much smaller residence complex with 45 apartments and no below-ground parking.

Although Dr. Domenico Mignone, president of the Italian Hospital Society, originally announced that he would apply to City Planning for a change of zoning, he instead applied directly to the Department of Buildings, which rejected the application. This gave him the option of applying directly to the BSA for a variance that would allow a residential structure in a manufacturing zone, a much less rigorous process. At first, the BSA was prepared to reject the project as “the wrong project for the wrong site,” but the commissioners allowed the applicant to

make additional submissions, which ranged from a three-story assisted-living residence with 214 units to the most recent iteration, which fulfills the BSA requirements that it is consistent with the character of the community.

At each stage of the process, the City Island Civic Association, with the help of a land-use attorney, and Community Board 10 protested the project, and the BSA agreed that the project was out of scale with the community. Finally, on May 5, 2014, the applicant submitted a plan that the BSA indicated was acceptable.

At the May 20 hearing, Community Board 10’s district manager, Kenneth Kearns, presented testimony indicating that the board had voted unanimously to reject the proposal, largely because it is planned for a flood zone and would pose a serious risk to residents. The Civic Association membership did not have time to consider the project and vote on it, but expressed gratitude at the public hearing to the Community Board for its support and to the BSA for having reduced the development over 80 percent.

The residence is now a four-part structure, with three stories containing 41 one-bedroom apartments and 4 studios, plus a community space in the central section. Although the Italian Hospital Society is restricting the building to seniors, neither nursing care nor food will be provided, and the apartments will be rented at market rates.

The BSA is scheduled to vote on the application on June 10, and it seems likely that the application for the variance will be approved. If that is the case, it is expected that Dr. Mignone will then proceed to purchase the property from the current owner, Lukeco LLC, and start environmental remediation on the site, which was once used by Nevins Shipyard for constructing military vessels.

Skip Giacco Honored

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On May 14, 2014, Gerard “Skip” Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, was honored by the Community Council of the 45th police precinct at the annual Council breakfast. John Doyle (right), a member of the Council board, presented the award to Skip (center), who was congratulated by Captain James McGeown (left), commanding officer of the precinct.

A large enthusiastic crowd attended the annual breakfast sponsored by the 45th Precinct Community Council on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Villa Barone Manor. Many City Islanders were among the attendees, largely because Gerard (Skip) Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, was one of the honorees.

Other honorees were Leo Johnson, director of the Co-op City Boys and Girls Club of the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center; Anita Valenti, president of the Pelham Bay Taxpayers Association; Sandi Lusk, director of the Westchester Square-Zerega Improvement Organization; and Anthony Orza, manager of Villa Barone Manor.

Robert Bieder, president of the Community Council, was master of ceremonies, and he was joined at the podium over the course of the breakfast by a number of elected officials, including Comptroller Scott Stringer, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, Councilmembers Jimmy Vacca and Andy King and Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene.

John Doyle, who was honored by the Council in 2012, introduced Skip by noting how he had helped to bring City Island together on a variety of issues, including the Hawkins Park dolphin and the City Island Bridge.

Skip Giacco was born and raised in Pelham Bay and as a teenager moved to New Rochelle, where he met Louise, whom he later married. They have been together ever since, recently celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary with their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. In 2001 Skip and Louise moved to City Island and acquired the famed ice cream shop, Lickety

Split. But it wasn’t until the reconstruction of Hawkins Park in 2009 that Skip became involved in civic life.

The Parks Department reconstruction plans called for the park to be converted from an active park, with recreational opportunities for children, to a more passive area, with benches for sitting but no dolphin sculpture, which had been in place since the 1970s. Skip realized that the removal of the dolphin would not only hurt his business, but it would also signal a troubling change to the community. So he took action, collecting hundreds of signatures on petitions and mobilizing children, parents, and everyone else to “Save the Dolphin!” He even went so far as to risk arrest by sitting on the dolphin when Parks Department personnel tried to remove it and by refusing to move until he was assured that it would remain in the park. As Skip sat, people took notice, and soon the Parks Department agreed to let the dolphin remain. It was the first victory the community had celebrated in some time.

Rather than simply celebrate his victory and return to running his business, Skip noticed many other problems in the community and realized that a new voice was needed to address these concerns. Later that year, he ran for the office of president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce. To the surprise of many, he won, defeating an incumbent with more than 20 years in office.

Skip was convinced that the Island’s small business community was uniquely tied to the residential community and that each needed the other if the neighborhood was to survive. He moved quickly to rehabilitate the relationship between the Chamber and the City Island Civic Association, because he believes that good things can happen when the community comes together and speaks with a strong, united voice.

Progress has been slow, but steady. United, both organizations supported a redesign of the City Island Bridge and finally achieved success this year. Skip has also managed to navigate the considerable red tape involved in realizing the long-stalled City Island security camera project, an effort he inherited. He saw it through from a floundering “theoretical” stage to the signing of a contract and, finally, the installation of the cameras. At times the project seemed like a lost cause, but Skip saw the benefit that these cameras would pose for store owners, who had been dealing for years with graffiti and vandalism, and for the community at large.

Skip Giacco continues to stay involved in all aspects of community life, volunteering his time to City Island causes and contributing his musical talents to City Island events with his band, appropriately named Lickety Split.

“Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore”

—Naomi Shihab Nye

Nancy Dereksen, LCSW

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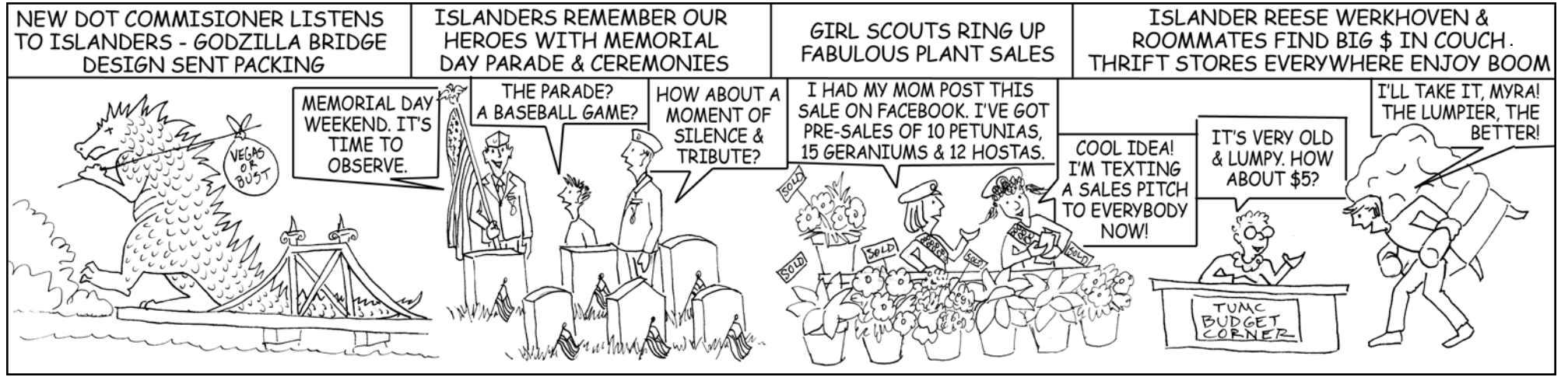
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Thank you, City Island

To the Editor:

We are grateful to the City Island community for all your support, baked goods, flowers, visits, cards, words of concern and presence before and after the passing of our mother, Phyllis Conte. It meant a great deal to me and my family during a very difficult time.

