

The Island Current

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One Dollar

City Island's Newest Record-Setting Marathoner

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of MARATHON FOTO
Islander Danny Masterson made his own marathon history. He ran his second New York City Marathon on Nov. 6, 2022, and set the fastest time for a Bronx resident (2:39:49). He crossed the finish line 99th out of 47,000 runners.

Danny feeds off the positive energy of his family and friends when he is racing. "My parents are extremely proud. It's great to have everyone pulling for me during my races. It keeps me excited."

Of course, this reporter had to ask: has he met Mike Rauh? "I know his story, but we haven't really met as adults. But I remember him from the P.S. 175 trips to Greenkill, when he was a parent chaperone. I look forward to meeting him again soon."

Mike Rauh was pleased to hear about the new marathoner and former P.S. 175 student. He told *The Current*: "Walking down City Island Avenue, I sometimes get a greeting from a person I don't know. Often it's a former student from P.S. 175 who remembers me from the many Camp Greenkill trips I was on with 5th-grade classes. While I may still look the same, the students have matured into adulthood and I no longer recognize them. I often wonder what happened to the students I met during my 27 years of trips to Greenkill. When I learned that Danny Masterson was a marathon runner, I was pleasantly surprised. As I understand it, he's a very good one too. Perhaps one day we'll meet on the running trails in Pelham Bay Park."

In fact, Danny adds another chapter in City Island's interesting history with the New York City Marathon. The late Dr. Norbert Sander, who passed away in 2017, was an avid distance runner who lived on City Island and had a medical practice on City Island Avenue for many years. Dr. Sander was the only New Yorker to ever win the NYC Marathon, which he did in 1974, when he was living on City Island. He was inducted into the New York Road Runners (NYRR) 2017 Hall of Fame, given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the USATF, and his name was added to the corner of West 168th Street, site of the Armory, which he had turned into a running mecca.

So could Danny be the next New Yorker to win the NYC Marathon? "I am a simple guy. I am not interested in touring the world and competing in different countries. I just want to continue to run and get

Continued on page 5

PETER HICKEY, CI'S NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by PAUL HICKEY
Islander Peter Hickey achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor held by Troop 211 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022. The newest Eagle Scout is shown above (center) with his family at the ceremony.

Peter Hickey, 16, received the exceptional and hard-earned award of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor held by Troop 211 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022. He is the 41st City Island Scout to achieve that goal since 1975. Peter is a junior at Fordham Prep.

Peter joined the Cub Scouts in the first grade and participated in many activities, including camping trips and trips to places like the USS *Intrepid* and the Norwalk Aquarium. After becoming a Boy Scout, he especially enjoyed summer camp, where he went river rafting, and scuba diving, and participating in the Klondike derby, a scout skills competition between troops in the Greater New York Council that Troop 211 won for 18 years in a row.

On his path to Eagle, Peter first achieved the rank of Star by filming Pastor Dave Jolly's services during the pandemic in 2020 and putting them on YouTube for the Trinity congregation. For this achievement, he received the bronze scout spirit

award. Even after services resumed in 2021, he continued to work on the live stream and set up an online donation box as his Life project.

During the spring of 2022, Peter's Eagle Scout project involved helping the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) clean up the Living Shoreline behind P.S. 175, removing trash and invasive plants and covering affected areas with tarps. In October he set up a booth for Troop 211 at the CIOR's Viva La Sound festival, where he explained the project to visitors. At the ceremony on Dec. 16, he acknowledged the hard work performed by his crew of 20 scouts and 15 other volunteers who spent 307 hours on the project, especially his family. He also expressed his gratitude to those who helped him achieve the highest Scout honor, including Angelo Bellocchio, Joe Carballo, Brian Kenney, Cheryl Riordan, David Diaz, Greg Clancy, Jim McGaughan and Scoutmaster James Goonan, who himself achieved the Eagle Scout rank in 1983.



Photos by CATHY CEBEK

Thanks to persistent requests from the Civic Association, the Department of Transportation blacktopped some of the roads to City Island and filled in a few potholes, as well as resurfacing part of the City Island circle.

BRIEFLY...

“INSIGNIFICANT” is a play about a group of women known as the “Harvard Computers” who overcame prejudice, denigration and opposition to change the course of modern astronomy late in the 19th century and developed revolutionary systems to chart and measure stars that remain in use today. This play celebrates their battle for recognition, respect and equality that are still being fought by women in the 21st century. The play will be presented at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18 and 19, at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively, and on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. Cost: \$35 for adults; \$30 for seniors and students. For tickets, visit <https://www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org/>.

“PLAY ON!” a play by Rick Abbott will be presented by the City Island Theater Group at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, as well as 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11. Matinees will be at 3 p.m. on Sundays, March 5 and March 12. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, please e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com or purchase them on line by visiting the website, www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

DOWN BY THE SEA CARD PARTY, organized by the P.T.A. of P.S. 175, will be held at the Morris Yacht Club on Friday, March 31, from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) There will be a birthday box, teacher auctions and raffles of all types and prices. You can book a table of 10 or buy individual tickets for \$65 (includes dinner and drinks). Sign up online at www.cityislandpta.org or call 347-739-2076 or go to the school. Include the names of the people at your table and your contact information.