Special thanks and gratitude go to all who attended my mom's services. The turnout was more than we expected. It did not go unnoticed, and it helped to see familiar faces.

City Island is truly a unique place. We are often referred to as "the rock," but under that rock is the sand that holds the rock in place. It is comforting to be surrounded by people who have known your family line, the thread that connects us to the spirit of where we came from and where we belong.

On behalf of my family, sister and brother, I offer my sincere gratitude and thanks. It will never be forgotten.

Joanne Valletta

Nursing C. I. to Health

To the Editor:

The College of Mount Saint Vincent senior nursing students have been very busy here on City Island! May 1, 2014, started with an information session for parents at a Cub Scout meeting. The session focused on healthy eating and exercise to benefit adults and children. Thank you to Scout Masters Jim McGaughan and Angelo Bellocchio for their support and providing the space for this meeting.

The following day, the students held a Senior Health Fair at Pilot Cove. It was an informative day, as well as providing a lot of fun singing karaoke. Thank you to Ms. Virginia Gallagher for allowing the students to conduct the health fair in the facility.

On May 8, another group of senior nursing students held a Kids Health Fair at P.S. 175 for grades K through 8. The students had a wonderful time and learned a lot about health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and stress reduction. We also had an officer from the 45th Precinct come and speak to the kids. Thank you to the principal, Ms. Amy Lipson, and staff for allowing us to participate in such a wonderful experience in the school.

On behalf of the senior nursing students from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to many City Island businesses for their very generous donations:



Photo by **KIMBERLY MCGAUGHAN**

During the first few days in May, senior nursing students from the College of Mount Saint Vincent held a series of events here on City Island, including an information session for parents at a Cub Scout meeting, a Senior Health Fair at Pilot Cove Manor and a Kids Health Fair at P.S. 175 (pictured here).

Crab Shanty, City Island Physical Therapy, AmandaBear Party Rentals, JP's Restaurant, Seafood City, City Island Chinese

Restaurant, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Scavello's IGA, City Island Pizza, City Island Pharmacy, Dragons Path Academy, Mary

Colby Painting, Buddy's Hardware and Art of Beauty Salon, plus Jacobi Medical Center, PM Pediatrics, the Wepler family and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto's office. We would not have been able to provide all of the wonderful resources, give-a-ways and raffles without these much-needed donations.

It is great to be a part of a community that responds to the needs of the residents. There is always a need to learn about safety, disease and illness prevention, and health promotion. I hope to continue working in this community as well as other communities with the nursing students to provide a service we can all benefit from. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Kim McGaughan

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Doing the Right Thing

By MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER

In February this year, Islander and SUNY New Paltz student Reese Werkhoven and his roommates, Cally Guasti and Lara Russo, purchased a used but serviceable couch from a Salvation Army thrift store in New Paltz for \$20. It wasn't until April, when the three were seated on the couch watching a movie, that Reese started unzipping cushion covers to try to figure out why the couch was so lumpy and made weird crinkling noises. They made a stunning discovery: the couch was stuffed with bubble-wrapped envelopes filled with cash!

They screamed with joy as they continued to open packages and count the money, but their excitement quickly gave way to fear that it might be drug money, so they locked the door to the apartment as they considered what to do next. As human nature would have it, they soon began to forget their fears and dream about what to

do with the money, until they came across one package that had an envelope with a woman's name on it. Their dreams of riches deflated, but they did the right thing and returned \$41,000 to its rightful owner.

Reese's mother, Christine, found the woman's name in a phone book, and Reese called her to say that he and his roommates had found something of hers, a couch. The elderly woman responded that she had left a lot of money in the couch, so they knew they had the right person. Apparently her children had surprised her with a little make-over of her living room while she was away and had donated the old couch to the Salvation Army.

The grateful woman gave the trio a \$1,000 reward for returning her life savings, an act she believes was the result of her long-deceased husband's looking out for her, and the three roommates all feel richer for having done the right thing.



On Saturday, May 17, 2014, Senator Jeff Klein attended City Island Yacht Club's 107th going-into-commission ceremony, which marks the official opening of the club for the boating season, along with current and past commodores of the club (l. to r.): Past Commodore Francine Alheid, Fleet Captain Charles Lenzo, Past Commodore Peter Kyriakos, Rear Commodore Scot Henry, Senator Klein, Vice Commodore David Schulman and Commodore Ernie Bivona. Senator Klein was recognized for his work in helping the City Island Yacht Club obtain loans through the Small Business Administration to rebuild parts of the site after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Islander To Be Honored

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Island resident Gail Nathan will be one of 25 influential women in the Bronx to be honored by the Bronx Times on Thursday, June 26, at Villa Barone Manor. This award honors women who have demonstrated a far-reaching impact on their communities and have made the Bronx a better place to live. Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, will also be honored at this event.

Ms. Nathan, who has lived on City Island for the past nine and a half years, is executive director of the Bronx River Art Center, a non-profit organization that supports an education program, exhibitions, artists' studios and cultural presentations with a focus on the urban environment and stewardship of a natural resource, the Bronx River.

Ms. Nathan grew up in the Bronx and attended LaGuardia High School, the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and Rutgers University Graduate School. She has also received fellowships to the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program and the J. Paul Getty Museum Management Institute, among others, and she has taught at many of the top art schools in the United States. She was a founding board member of the Bronx River Alliance, dedicated to preserving the ecology of the Bronx River, and she has been executive director at the Bronx River Art Center since 1999.

Throughout her career she has advocated




Gail Nathan

for cultural, environmental and educational justice and has led successful fundraising campaigns for museums, city governments and non-profit organizations. She is also a nationally recognized artist and has received a number of public art commissions.

All who wish to help celebrate Ms. Nathan's well-deserved honor are welcome to attend the dinner at Villa Barone; for reservations, call 718-742-3397 by June 12.

Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.



I have been in solo Internal Medicine practice in neighboring Co-Op City for over 35 years and have lived on City Island for twenty years. I am seven minutes away by bus and there is free parking available.

I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connolly's Book of "Top Doctors".

I am in the office 5 days a week and make rounds at Montefiore Hospital daily including weekends. I am also on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I provide a "Medical Home" for my patients (I am willing to help make all significant medical decisions). I have excellent consultants available whom I have vetted over the years and work well with them.

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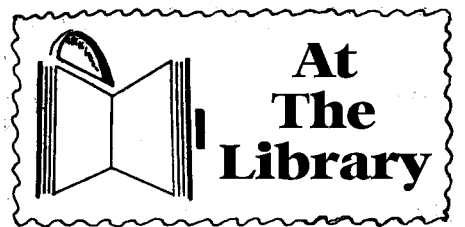


Photo by PATTY GRONDAHL

A Family Puppet Theater performance took place at the City Island Community Center on May 18 with an enthusiastic audience of about 35. Each child had a wonderful time working the puppets after the performance, which was directed by Jay Howard.



The **Harlem Yacht Club** is pleased to announce that Scavello's Catering will be providing the food service at the Club. The Club is open at 12 noon, Wed. through Sunday for lunch and dinner and always for parties and catered events. Call 718-885-3078 or 347-680-3865 for more information.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY- JUNE 2014
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June Children's Programs
Bilingual Birdies: This popular program for children returns every week with more fun and story times than ever. Friday, June 6, 13, 20 and 27, at 11 a.m.
Father's Day Arts and Crafts: We will supply the scissors, glue and construction paper, please bring your own imagination and artistic flair as we make arts and crafts to celebrate. Friday, June 13, all day.
Summer Reading Kick-off with the Bilingual Birdies Band, painting a sign for the new teen area and a Super-Smash Bros. Tournament for the City Island Super Smash Championship. Good for teens, tweens and children. Thursday, June 26, at 3 p.m.

June Teen Programs
After-School Lounge: Students can

do their homework and sneak in a snack in our Community Room. Monday through Friday afternoon, whenever school is in session, from 3 to 5 p.m.

June Adult Programs

NEW! Meditation and Quiet Time: A space for quiet studying, reading, writing and self-meditation. Every Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the internet before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Also on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, Pilot Street.

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

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

Saturday Afternoon Movies: "Pleasantville" (PG-13; 124 min.; comedy drama). Saturday, June 7, 1 p.m.

Special Saturday Programs

Free Estate and Gift-giving Seminar, presented by Jody Saperstein. Saturday, June 14, at 1 p.m.

Live Music Performance: Make Music New York: "The Travelling Jewburys"; Saturday, June 21, 1 to 2 p.m.

Hart Island Project: Please call for detailed information. Saturday, June 21, 2 to 4 p.m.

The Erie Canal: Come see historian Jeremy McCue give a talk and visual presentation of this major project and how it changed America for the better. Saturday, June 28, at 1 p.m.

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations.

ST. MARY'S CLOSURE MAY BE IMMINENT

On Saturday, May 24, 2014, Fr. Michael Challinor addressed disturbing rumors that the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish may be closing, as part of Cardinal Dolan's strategic parish planning process, which may result in the consolidation of between 75 and 100 parishes in the archdiocese.

Fr. Challinor explained that the process, called "Making All Things New," places each parish in the archdiocese in either a collaborative or a consolidated model. The former model consists of parishes that remain as parishes and share resources with others to better serve the archdiocese. The latter, consolidated model may result in the combination of parishes and eventual closure for some.

For the past eight months, the St. Mary's Parish Core Team (Rosetta Woods, Terri Kurtz, Ethel Lott, Dan Connelly and Bill Mueller) has been working with a cluster of parishes in the collaborative model. However, as Fr. Challinor put it, "in the eleventh hour of this process, without informing St. Mary's Parish Core Team or the pastor, an advisory board appointed by Cardinal Dolan changed the rules of the process. Now St. Mary's is involved with another cluster of parishes, which is rumored to be in the consolidated model."

It is therefore possible that St. Mary's will have to merge with another parish, possibly with a new name for both, and that "a two-year evaluation plan of use and maintenance of structures . . . will probably lead to eventual closure of this parish." Fr. Challinor noted that he and St. Mary's parishioners "have been disregarded, ignored, undermined and disrespected by the advisory board and pastors of other parishes."

"In the meantime," he continued, "the Parish Core Team will respond to all this, with reasons and rationale not to merge or close. We will continue and wait and fight this as a parish. If you want to know if St. Mary's is merging or closing, write directly to the Cardinal at St. Patrick's Cathedral. But he will probably not respond or give a final decision until September or October. This is all we know."

Combined Issue

This is a reminder to our *Island Current* patrons that the next issue of the paper is a combined July/August issue for the Summer. The monthly papers will resume with the September issue.

GOD BLESS THE USA AND CI!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Following a tradition that dates back to the Civil War, when it was called Dedication Day, Americans have celebrated Memorial Day with remembrances of those who fought for our freedom in wars past. The armed forces were well represented in City Island's 2014 parade with 21 Marines from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, 20 sailors from the USS Cole, which was in New York for Fleet Week, and our own hometown Coast Guardsmen, Steven Swieciki and Keith Manfredonia. Naval Rear Admiral Scott Stearny reminded everyone that the USS Cole had been bombed by terrorists in 2000 but was back in action, a testament to the American spirit. Commander David Carman of City Island's American Legion Post 156 thanked all who marched under sunny skies, including the Ladies Auxiliary, the Salesian High School marching band, the City Island Little League, Pack 211 Boy Scouts, the City Island Girl Scouts, the Garden Club, the Bronx Masons, bagpipers from New York Metro Pipe Band and Dragon's Path Academy. Representatives of Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio joined our local politicians State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Community Board 10's president John Marano and district manager Ken Kearns, and Oliver Koppel in saluting City Island's veterans and those currently serving.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 7 and 8, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

Tues., June 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Fri., June 27, **"The Bronx Salutes America" Fireworks**, 9 p.m. off Orchard Beach.

Sun., June 29, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

Sat., June 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: tuna noodle casserole.

JULY

Thurs., July 24, **Pelham Cemetery Lot Owners meet**, 7:30 p.m., Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue. This meeting is for lot owners only.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, 480 City Island Avenue, is an unaffiliated, all-inclusive stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please come at 7:15 to meet and greet before services begin.

This month's Shabbat schedule is: Congregant-led services on June 6, 13 and 27; clergy-led service on June 20, at 7:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama, Reb David and Your Band by the Sea for a musical welcome to Shabbat. This week's portion (Shlach) finds our ancestors approaching the Promised Land; however, afraid to enter. Join us for Shabbat to lift us beyond fear. Joyous Oneg to follow sponsored by Michael Eiron in honor of his parents and Olga Berde-Mahl in celebration of her birthday.

Sunday, June 1: Nationally recognized and honored rabbi and poet Rachel Barenblat, the Velveteen Rabbi, is our scholar in residence. Author of books of spiritual poetry, Rabbi Rachel has been acknowledged by Time Magazine as one of the Internet's 25 top bloggers. Her spiritual writing re-imagines the lives of Jews, families and women for the 21st century. She holds an MFA in writing from Bennington College.

June 1, 10:30 to 11:40 a.m. Rabbi Rachel teaches a master class in spiritual writing. Explore the path of writing as a spiritual journey, and writing about spiritual journey as a tool of spiritual expression and growth. Bring writing material and an open heart. Reading and reception to follow. Location: Samuel Pell House, 586 City Island Avenue. Free to members; \$20 non-members.

Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. Love, Sex and Torah: A Shavuot Journey. Join Reb David for an evening journey of sharing, story, song and mystical text for Shavuot, the festival of giving Torah. Join us: you will never think of Shavuot the same way again. Celebratory dessert, se'udah (feast) to follow.

Thursday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m. Please attend our annual membership meeting, facilitated by Reb David, on Thursday, to plan TBE's future. Make your voice heard, help select a new board of directors and vote on clergy contracts.

Saturday, June 21, 9:45 a.m. New York Botanical Garden. Join Reb Eva and Reb David for a guided Shabbat walk, including walking meditation in nature and chanting. Meet at main gate 9:45 a.m. for free admission.

Ellen Ruth Topol

The Rotary Club of the Bronx

At the May 20 meeting of the Rotary Club of the Bronx, the Club presented a check for \$1,500 to Jim Rathschmidt of United for the Troops, an organization that collects, boxes and ships care packages to troops serving overseas.

Mr. Rathschmidt founded United for the Troops after his son went into the service and was deployed in Iraq. The family regularly sent packages filled with goodies and letters to their son, who soon realized that there were many servicemen and servicewomen who had no families or whose families could not afford to send them anything. He shared his packages with them and shared their stories with his father. That was the germination of United for the Troops.

During the past eight years, United for the Troops has sent more than 10,000 packages overseas, each one fulfilling personal wish lists and when possible, containing letters from family and friends back home. Mr. Rathschmidt has arranged for special shipping rates so that each box costs only \$15 to ship. The Rotary Club is proud to sponsor 100 boxes, and several members participated in the packing day on May 24.