AN OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS. “Nature Inspires,” an art exhibition of contemporary artists curated by Mary Colby and Alison McKay, will be held at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in March. An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, at 2 p.m. and the show will be on view through Sunday, March 26. The submission deadline for possible inclusion in the show is Friday, Feb. 3. The focus of the exhibition will be on nature and its power to heal, inspire, create and revitalize. The theme of this exhibition does not have to be literal but used instead as a creative launching point. Artists may exhibit up to two works. An application form may be obtained by calling 718-885-1461.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during November and December 2022 and January 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 2 – ROBBERY
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Nov. 22, 2022, through Jan. 19, 2023.

11/29/22 – On City Island Avenue at 7:50 p.m., an off-Island female was the victim of a robbery. Victim states that she was standing in parking lot when four unknown perpetrators jumped out of a gray-blue Honda Accord, displayed a firearm and told her to take off her jewelry. The perpetrator that displayed the firearm pushed her to the ground and removed property.

12/7/22 – At 4:10 p.m. on Reville Street, an off-Island female boarded the bus, and after exiting the bus she discovered she had lost her NYS ID.

12/8/22 – An Island female reported lost property at 12:01 p.m. on Bay Street. Complainant states she works for the MTA and left a transit radio in an Uber cab. She tried to contact the driver, but the driver never came back to return the radio.

12/19/22 – On Fordham Street at 12 p.m., an off-Island male told police that five unknown perpetrators entered his Airbnb apartment through the front door, using a keypad code to unlock the door. They did not have permission or authority to enter the Airbnb. Victim further states that they destroyed furniture in the apartment.

12/20/22 – At 11:17 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island female reported that an unknown vehicle smashed into her legally parked car. The driver of vehicle then fled the scene of the accident.

12/24/22 – An Island male stated that he parked his vehicle legally on Fordham Place and, upon returning to vehicle at 1:30 p.m., he noticed damage to front driver side of car. A witness told police that he observed a delivery truck backing up and hitting the vehicle.

1/7/23 – An off-Island couple, ages 33 and 43, were victims of a robbery at 9:45 p.m. at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue. Male victim states that he parked his vehicle with the valet attendant, and he and his girlfriend went to the sidewalk. Then two unknown perpetrators jumped out of a white BMW with firearms and told the victim and his girlfriend to get on the floor. They then took jewelry, a jacket, a driver’s license, a debit card and a Balenciaga purse.

1/13/23 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 31, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle at 7:50 p.m. on City Island Avenue. Defendant was observed traveling with a temporary plate and dark, non-transparent tints. When stopped by police, the motorist provided a NYS license, which was suspended.

1/15/23 – An Island male, 33, was arrested at 5:35 p.m. on City Island Avenue and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of motor vehicle. Motorist was observed driving a vehicle with an expired Georgia license plate. Motorist then provided a driver's license that was suspended.

1/17/23 – On City Island Avenue at 3:10 a.m., a female Islander reported an incident of petit larceny. Victim states that unknown perpetrator(s) removed the catalytic converter from her vehicle without permission to do so.

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2022 Recap: Return to Less than Normal

By KAREN NANI

While many pre-pandemic traditions returned fully in 2022, there were a number of unusual events affecting City Island reported by *The Island Current*, which marked its 52nd year of publication.

Last year began again with coverage of a spike in Covid-19 cases on City Island following the 2021 holidays. Residents lined up for rapid and PCR tests from a Testfast van stationed on City Island Avenue in January but then waited more than a week for results (if they came at all). By that time, the surge in cases had subsided and remained relatively low for the rest of the year. By March, all mask requirements were lifted by New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the Board of Education. At P.S. 175, longstanding traditions resumed, including class trips and the eighth-grade graduation dance. Both the Spring and Fall Arts and Crafts Fairs, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, returned, including the popular chowder contest on Sept. 10.

Meanwhile, surprise events throughout 2022 had Islanders scratching their heads in confusion. In March, congressional redistricting was announced, which moved City Island and other parts of the Bronx out of District 14 into District 3, made up mostly of the north shore of western Long Island. The redistricting was challenged and modified in May, but City Island still moved to District 3. This forced our current (and popular) state senator, Alessandra Biaggi, to run for NYS senate in the 17th district in November, and she was defeated. Natalia Fernandez became the new state senator for City Island and the rest of District 3.

In September, the most controversial and unexpected event occurred when Mayor Adams announced the construction of a temporary shelter in the Orchard Beach parking lot in response to the “humanitarian crisis” of thousands of migrants being

bused to New York City from Florida and Texas. The plan was immediately met with concerns and objections from City Island and other neighborhoods, which questioned the safety of the large tents that went up in an area known for flooding and high winds.