Lilyanna Pekic brought Bosnian-born Nelvira Nehic to the meeting to make an impassioned plea for donations to help those in Bosnia who have been devastated by the recent flooding there. One quarter of the entire population has been affected by the floods, a good portion of those are now homeless. Ms. Nehic said that the Red Cross is in Sarajevo, but that the more remote, outlying villages have been cut off and are not receiving any supplies or food. These are the people she wants to help, accessing the areas from neighboring countries.

Recognizing the immediacy of the situation, members at the meeting went into their pockets. The Bronx Rotary Foundation gave \$1,000, and a total of \$2,000 was given to the Albanian-American Society Foundation, the 501(c)(3) that supports Ms. Nehic's relief effort. Clothing, canned or dried foods and medical supplies can be dropped off to Lilyanna Pekic at Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's office at 1126 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10461.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Garden Club of City Island

It has been a busy and enjoyable spring for the members of the Garden Club. We have three new members and are delighted that it brought some younger ladies to our club, which now numbers more than 40 members. Over the course of May, the Beautification Committee cleaned, redesigned and planted 23 planters along City Island Avenue with flowers and greenery that will look beautiful all summer long. Many compliments and expressions of gratitude have been received from residents and businesses alike. The distribution of our annual fund drive letters to all households by club members was completed, and a mailed Beautification solicitation also went out to all the Island's businesses. It is through the generosity of all of you that we are able to keep our public areas spruced up and keep those planters full and beautiful. If you haven't sent your donation, you can mail it to The Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, City Island Station, Bronx, NY 10464.

At the May meeting, Francine Alheid gave a beautiful slide presentation of the Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden, a treat for those who had been unable to attend the show in person. It was especially nice to see these beautiful blooms after our March talk on how to grow



Photo by KAREN NANI

The City Island Garden Club celebrated its 53rd year with a gala luncheon at the City Island Yacht Club on May 22, 2014. Along with the delicious food, there were raffles and, of course, flowers for the botanically inclined crowd. Shown above at the luncheon are the Garden Club officers and special guests (front row, l. to r.): Boo Dennis, Judy Judson and Mary Bowles. Back row: Joanne Brogan, Barbara Harrison, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Barbara Hoffmann, Ellen Murphy and Pastor Yew.

and care for orchids. We are delighted to report that we had speakers at each of our meetings this year providing and sharing information on a full range of topics for our members.

"A Freesia State of Mind" was the theme for our annual spring luncheon held at the City Island Yacht Club on May 22, yet another successful affair. The club will hold elections in June, and our induction of officers takes place at our July meeting. Also, arrangements are under way for a trip to Old Westbury Gardens later in June. In closing, we wish you a wonderful summer to enjoy the results of your spring efforts in your garden. See you in the fall when the chrysanthemums begin to bud.

Barbara Harrison

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.

On Sunday, June 8, the Trinity Sunday School will conduct the worship service, followed by a special coffee hour. There will also be a collection for Imagine No Malaria, a United Methodist Church effort to prevent malaria in Africa.

The Budget Corner is open! The spring schedule is June 3, 7, 10 and 14. Think of Trinity while you are spring cleaning and donate your no longer needed but gently used items. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our final meeting/dinner of this year will be held at the Lobster House on June 4. The cost is \$47 per person. Hope to see all our members there. Thank you to everyone for all the work you did making our Cancer Bingo a success. Happy Father's Day to all our great dads. On June 14, hang your flag for our country and those who fought for our freedom. Congratulation to all our Graduates.

Maryann Occhicone

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Friday Night Fellowship: On June 13 Ron Turner will show how we can take better photographs and will inspire us to capture the moments that take your breath away. The program starts at 7 p.m., and

refreshments will be served. There is no admission fee and all are welcome.

On Sunday, June 22, there will be a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. for the artist Maurice Folliot and a silent auction of his work to benefit the stained-glass window restoration in the church.

Eileen Marcus

Pelham Cemetery

Pelham Cemetery held its first annual spring volunteer clean-up day on May 17, and it was a tremendous success. We had beautiful weather and got a lot of overgrown bushes removed. We would like to thank all of those that came out and helped, with a particular thank-you to the members of the City Island Garden Club and the young men from Mount Vernon Boy Scout Troop 40.

The cemetery is putting out a call for volunteers with welding/iron work, masonry or carpentry experience. Our iron fence needs some repair, and we have about a dozen tombstones that need to be reset. We would also like to plan for and build a new shed. Anyone who can help with these tasks can do so at any time that works for them; call Bill Clancy at 718-885-1139.

The Pelham Cemetery will also be holding its annual lot holders meeting on July 24 at 7:30 at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion post. All lot holders are encouraged to attend.

Bill Clancy Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On June 6, the first Friday of the month, we will have our monthly Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome. This will be our last scheduled Holy Hour before the summer months.

All are invited to join us at our monthly coffee hour on Sunday, June 8, after the 10 a.m. Mass. We will not gather during the summer months so do join us in the month of June.

On Sunday, June 15, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all the Masses.

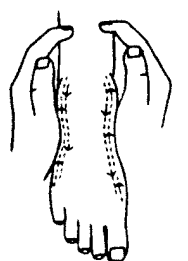
St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays during the month of June. It will close at the end of the month for the summer months.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer!
Sr. Bernadette, OSU

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

Your Community Center strives to be a welcoming and safe place for meeting, celebrating, creating, teaching and learning, and promoting awareness for the common good of all. The Center is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, which meets 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.

Did you know that CI Center Members can reasonably rent our big room for parties and events? We are grateful to have about 100 members, but we wish we had more. Annual membership is \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We need your help and support.

To join the Center or for up-to-date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dragons Path Academy Martial Arts Tournament: Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. Attend and/or participate in this fundraiser for the City Island Community Center. Call 347-945-3172 or 917-742-2007 for more information about the tournament or about the Martial Arts Summer Camp Program.

NEW PROGRAMS

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual will take you to a

place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Vitale Rev. RPP, CRE, Certified Polarity/CS, is a shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Journeying is the ability to travel to different places and gain healing energy from different spirits. Please bring a yoga mat, blanket, drums and shakers if you have them to the sessions on Thursdays, June 12 and 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. For information, contact Francesca, at 914-837-6830, 914-668-0807 or visit www.TheeVitalForcefoundation.org.

Summer Program for Children: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Daily activities include, arts and crafts, a park trip with play time at the Center with breakfast and snacks provided by Gabrielle. Parents provide lunch. For more information, contact Gabby at 646-599-1223, email gpirraglia719@gmail.com. Gabrielle also offers an after-school program for children Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 7 p.m.

On Hold for June, July and August: Parenting Discussion with John Scardina, Jill's Playgroup, Children's Art Classes, Awareness: Drugs and City Island Young People and Family Bingo Nights. Monthly Teen Dances will not meet until Aug. 30. Farewell to Norma and Baby Boomer Yoga.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former LaGuardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month.

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

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Join us and we can get ready for bathing suit weather together. It's a great group! For more information call Patty at 718-885-1891. A new series will begin in June.

Belly Dance/Shimmy by the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 3 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

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

Yoga with Jo Ann: Mondays, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. \$10. Gentle level one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible a yoga blanket. For more information, call Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or email joannngny@aol.com.

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

Zumba with Letti: Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Patty at 718-885-1891 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

AARP Chapter 318

The AARP meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church hall. On June 4, we will have our regular meeting, and on June 11 we will have our "End of Year" luncheon at the Lobster House restaurant near the bridge at 12 noon. This will be our last get-together for this year. We will come together again on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Have a wonderful summer.