Islanders were angry that no one representing the neighborhood had been consulted about the plan, including the City Island Civic Association, Community Board 10 and elected representatives. They peppered the Commissioner of Emergency Management with questions about safety and supervision of the migrants housed at the shelter at the Sept. 27 Civic Association meeting and were frustrated when he could not provide many answers to their concerns. In the end, it was the remnants of Hurricane Ian that led to the demise of the project and the relocation of the shelter to Randall’s Island. The hurricane caused major damage to Florida’s west coast on Sept. 28 and when the hurricane’s leftover rains and winds hit New York City on Oct. 2, giant puddles were left in the Orchard Beach parking lot, and the tents were dismantled the following week.

In July, residents and visitors were pleasantly surprised when the three-year water main project was finally completed. The project increased the reliability of City Island’s drinking water supply by installing two new 20-inch water mains that extend 4,100 feet under Eastchester Bay. Although the replacement of the mains was clearly necessary, the construction caused traffic disruption with daily detours and was indirectly the cause of a fatal shooting of one of the workers, Lizbeth Mass, in April 2021. The case against the shooter, Jose Reyes, who was charged with second-degree murder, is still ongoing.

In November, disturbing racist and anti-Semitic hate mail was sent to a number of City Island restaurants, shocking Afri-



Photos by JAMES BREEN and RON TERNER

When most of the pandemic restrictions were lifted, the year 2022 saw many Island traditions return in full force like the annual Halloween parade which drew several hundred participants (bottom photo). Surprising events, like the construction and removal of the migrant shelter in Orchard Beach in October (top photo) left Islanders confused and angry. Meanwhile, the 9/11 mural on Carroll Street received a pleasing makeover (middle photo).

can-American, Hispanic and Jewish business owners, among others. Islanders were unified in their condemnation of the hate mail and prayed for peace at a multi-faith service at Grace Episcopal Church on Nov. 20. The letters were postmarked from New Jersey, and police from the NYPD Hate Crimes Division have been investigating a person of interest who was not an Island resident.

Meanwhile, Island real estate prices increased dramatically during 2022 after a downturn in 2020 because of the pandemic. As was true in many neighborhoods in New York State, City Island sale prices were higher than the median prices for the rest of the country and the region. Island single-family median prices rose to almost \$600,000, and multi-family home prices were over \$700,000 in 2022. Co-op and condo median prices also rose to over \$500,000. Island realtor Louise Del Giudice told *The Current*, “Before the pandemic, very few homes sold above asking, and we received less offers per home. Near the end of the two-year pandemic, because of the low interest rates, it created a situation of multiple offers per home and most homes sold for above asking.” By the end of 2022, the market had stabilized and interest rates increased. Most homes were not receiving multiple offers and prices were decreasing. According to Ms. Del Giudice, “The

positive takeaway is that City Island homes are still selling, regardless of the current interest rate conditions.” Sadly, two Island homes on Fordham and Schofield Streets were severely damaged by fires in 2022.

A surprise makeover of the 9/11 mural was completed in November when Islander Bob Carmody reconnected with the original artist, Chris Mantiera, who painted the mural on the outside of the building on the corner of Carroll Street in 2001. The project was delayed by the pandemic, but in 2022, the new owners of the building, JEK, gave permission and a generous donation (among many) to spearhead the complete restoration of the tribute to those Islanders who died on 9/11.

Traditional events, including the annual Blessing of the Fleet in June and the Halloween parade on Oct. 31, were back in full force for 2022. The Chamber of Commerce brought holiday cheer and many strings of lights to City Island Avenue in November and made sure the Hanukkah menorah and Christmas tree were lit in Hawkins Park with in-person joyous singalongs. The City Island Oyster Reef Project made waves in 2022 with several events, including the third Water Jubilee and a well-attended Viva La Sound environmental festival in October. Lots of cheers could be heard at

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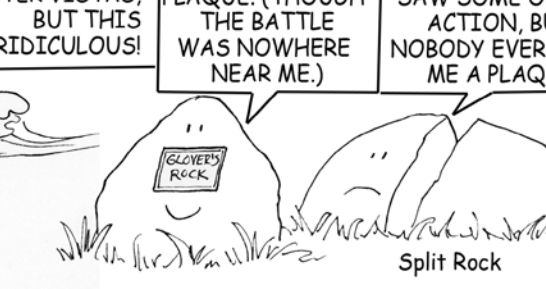

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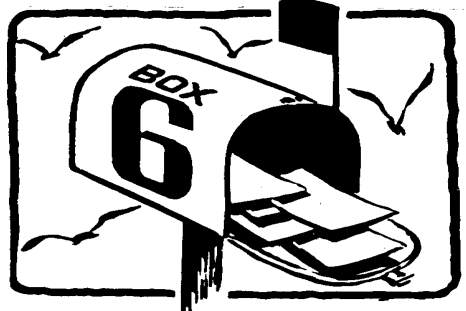
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<p>HOW DANNY MASTERSON TRAINS:</p> <p>SO, JUST GIVE ME A 1 MINUTE HEAD START, THEN RELEASE MR. BITEY.</p> 	<p>WHAT LUCK! TO BOOK A STAY DURING THE 1893 HURRICANE!</p> <p>YEAH, MACEDONIA IS BILLED AS THE MOST POPULAR HOTEL ON CI WITH UNPARALLELED WATER VISTAS, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!</p> 	<p>I'M BIG STUFF. I EVEN HAVE A PLAQUE. (THOUGH THE BATTLE WAS NOWHERE NEAR ME.)</p> <p>I'M THE ONE THAT SAW SOME OF THE ACTION, BUT NOBODY EVER GAVE ME A PLAQUE!</p> 	<p>SORRY BUDDY, BUT THE MERGANSER SALUTE AND CURTSEY JUST DOESN'T DO IT FOR ME.</p> 