Rosetta Woods

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June dates are June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, and our last day, June 26. Come and check out our spring and summer items. Look for special bag sales while enjoying a cup of coffee with fellow shoppers. We will be closed for July and August and will re-open in September. Have a great summer.

Arlene Byrne

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

PSS City Island Senior Center

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families by providing information, services and support. Our goal is to promote the independence of the elderly by helping them remain healthy, engaged and connected. We are not your everyday senior center!

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 and over. Morning activities include the fitness program listed below. In the afternoon we offer an individualized computer class, acrylic painting classes, movies and more. Health and nutrition talks are also available each month.

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Special June Activities

June 17, Pomona trip; June 25, Legal Aid Van, for advice and help on wills, living wills, debt management, identity theft, housing problems and much more. Limited spots are available; you must come to the center to sign up online.

Physical Exercise

The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Tai Chi (NEW), Mondays at 9:15; Arthritis Workshop: Mondays at 10:15 a.m.; Cardio Fitness: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch: Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.; Rhythm and Drums: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.; Zumba Gold: Thursdays at 9 a.m.; Fit for Life: Fridays at 9 a.m.; Arthritis Workshop II: Fridays at 10:15 a.m. The Yoga Stretch and Arthritis workshop classes on Mondays and Fridays are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each or \$30 a month for unlimited classes.

Volunteering

We are grateful for our current volunteers, but new volunteers are always welcome to help make this senior center the best for our seaside community. We can always use extra help at our front desk, for serving lunch and for our parties and special events.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

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

Caregivers Support

If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 for morning Island trips and pickup for exercise programs or lunch. Afternoon shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services.

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A Selected Filmography of Leonardo DiCaprio

I first became aware of Leonardo DiCaprio in **What's Eating Gilbert Grape** (1993), which earned him a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the age of 19. Along with his sisters, who help with kitchen duties, Gilbert Grape (Johnny Depp) has tremendous family responsibilities taking care of his mother, Bonnie (Darlene Cates), who cannot leave their house because of her morbid obesity, and his mentally retarded teenage brother, Arnie (DiCaprio). Juliette Lewis is on hand as Gilbert's love interest, Becky, who befriends the brothers when she passes through town with her grandmother. This remains one of DiCaprio's most stunning performances.

The film that set DiCaprio on the road to super-stardom is **Titanic** (1997). Inspired by the 1985 discovery of the *Titanic* in the North Atlantic, the story begins with modern day treasure-seeker Brock Lovett (Bill Paxton) scavenging articles from the ship, including the portrait of a nude young woman. Lovett is joined by 102-year old Rose (Gloria Stuart), the woman in the portrait, and she proceeds to tell her story. Going back to 1912, she recounts life as society girl Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) and her relationship with pauper Jack Dawson (DiCaprio). Rose is engaged to wealthy, arrogant Cal Hockley (Billy Zane), who is enraged by her attachment to the penniless artist. The film won 11 Academy Awards including Best Picture and Director.

In **Catch Me If You Can** (2002), DiCaprio stars in the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a master forger and impersonator who poses as an airline pilot, a doctor and an attorney. When he falls in love and wants to marry Brenda Strong (Amy Adams), he decides to take on a new identity to impress her father (Martin Sheen), the District Attorney of New Orleans. FBI agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) is stunned by Frank's audacity in passing more than \$2.5 million in phony checks, and he makes it his mission to capture Abagnale.

In the biopic **The Aviator** (2004), DiCaprio is outstanding as the eccentric and increasingly obsessive perfectionist Howard Hughes. The star-studded cast includes Cate Blanchett as Katharine Hepburn and Kate Beckinsale as Ava Gardner with whom he has romances. It also features Alec Baldwin as Pan American Airlines head Juan Trippe and Alan Alda as Senator Ralph Owen Brewster, both of whom become powerful enemies when Hughes founds Trans-World Airlines. Hughes's history also includes making his fortune designing oil-drilling bits and becoming a Hollywood movie mogul and successful aircraft designer. The film received five Oscars, including Best Supporting Actress for Blanchett, and it was nominated in all the other major categories.

The Departed (2006), Best Picture and Best Director (Martin Scorsese) winner, is a complex story of the criminal underworld. DiCaprio plays Billy Costigan, a young cop who is recruited by Captain Queenan (Martin Sheen) and Staff Sergeant Dignam (Mark Wahlberg) to go undercover to infiltrate the syndicate run by Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson). Meanwhile, Collin Sullivan (Matt Damon) is a criminal who penetrates the police department by becoming a cop and reporting back to Costello. Vera Farmiga is on-hand as Madolyn Madden, a police psychologist who gains the interest of both Costigan and Sullivan.

In **Blood Diamond** (2007), DiCaprio plays Danny Archer, a South African mercenary whose life becomes intertwined with Mende fisherman Solomon Vandy (Djimou Hounsou). Archer is a hired gun who smuggles diamonds that are used to finance terrorist organizations. Enlisting the help of disillusioned American journalist Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly), Archer and Vandy

attempt to recover a valuable hidden pink diamond that could save Vandy's family and give Archer a chance to redeem himself.

In the brilliantly executed and complex **Inception** (2010), DiCaprio plays Dom Cobb, a professional thief who commits corporate espionage by infiltrating the subconscious of his targets. He is offered a chance to reclaim his children (in the care of their grandfather played by Michael Caine) as payment for an impossible task: "inception," the implantation of another person's idea into a target's subconscious. He is hired by businessman Saito (Ken Watanabe) to break up the energy conglomerate of ailing competitor Maurice Fischer (Pete Postlethwaite), by planting the idea of dissolving the company into the mind of Fischer's son and heir, Robert Fischer (Cillian Murphy). Cobb's team includes Eames (Tom Hardy), a con man and identity forger; Yusuf (Dileep Rao), a chemist who concocts the powerful sedative for a stable "dream within a dream" strategy; Ariadne (Ellen Page), an architecture student tasked with designing the labyrinth of the dream landscapes; and business partner Arthur (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). Saito insists on accompanying the team to verify the team's success. The biggest threat to achievement of the mission is the unexpected, distracting appearance in dream sequences of Cobb's late wife, Mal (Marion Cotillard).

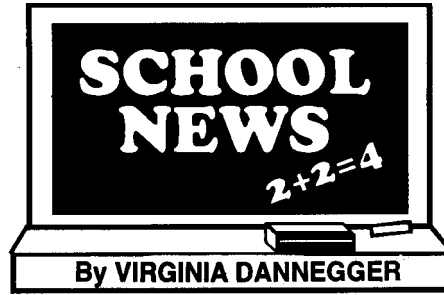
DiCaprio stars in the title role in **J. Edgar** (2011), an American biographical drama directed, co-produced and scored by Clint Eastwood. J. Edgar Hoover served as the first director of the FBI from 1924 until he died in 1972, and he remains one of the most powerful, controversial and enigmatic figures of the 20th century. DiCaprio plays both the young and ambitious Hoover as well as the old, embittered czar whom all politicians feared. Arnie Hammer plays Clyde Tolson, his protégé, second man at the Bureau, and longtime companion. Tolson is the soul and conscience of the film and signifies Hoover's constantly ignored emotions. Among the supporting cast are Judi Dench as Anna Marie Hoover, his mother; Naomi Watts as Helen Gandy, his lifelong secretary (and literally keeper of his secrets); Josh Lucas as Charles Lindbergh; Dermot Mulroney as Norman Schwarzkopf Sr.; and Jeffrey Donovan as Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Quentin Tarantino's **Django Unchained** (2012) is a highly original and violent film, set in the South two years before the Civil War. It stars Jamie Foxx as Django, a brutalized slave who accompanies German-born bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz in his second Oscar-winning performance), to identify the murderous Brittle brothers. This allows Django to proceed with his primary goal of finding and rescuing his long lost wife Broomhilda (Kerry Washington). Their search leads them to Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio), the proprietor of "Candyland," an infamous plantation.