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

Remembering Addie

To the Editor:

I just saw on Facebook the passing of Addie Cozzi. Addie was very special. She made sure I was to stay on City Island with Focal Point Gallery. When I was made to leave my first store at 296 City Island Avenue, Niru and I were going to go to India for three months. I was not sure what the future had in store for us with the gallery, just that I wanted to come back to City Island to live. Addie heard about this and told me when I came back, the store at 278 where the surf shop was would be waiting for me; they were leaving and at that time she owned the building. Sure enough, when Niru and I came back, the store was waiting for us as Addie said it would be.

Niru got pregnant in India, so now we needed a place to live. Addie came to the rescue again and told me she had a bungalow on Schofield Street that she would rent to us. After a few years, when Rajeev was two, I told Addie that I had always dreamed about being an itinerant photographer and wanted to travel to Mexico, and that I wanted to get a camper and convert it into a traveling darkroom doing

portraits for people. Addie had a green Ford pickup truck with a camper that she sold me for an amazingly low price. When winter came, I picked up my family and went to Mexico, and my dream came true.

As you can see, Addie was instrumental in my staying on City Island so I could continue the Focal Point Gallery, soon to celebrate 49 years, and she helped make my dreams come true. Thank you, Addie. You will always be in my heart.

Ron Turner



Missing The Mud Low Rock

To the Editor:

I am writing to *The Island Current* about an event that occurred along one of City Island's beaches. The event has to do with the embedment of an iconic glacial boulder fondly known to us clam diggers as "The Mud Low Rock." The photo shows exactly where the boulder was once situated at ebb tide along the westernmost portion of Winters Street Beach before it was embedded beneath the seabed floor during a beach cleanup. This should never have been allowed to happen. Current Islanders, now the stewards of their community, should review requests by those wishing to make changes to City Island, especially when it comes to changing the ones put in place by nature. This must be done before any work takes place and not after the fact when it's too late.

What occurred on Winters Street Beach was unnecessary. The Island's natural geography should be preserved for future generations and not be displaced by the sands of time. As a clam digger who fished from the Island's shore, "The Mud Low Rock" though now embedded, will endure forevermore!

Joseph DeStefano

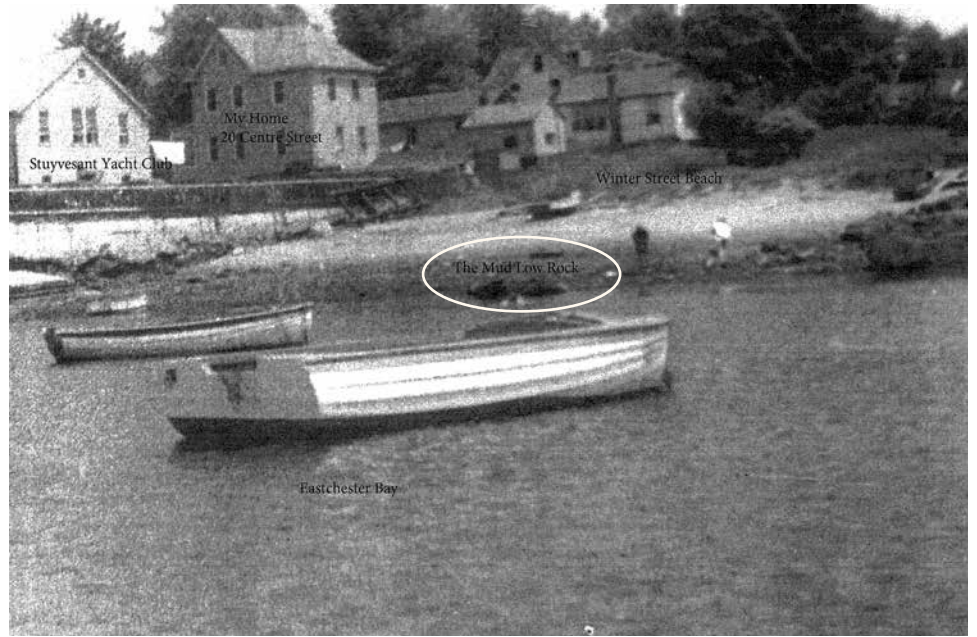


Photo courtesy of JOSEPH DESTEPHANO

Mud Low Rock, once visible on Winters Street beach is highlighted by the oval.

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Third Time is a Charm

By MARY McINTYRE

The closing scene of the City Island Theater Group's production of "God of Carnage" was on March 1, 2020. Three years and three days later, the lights will once again come up with the group's production of Rick Abbott's "Play On!," which was the inaugural production of the group in 1999.

"Play On!" is the story of a small community theater group attempting to stage a performance of "Murder Most Foul," despite constant interference by the playwright, who is constantly changing, adding to and deleting from the script as well as the cast. Act I is a rehearsal of the play. Act II is a disaster of a dress rehearsal. Act III is a small part of the actual performance and all that goes wrong.

This production will be directed by Nick Sala, and the cast includes Brian Argentio, Carol Dooner, Toni Fazio, Penel-

ope Golden, Victoria Hernandez, James Mohn, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Paula Rocheleau-Hernandez and Joseph Scaduto. Pam Johnston is the production stage manager. See *BRIEFLY* on page 2 for more information.

Marathoner

Continued from page 1

my times as low as possible." He is hoping to lower his times enough to begin winning prize money and possibly pick up some sponsors.

Danny has already come a long way from jogging down City Island Avenue and doing pull-ups in Ambrosini Field. *The Current* looks forward to reporting on many more victories for the fastest Bronx marathoner.

HOLIDAY HIGH LIGHTS!



Photos by TERI KURTZ, MARK NANI, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and courtesy of the BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The Chamber of Commerce hung many strings of lights above City Island Avenue for the holidays and made sure the Christmas tree and Hanukkah menorah were lit in Hawkins Park with in-person joyous singalongs. Other Christmas traditions were renewed in 2022, including the OLA/St. Mary's Religious Education Christmas Story in Song presentation on Dec. 21 and the Grace Church Pageant on Dec. 24 (second and bottom photos). Shown above at the interfaith sing along on Dec. 18 are (third photo l. to r.): Father Kevin Moroney, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez, Rabbi David Evan Markus, Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, Pastor David Jolly, and Captain Johnny A. Orellana, 45th Precinct.

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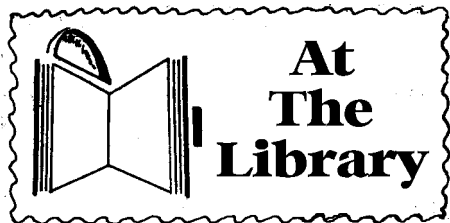
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FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

Spanish Storytime: It is Spanish story time! Gather your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun! / ¡Tiempo de Lectura para niñxs! ¡Media hora de cuentos cortos, rimas, música, y diversión! First come, first served. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Chill Zone: No-stress, no-fuss relax-

ation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. Feb. 3: Painting with Alma; Feb. 10: Teen Book Tasting; Feb. 17: Unplug and Relax; Feb. 24: Black Stories on Film: Hidden Figures, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Clean Up!: How many times have you been told to clean up after yourself? How many times have you been taught how to clean up after yourself? Join this judgment-free discussion for tips and tricks on getting your space tidy and usable—and keeping it that way. For ages 16 through 24. Saturday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Introduction to Computers: Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, Feb. 2 and 16, at 11 a.m.

Adult Coloring: Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, Feb. 9 and 23, at 11 a.m.

Spanish Café: Online Advanced Spanish Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and more exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself. Coffee or tea encouraged! Every Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what

we're reading next. Monday, Feb. 6 and 27, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Black History Film Fest: Feature movie titles, varying in length at 2 p.m. Feb. 4: Green Book; Feb. 11: One Night in Miami; Feb. 18: Harriet; Feb. 25: Hidden Figures.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



City Island resident **Monica Yehle-Glick** has started a new consulting business, M4 Consulting Services, LLC. As a consultant, Yehle-Glick brings to the table some four decades of communications and development experience, as well as organizational leadership, planning (events, meetings) and project management skills. She plans on holding a reception on City Island in the near future, providing more information about these services for businesses, organizations and groups, and will launch a website as well. Inquiries may be directed to monica@m4consultingservices.com.

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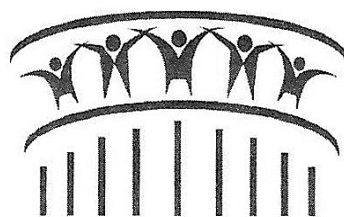
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2022 Recap

Continued from page 3

the City Island Memorial Softball tournament in memory of Dan Barry and Rob Vivolo in October. The Chamber's annual awards dinner took place in November with president Paul Klein bestowing honors on the American Legion Post 156 and the Legion Auxiliary, A Taste of Italy delicates, volunteers Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir, realtor Sue Kawczynski, and Cinema on the Sound creator Jerry Landi.

The Current recognized a number of hard-working businesses on City Island and longtime advertisers, including Bayview Glass, A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control, Owens Tree Service and CAS Property Care.

Love and marriage for clam diggers and mussel suckers was again celebrated



Photos by RON TERNER

In 2022, Islanders celebrated many happy events, including the wedding of Caitlin Stiene and Lance Forese, but mourned the loss of longtime residents Richie DePierro and Kathy Gibbons.

by *The Current's Talebearer*, including the 2022 weddings of Caitlin Stiene and Lance Forese, Jason Jawski and Maryanne Manotta, Daniel Wright and Melissa Sotelo, and Christina Dzenis and Stephen Vock. New babies were also welcomed throughout the year: Madeline Noelle Murphy, Ruby Welsh Byrne, Serena Grace Butterworth, Siena O'Brien Cebek, Ines Camile Dzenis Garcia and Ellie Frances Sheinwald.