The third remake of the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel **The Great Gatsby** (2013) follows would-be writer Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire), who finds himself living next door to a mysterious, party-giving millionaire, Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio). They live across the bay from Carraway's cousin, Daisy (Carey Mulligan), and her philandering, upper-class husband, Tom Buchanan (Joel Edgerton). When they meet, Gatsby is drawn to Daisy and thus Nick bears witness to a tale of impossible love. DiCaprio's interpretation drives home the idea that Gatsby is playing the man he wishes he were and that others need him to be. It is a glittering, if imperfect, film.

Martin Scorsese's **The Wolf of Wall Street** (2013) is a black comedy that stars DiCaprio as Jordan Belfort, a New York stockbroker who runs Stratton Oakmont, a firm that engages in securities fraud and corruption on Wall Street during the 1990s. As his business grows, Belfort becomes an evangelist of easy money and unbridled sex and drug use, yet it is his charisma that holds the entire enterprise together. His first convert is Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill), a middle-class nebbish who gathers a bunch of like-minded losers to join the team. Eventually even Belfort's father, an accountant played by Rob Reiner, overcomes his initial reservations and joins the depravity. On his way up, Jordan trades in his first wife, a sweet hometown girl named Teresa (Cristin Milioti), for blonder, bustier Naomi (Margot Robbie). What the characters do is consistently appalling and sometimes very funny. If you rent this film, prepare yourself for three hours of endless excess, decadence and debauchery.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



ST. MARY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

What a great school year for our Little Stars! They have learned so much and have grown so big! The children began the spring season by creating a school garden and watching it bloom. They identified the signs of the season by going on nature walks and using teamwork to care for their garden. The staff has loved being their first teachers and watching them grow as they move off to something new in their childhood journey. The task of nurturing and educating the children has been a rewarding experience for our teachers. We are confident that they will all have a successful transition to formal schooling with a positive view and a feeling of competence as a learner.

As many of you know, St. Mary, Star of the Sea School has closed. Little Stars is now offering a Pre-K program in the school as a private entity separate from the church. In September of this year, we will be offering Universal Pre-K as part of our program. We have had many recommendations from community leaders, including Senator Jeff Klein's office and the City Island Civic Association. All of our staff members are former educators at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, and we are all City Island residents. We are still waiting for the final approval as of this date, but we do not foresee any delays in the contract. We will hold a formal registration for UPK on June 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the school office. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Lisa Moore at the school by calling 718-885-1527 or emailing Littlestarsofthesea@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SCHOOL 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders who, pending successful completion of promotion requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: **Archbishop Stepinac:** Connor Hanley-Piri; **Astor Collegiate Academy:** Chanel Coleman, Brianna Lozada; **Bronx H.S. for the Visual Arts:** Justin Munafo; **Bronx Compass H.S.:** Umi Shaw; **Bronxdale H.S.:** Jennifer Carino, Rafael Hay; **Cardinal Spellman:** Erik Lomonaco, Luis Parreno, Emma Ramos; **Fordham Prep:** John Cebolero, John Tomsen; **Frank McCourt H.S.:** Phoebe McElroy; **High School of American Studies:** Everett Sanderson; **H.S. of Fashion Industries:** Dusty Prohaska; **Iona Prep:** Joseph Kramer, Michael Mancuso; **LaGuardia H.S. of Music and Performing Arts:** Lydia McElroy; **Maria Regina:** Juliana Durante; **Monsignor Scanlan:** Michael Valenti; **Pelham Lab:** Nicholas Capalbo; **Pelham Memorial:** Carlo Fine; **Preston:** Gianna Cambria, Catherine Ficke, Rebecca Scott; **Renaissance H.S. for Musical Theater & Technology:** Edwin Almodovar, Matthew Cioffi; **Salesian:** Christopher DeSantis, Michael DeSantis, Joseph Gjonaj, Alberto Rodriguez; **St. Catharine Academy:** Olivia Albertelli, Anita Beqiraj, Sabrina Fontana, Sabrina Jarvis; **Truman:** Dylan Kohr; Luis Ramos is undecided.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

HOW TO PRUNE PERENNIALS

A cold April and a blustery cool May have given us a longer spring. I can remember many years of a short, cool season followed by a tremendous heat, a plague for gardeners. Last year, all of the spring-flowering trees and shrubs went off all together in a bang and then a whisper, but this year gardeners love the cooler weather, as it affords extra time for planting and for plants to flower in their right time. Yet you can orchestrate when you will have your flowers bloom. Here's how.

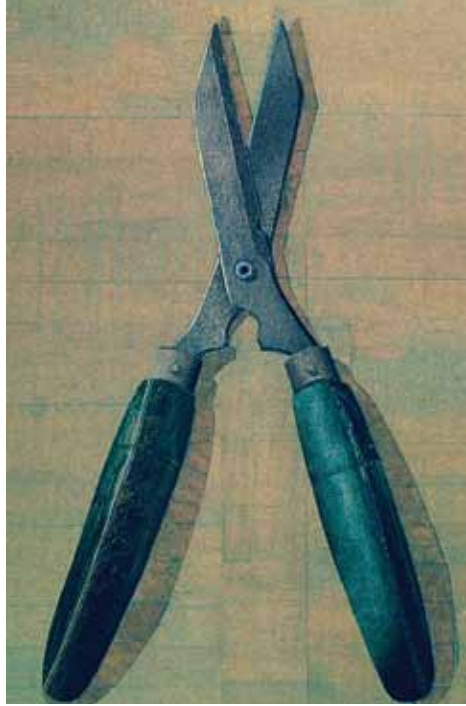
Many perennials benefit from different pruning practices and produce more compact plants, repeated flowering, and later and longer bloom time. If you hard prune a plant after its first flush of flowering, you will achieve a fresh crop of leaves and a second bloom time. Catmint, geraniums and salvias stand as examples.

Cutting back flower stems by half in late spring will maintain bushy growth and stop plants from having an open center. Montauk daisies need this application or they will flop over by September. Other plants suitable for pruning are aster, helenium, oxeye daisy and sedum spectabile.

In mid-May or very early June, if the weather has been cool, cut stems by one third for later flowering. Candidates for this would be phlox, large rudbeckias and monarda. As an alternative to this, you can stagger your pruning on each plant by clipping only some of the stems, which will produce longer flowering time. Remove old flowers by dead heading, which will freshen the appearance of the plant and prevent seeds from forming, thereby lengthening the bloom time. This is especially important with annuals.

Do not shear your grasses until early spring and leave at least a foot of growth; do not shear to the bottom. Remove old leaves of hellebores and epimediums in spring to showcase the flowers. It helps to have these growing through a nice groundcover like vinca. In early spring, prune back lavender and santolina to six inches for a fine new plant every season. If you don't have sandy soil, forget them.

In autumn, cut back foliage and stems of plants as they die back; in this group



are hosta, day lilies and peonies. Leave the grasses and any plants with interesting seed heads. As you clean up the garden, you make ready for another gardening year.

Coming back to June, this is the month of roses. Have you sprayed for black spot? Have you fed them with liquid compost tea? (They sell it in tea bags now.) I love rugosas for their crinkle-cut leaves, fresh green color and single flowers. Cut them back to one foot every year and prune out crossing branches. Be sure to wear gloves; they pinch. This will keep the plants looking fresh and new and keep them at a three-foot height. Sprinkle some California poppy seed around them for a nice skirt.