Milestones and achievements by residents and family members were also celebrated, including the 100th birthday of Rose Maffia in April, Susannah Strazzera's retirement after 19 years as horticulturist at Wave Hill, first-place finishes by City Island Rowing at the NYS High School Championships in Saratoga Springs in June, the Big Apple Teacher award to P.S. 175's Emily Doherty in June, appointment of Island resident Adolfo Carrión Jr. as Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development, and thanks and goodbye to ToGo Express after 24 years.

Islanders mourned the loss of several prominent clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in 2022, including Kathryn Gibbons, Edmund Norris "Red" Brennan, Theresa Gross, Frank Giacovelli, Robert Malcolm Milligan, Bill Moen, Ellen Reilly-Badome, Donald Baumann, Nelson Powell, Richard DePierro, Phillip Mazzella, Eddie Ocasio and Richard Dillon.

The staff of *The Island Current*, including some who have volunteered for more than 40 years, was proud to cover the many events and surprises of 2022. While newspapers around the country continued to struggle, the steadfast support of our advertisers and many loyal readers has kept *The Current* running. Thanks to all who subscribe and purchase *The Current*, and, with your unwavering support, we will keep printing for another 52 years!



Janie Blanks: Mussel Sucker Extraordinaire

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Realtor Janie Blanks is a familiar figure on City Island, but her cheerful presence doesn't begin to reflect her interesting life experience. She moved here 20 years ago and brought with her a fascinating personal history.

Janie was born in Brooklyn, but her family moved to Keansburg, NJ, when she was 10, so she grew up in a small seaside town not unlike City Island. After graduating from high school, she decided to join the U.S. Army, having observed that many college graduates she knew were having trouble finding jobs in spite of their degrees during the unstable economic conditions of the 1970's. Her goal was to achieve a job skill in computers.

Janie served in the Army for four years, two of them in Germany, which gave her the opportunity to travel all over Europe, and the rest in Hagerstown, MD, where she learned to be a computer operator and eventually a programmer. When she left the Army at the age of 22, she had no trouble finding employment and spent her evenings at night school studying computer science and business administration.

Janie moved back to New Jersey in 1987 to be near her family and worked for five years for the city of New York and seven years for Citigroup in an office building that was very close to the World Trade Center. Although she continued to work in the area after 9/11, she suffered respiratory issues and was eventually diagnosed with PTSD. In 2003 she moved to City Island to join her partner.

After moving to City Island, Janie began to explore other career options, after having been in the computer field for 25 years. She participated in a two-year program in horticulture therapy at the New York Botanical Garden and received a horticulture certificate after spending many hours as a volunteer gardener in the Bronx. Since she had always been good with numbers, she took a real estate course in Queens and eventually became an associate broker, after many years of hard work as a real



Island realtor Jane Blanks

estate salesperson.

Janie works with EXP Realty, whose virtual campus offers a wide range of classes, meetings and opportunities to join teams. She likes working as an independent contractor and enjoys collaborating with other brokers. She loves helping people find the home of their dreams and relocate them. Through the years, it has been very rewarding to sell homes that are remodeled and are transformed from eyesores to vibrant homes once again.

Having spent 20 years living on City Island, a town not unlike her childhood home, Janie enjoys focusing her real estate business here and in Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck and Country Club. She loves animals, the beautiful nature of Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach, and bird watching. When she has time she enjoys gardening and learning more about local history. She also takes great pleasure in volunteering for local groups and served as recording secretary for many years for both the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Garden Club, a volunteer for the City Island Oyster Reef and contributes the real estate column to *The Island Current*.



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City Island, the Resort

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island has been considered a destination for tourists since the 19th century, and even today off-Islanders flock here for the restaurants and fishing boats. But in earlier days, visitors came to stay in hotels, enjoy beaches and rent rowboats, none of which are offered today beyond the occasional Airbnb.

There is no evidence that the native Lenape people lived year-round on what eventually came to be known as City Island, but we know they gathered and consumed shellfish here and perhaps spent part of each summer here. So we can assume that the first real tourists here were Native Americans, long before the Dutch and the British took possession of the area.

City Island was one of the Pell islands that was purchased from the Lenape in 1654 by a British physician named Thomas Pell; it was called by several names, including Minnewits, Minneford and Mulberry Island but in the mid-18th century, just before the Revolution, Pell son-in-law Benjamin Palmer changed the name to New City Island, later dropping the New, and determined that it would become a rival to New York Harbor. In the 1760s Palmer was one of a group of "proprietors" of the island that arranged for ferry service to the mainland at both north and south ends, and he later acquired permission to build a drawbridge to Rodman's Neck, but it never materialized. Both the bridge proposal and Palmer's plans to make City Island a destination evaporated in October of 1776, when the British raided the island and forced Palmer to leave.

City Island Central

During the 19th century, City Island reached its peak as a resort, even before the first bridge was built in 1874. We know from a map of Pelham dated 1867 that City Island had at least one hotel, the Bay View House run by S. T. Benedict at the east end of Prospect Street (now Carroll Street), which appears in a map of 1905 as the Sound View Hotel. During the 1870s, an Islander named Charles McClennon owned and operated the Minnieford Shore House, a hotel located at a steamboat landing on City Island, where it could conveniently serve excursionists and visitors from New York City and the surrounding region. It is likely that the hotel was located where the Bay View House had been, at the east end of Prospect. Steamboats made many trips to City Island during the late 19th century, and the map indicates that there was a landing at that location.

Two other hotels were also in business on City Island during the late 1870s and early 1880s: the Cunningham Villa and the City Island Hotel on the northwest corner of Carroll Street. Little is known about the Cunningham enterprise, but the City Island Hotel was run by Captain Joshua Leviness, the infamous oysterman whom Charles McClennon had hired to plant oysters next to the Minnieford Shore House so he did not have to pay market prices. Three local oystermen took oysters from the bed, and McClennon sued them for theft, using Leviness as a witness, and ended up winning the case.

There is evidence in local newspapers of the time that the City Island Hotel had existed at least since 1856 and was operated for a time in the 1850s and early 1860s, by the same Charles McClennon, who placed an advertisement for a sailing regatta off the shores of City Island in 1856. In early 1877, by which time McClennon had his own hotel on the east end of Carroll Street, Leviness sold the City Island Hotel to James M. Liming & Co. of City Island. According to a local news account at the time "The premises are undergoing extensive repairs and improvements, and when completed will,

no doubt, present a very fine appearance." In another City Island newspaper, this one dated 1925, a hotel and restaurant at that same location, 265 City Island Avenue, were operated by Herman Weissker.

Joshua Leviness did, however, keep control of Leviness Hall, which was located behind the hotel and which he threatened to retrofit by installing a restaurant and dining saloon, a billiard parlor and hotel accommodations that would compete with City Island Hotel next door. The building still exists today, as a two-family residence, although it also has a rich history as a theater and sail loft as well as a hotel.

The Macedonian Hotel at the east end of Ditmars Street was for many years a popular tourist attraction. It was said to have been built in 1877 by Jake Smith, who used old timbers and a captain's cabin he had purchased from the (obviously) very busy Charles McClennon, who had salvaged them from a broken-up frigate called the *USS Macedonian*. For years it was rumored that this was the frigate captured by the Americans from the British in the War of 1812, but in fact it was a later American vessel that had been given the same name. The Macedonian Hotel eventually became the City Island Casino, which also offered beach access to visitors until it burned down in 1922.

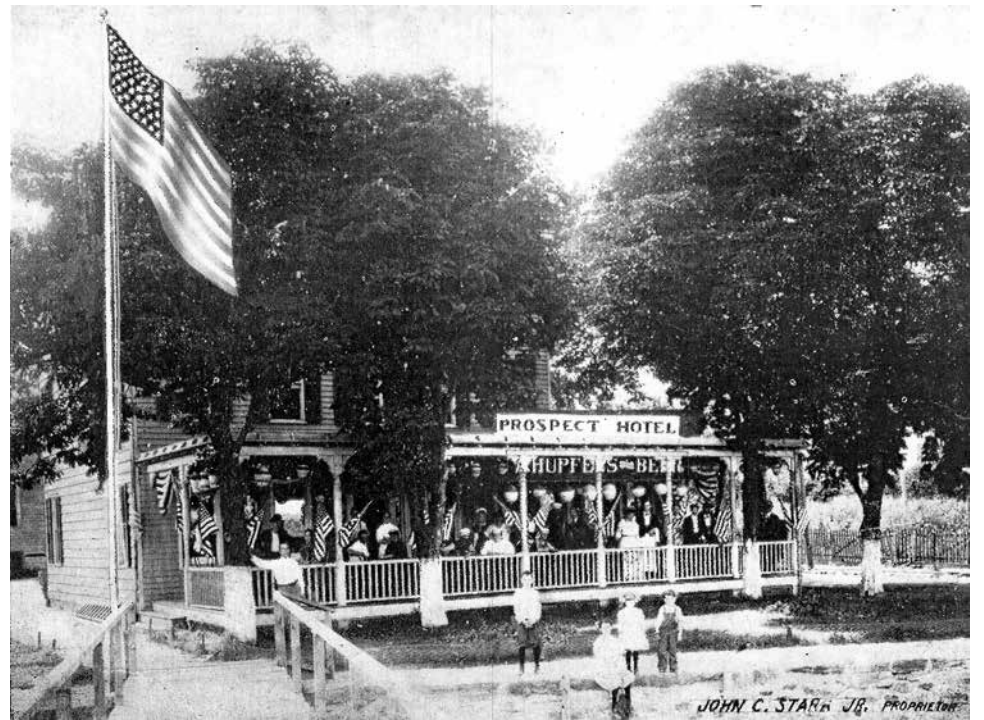
Working north toward the bridge, just below Cross Street, on the water, was Flynn's Shore Hotel, which would eventually become Thwaite's Inn and Dance Parlor, and that in turn would become Cochran's Central Boat Haven where one could buy bait and rent boats. The building was torn down in the late 1950s and has been a marina ever since. Across the street was the famous restaurant that opened in 1870 as Thwaites and was frequented by visiting yachtsmen with names like Belmont, Astor and Vanderbilt. The restaurant closed in 1992 and a year later was destroyed by fire. North of Cross Street was Kelly's Newbridge Inn and Restaurant, a busy place on the west side of Main Street in the building where Portofino Restaurant is now located.