What about those seemingly everlasting leaves on daffodils and tulips? First remove the seed head so that energy is given only to the roots, not the seed. I make a neat package of daffodil leaves by folding them once over to the ground and tying them with one of their own leaves. They must be left until they begin to turn yellow and brown and easily pull away from the bulb; feeding and watering them during this period helps to produce better bloom the following season.

The same method goes for tulips. I cut the whole stem off to neaten the appearance and wait until they look absolutely ghastly before I remove the leaves. I dig them out and replace with new ones every year, but I have only a few, so it may help to have them scattered amidst leafy perennials to hide them.

Most gardeners never sit for very long in their own gardens because there is always so much to do, but please have a seat every now and then to smell the roses and enjoy literally the fruits of your labor.

Mary Colby is available for consultation and for designing gardens. Call 917-804-4509.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Girl Scouts held their Mother's Day plant sale on Saturday, May 9, in front of Hawkins Park. Luckily, they sold all their flowers and baked goods by midday, ahead of the afternoon downpour. Shown above at the sale are (l. to r.) Eva Bellocchio, Dana Moynihan and Fiorella Miria.



Photo courtesy of JOHANNA PACIULLO

The Rauh family and many other guests enjoyed the special Harlem Yacht Club Mother's Day brunch, provided by Paul Scavello, the club's new caterer.

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Bartow-Pell Events

June is in full bloom at Bartow-Pell, so visit throughout the month of June to take in the natural beauty of the mansion's grounds and gardens while also enjoying a number of educational and enriching events. As part of the ongoing 100-year celebration, the Bartow-Pell Conservancy is offering a special centennial membership for new members only: Enjoy all the benefits of a Heritage Membership, \$180, for only \$100. For more information about membership or any of our upcoming events visit www.bpmm.org, call 718-885-1461, or email at info@bpmm.org for more information.

The annual Spring Luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 5, from 12 to 2 p.m. Support the Conservancy and enjoy an elegant lunch outdoors on the pebble court and a fascinating presentation by perennial specialist and garden club raconteur Kent Russell. RSVP required. Call 718-885-1461 for tickets and details.

First Friday! Music & Trolley, on Friday, June 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mixing elements of traditional country with old-timey Western, Kelly and the Hermanos have a wonderful and unique sound. Enjoy the music, explore the museum, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via email at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students; members free.

New York Path Through History Week-ends on Saturday-Sunday, June 7 and 8; Saturday, June 14, noon-4 p.m. Free guided tours by costumed docents on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Tours start at quarter past the hour. Free.

Owls and Falcons and Skunks, Oh My! Saturday, June 7, 3 p.m. Bobby and Kathy Horvath of WINORR (Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation) bring a wonderful assortment of rescued owls, other birds of prey, and animals for visitors to meet first hand. Rain date Sunday, June 8, 3 p.m. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via email at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students, and members; \$5 children 12 and under.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game 1864, Sunday, June 15, 1 to 3 p.m. Celebrate Dad with a Father's Day "base ball match." The New York Mutuals play with 1864 rules, balls, bats and uniforms—but no helmets or gloves! After the game, kids join in the fun with a game of rounders with team members. Plus free house tours and a raffle for the game ball! Registration requested. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via email at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, students, and members; \$5 children 12 and under.

Local Author Spotlight, Thursday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. Susan Deland discusses her recent book "Spectacular Bond: Reaching the Child with Autism." After her daughter, Diane, was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the age of three, Ms. Deland met Dr. Marion Blank of Columbia University, whose Spectacular Bond program has transformed the lives of autistic children and their families. Co-sponsored by the Historic House Trust of New York City and Jeanette and Paul Wagner Educational Program for Children with Disabilities. Book signing and reception after the presentation. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via email at info@bpmm.org. Free.

A New York City Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (BPMM) is owned by the City of New York Department of Parks &

Recreation and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City. It is operated by the private, non-profit Bartow-Pell Conservancy. The Bartow-Pell Conservancy, originally known as the International Garden Club, was formed in 1914 by a group passionate about horticulture. That year, New York City gave them permission to use the Bartow family mansion on Pelham Bay in the Bronx, as their headquarters in exchange for restoring it, creating public gardens and programs, and preserving it for generations to come. The International Garden Club officially changed its name to the Bartow-Pell Conservancy in 2008 as well its membership model to that of a typical cultural organization. BPMM is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. For more information about Bartow-Pell, visit www.bpmm.org.

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Obituaries

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Dolly Conte

Phyllis (Dolly) Conte

Island resident Phyllis Conte, known as Dolly, passed away on May 2, 2014, at the age of 95.

Born Phyllis Lavelle in Mount Vernon, she moved to City Island as a teenager and lived for 87 years at 249 City Island Avenue. She worked as a seamstress at Ratsey &

Laphorn sailmakers and was a member of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish.

She was predeceased by her husband, George Conte, and her grandson, Joseph Labarca. She is survived by her son, John Conte, and her two daughters, Lorraine Labarca and her husband, Carmen, and Joanne Valletta and her husband, Anthony, all of City Island; and by two granddaughters, Lauren Ciuti of New Rochelle and Kristina Ciuti of City Island. She is also survived by her sister Elizabeth Abbott of Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

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A Current Review

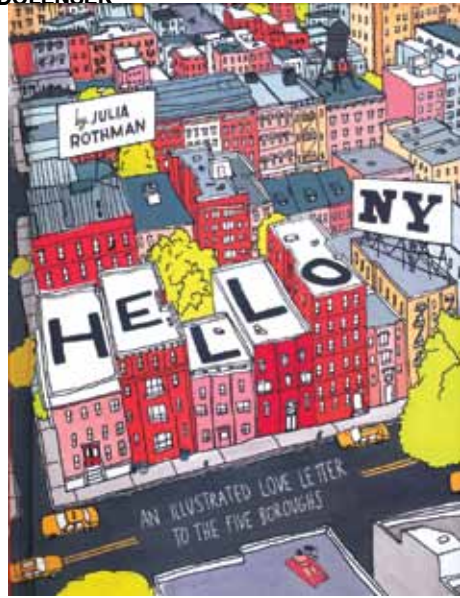
'Hello NY: An Illustrated Love Letter to the Five Boroughs'

By **BARBARA DOLENSEK**

Hello NY: An Illustrated Love Letter to the Five Boroughs
by Julia Rothman (Chronicle Books, 2014)

Not surprisingly, there are four full pages devoted to City Island in this delightful book about New York City, since the author, a clam digger, grew up here before going off the Island to become a professional illustrator. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, New York Magazine and the Wall Street Journal.

Nearly every one of the book's 144 pages has a colorful illustration or two depicting places, people and things she has grown to love. Indeed, reading this book is a lot like looking over her shoulder at a personal diary, in which she shares her enthusiasm for everything from subway signs and taxicabs through the years to birds in the park (a special nod to her father, Jack Rothman, of *cityislandbirds.com*) and treasures



at the Metropolitan Museum she would like to take home.

Along with the drawings, she provides little-known facts (there are over 20 pizza parlors in the city with the name "Ray" in the title) and hidden spots (the tugboat graveyard on Staten Island, secret places in Grand Central Station). But she also features familiar sights—the Bronx Zoo, handsome buildings, interesting museums—and gives tips on what sidewalk snacks are available "for under five bucks." She recounts stories told to her by a subway clerk, a taxi driver and a sommelier at Del Posto, and she points out sights that we might have missed (interesting manhole cover designs, a beautiful chandelier at the New York Public Library).

This charming book is a perfect gift for anyone planning to visit New York City, but it is also a book you will want to own yourself, as it reveals much about the city that you thought you knew but really didn't.

The book is available at Barnes and Noble online and other sites.



AUDUBON'S AVIARY, PART II

By the time this month's column appears in print, one of the most spectacular and important exhibits for nature lovers everywhere will have come to an end. That's the bad news. The good news is that this was only the second installment of a three-part series, to be completed next spring at the New-York Historical Society.

To say that John J. Audubon revolutionized the way we think about the environment is probably understating the matter. Audubon-as-revolutionary does not seem to capture the magnitude of the man and his work. What he did and how he did it was epic, Christopher Columbus-like. The birds that he drew were like new maps of the world, like the one attributed to Amerigo Vespucci after the discoveries of Columbus. One of the things we liked most about the New York exhibit—after the birds, of course—was the effort of curator Roberta Olson to capture the enormity of what Audubon accomplished.

What we could not help but walk away with after the show was a sense of wonder, not simply for the artistic beauty of the works, but for the efforts Audubon undertook to capture that beauty. Just to get from here to there was a very different, sometimes dangerous, always arduous and time-consuming task in the 1820s and '30s, when most of Audubon's birds were painted. To do all that while at the same time maintaining lengthy and detailed correspondence with his associates and family, as well as taking care to preserve the works themselves, was nothing short of Herculean.

One of Audubon's most important associates was his engraver, Robert Havell Jr. This was the British man who made it

possible for Audubon's original paintings to be reproduced. And who hasn't seen an Audubon reproduction at some point in his or her life? They are about as American as apple pie and Norman Rockwell. At the exhibit, there was a volume of Audubon's "Birds of America" opened to a select page so that visitors could have the opportunity to appreciate Havell's talents, which were many. Havell did not simply copy the paintings. There were many instances of his having to add or remove details at Audubon's direction. He was also responsible for coloring the prints. Some suggestions for colors were actually written into the paintings by Audubon and are still clearly visible for visitors.

Of course, it was the paintings that were the main attraction. They were purchased by the New-York Historical Society in the mid-19th century, mostly from Audubon's widow. In all, the Society has 474 paintings in the collection, 132 of which were on display this time around. Many of those birds on display would have been familiar to City Islanders, including black ducks, hooded mergansers and saw whet owls. Our particular favorites were the great blue heron and the black-backed gull, which Audubon painted in a mortally wounded state. The accompanying explanation from the curator informed us that Audubon did not think too fondly of black-backed gulls because of their style of hunting.

The conservation work of Audubon societies all over the world began with the man. For an education that you won't soon forget, run, don't walk, to next year's final installment of Audubon's Aviary at the New-York Historical Society located on Central Park West, right next door to the Museum of Natural History.

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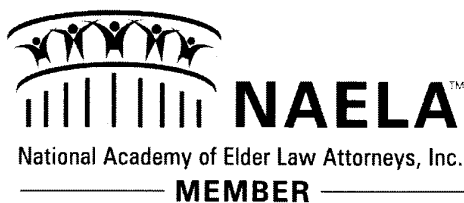
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Maurice Folliot Reception and Silent Auction

By RUTH-ANNE GARCIA



On Sunday, June 22, from 4 to 6 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church will hold a reception featuring the paintings of Maurice Albert Folliot, and a silent auction will be held to benefit the restoration of the Bolton stained-glass window in the church.

Until six years ago, Maurice, who holds a master's degree in auditing and systems, spent his work days as a systems analyst, auditing the strengths and weaknesses of electronic data systems. Even

then, he was also pursuing his passion for art—something that he has done for over 50 years. Not only did he work on paintings and create found-art sculptures, but he also took courses at Pace University to improve his technique and skills.

Since his retirement, Maurice, who now resides at Pilot Cove Manor on City Island, estimates that he has put in over 10,000 hours painting. His dedication and skill are evident in his vibrant and exuberant compositions of everyday objects and scenes and in his spiritual paintings, which blend Coptic and Orthodox imagery with fresh and imaginative contemporary elements.

Maurice's work has been featured in shows at the Pelham Bay Library, Yoho Studios in Yonkers and at Ron Turner's Focal Point Gallery in City Island. Many of his works are now on view at Grace Church for those participating in church activities and the City Island Senior Center.

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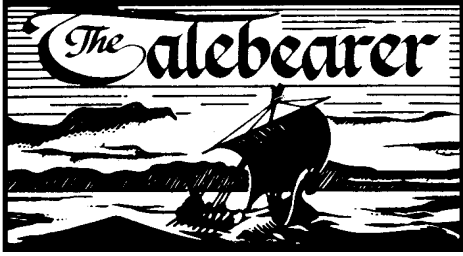
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Lauren Branley

Get well wishes across the miles to former *Island Current* editor Sally McPherson, with love from your friends, neighbors and the staff of *The Island Current*.

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

Congratulations to Briana Lotrionte, who graduated from the University of Rhode Island on May 18. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in kinesiology and will continue her education at New York Medical College Graduate School, where she will study physical therapy. We wish Briana continued success in all her future endeavors. We love you to the moon and back, Mom, Dad, Nicolette, Jillian and Stella.

Best wishes to Lauren Ciuti on her new position as Director of Social Work at Glen Island Rehabilitation and Care Center. So proud of you!

Birthday wishes to my wonderful husband and exceptional dad, Robert Ruggiero, who turns 62 on June 18. Love, Tina and Nick.

Congratulations to Centre Street's Lauren Branley, who graduated from Long Island University's Post Campus on May 9. Lauren received a BS in radiologic technology. We are very proud of your accomplishments. With love from your parents and grandparents.

June 1 birthday greetings to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld, with love from your family and friends.

Happy June birthdays to Vera Thompson, her son John Wright and her daughter Judy Rauh. Vera is looking forward to celebrating her 94th birthday with a visit from her great-grandson, Arlo David Rota.

Happy birthday to *The Island Current's* Ginger Dannegger and Rose Kolb who celebrate on June 4 and to Karen Nani and Margaret Lenz, who share a June 7 birthday.

Best wishes to Winter Street's Johnny Mazzella, who graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.



Alex Cebek

Birthday greetings to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth, who celebrates her big day on June 29. With love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Happy June birthday to Uncle Fred Ramftl, with love from Gianna Marie and your family and friends.

Best wishes for continued success to the Minneford Avenue Playgroup, which recently celebrated three years of learning, playing and making friends.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Debra Erickson on June 19 from Mom, Elz and Ken with lots of love.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to City Islanders Joyce O'Keefe and Anthony Mazzella, who are engaged to be married.

Happy 30th birthday to Kristina Ciuti from Mom, Anthony and Lauren. We couldn't ask for a better daughter.

Happy June 14 birthday to Da Naijah Taylor, with love from Daj, Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to Alex Cebek, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and finance from Fairfield University on May 18, with love from your family. We are so proud of you!

And a very HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all our hardworking fathers and grandfathers.

Maria Swieciki

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The "Green Guy Tailgate" in memory of John Gilder took place at the Yankees game on May 17, 2014. An enthusiastic group of Islanders, many of whom attended P.S. 175 with John, enjoyed the game (Yanks beat Pittsburgh) and raised over \$1,000 for the scholarship in his name at Fordham University and for the City Island Little League team named after him. The annual barbecue in John's memory will be held in July (see next month's *Current* for details).



Photo by BARBARA HARRISON

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea School class of 1958 recently celebrated their 50th reunion for the sixth time.

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