Just east of the City Island Diner, on the corner of Fordham Street and Brown's Lane, is a tall apartment building that was originally built on City Island Avenue in the lot where the restaurant building that used to be Paddy's on the Island is now located. At some point early in the 20th century, the building was moved to east Fordham Street and became a boarding house known as Brown's Hotel. It has been rumored that the Keystone Kops were filmed there climbing and out of the windows during the 1920s.

It is possible that Spray's Cottage at the east end of Cross Street was also an inn. We know that local events were held there, and it was, of course, right on the beach. Other attractions on the east side of the Island included Maxim's Beach and Hotel at the end of Fordham Street and the East Shore Bathing Pavilion, better known as Lane's Beach, which offered free access on Tuesdays to naval cadets at the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station during World War I. Now, of course, most City Island beaches are considered private, and those wanting beach access are directed to Orchard Beach.

City Island North

Soon after the first wooden bridge was built, a spectacular summer resort called the Bay View Hotel appeared at the north end of the Island facing the bridge, offering a grand sight for visitors to the Island. The hotel was also known as "Von Liehn's Bay View Hotel," presumably for its proprietor, German-born Carsten Von Liehn, who became a U.S. citizen in 1866 and was one of Pelham's most successful hoteliers and restaurateurs.



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Top: The Macedonian Hotel stood at the east end of Ditmars Street from 1877 until it burned down in 1922. Middle: The Prospect Hotel was first built about 1865 as the Bay View House at the east end of Prospect (now Carroll Street). Bottom: Under new ownership, it operated as the Sound View Hotel, pictured here in 1905.

According to Pelham historian Blake Bell, the 1870s and 1880s were the Golden Age of summer resorts in Pelham with most facilities located on City Island or off the Island near the Pelham Bridge. In 1885, the *New Rochelle Pioneer* published a description of the Bay View Hotel, which was the first thing visitors would see coming across the bridge. The hotel could accommodate up to 200 guests, but it also had a large dining hall, a kitchen with the capacity to supply 400 meals, and a big ballroom. A large tree-lined lawn provided a "cool retreat for ladies and children" on hot summer days, and a long, sloping and rocky beach included bath houses to facilitate swimming, bathing and water sports, including boating and fishing. The hotel building itself was Second Empire in style, similar to the Samuel Pell house at 586 City Island Avenue; unfortunately, it suffered several fires over the years and later became the Ben Hur Hotel, which was demolished during the 1920s or '30s.

Although Jordan's Boat House wasn't actually on City Island, it was located in

the park just beyond the City Island bridge and was a popular attraction for visitors, who could rent boats, eat a great seafood meal or even spend the night, until it too was forced to leave Pelham Bay Park along with tent city. Part of Jordan's still exists on east Hawkins Street as a small cottage. Another target of Robert Moses was the Colonial Inn, which was in the park not far north of the bridge. Originally built as Hawkswood by Elisha King in the 1820s, using granite excavated from nearby High Island, the impressive Greek Revival building was later purchased by a southern millionaire named Levin R. Marshall but eventually became a city-owned restaurant and inn that was demolished in 1937.

City Island South

At the southern end of the island, George Washington Horton purchased 42 acres in 1820, and his house, which still exists at the back of the Lobster Box Restaurant, was for a while in the 19th century a hotel known as the Homestead. Several

Continued on page 17

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.

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street. Our next meeting will be on Feb. 9, and our guest speaker will be a member of the New York City Fire Department, who will tell us about safety tips. Hope to see you there.

Joyce Kennedy

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street.

New to Grace: Our new priest, Father Kevin Moroney, is now presiding over our worship services. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m., on the second Sunday of the month. We have finished reading the book of Judith, and we are taking a winter's break and resuming our reading after Easter.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held in the Grace Church parish hall from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22: Fr. Moroney will preside over Ash Wednesday service starting at 7:30 p.m. Also, a Lenten reading and discussion activity are in the works. For more information, please visit our website, <https://www.gracecityisland.net/>.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday in April. We will also begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net.

The GraceTones: We are happy to announce that we are in rehearsal to resume singing at area nursing homes and rehab centers that are open to live entertainment. We are a fun and inclusive group, predominantly female, and we are seeking to bridge the gender gap by inviting more men to sing with us. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

City Island Civic Association

The last meeting of the City Island Civic Association was held on Nov. 29 at the City Island Community Center.

Cathy Cebek, Municipal Chair, reported that DOT used black top to fix some roads to City Island and filled in a few potholes; DOT also milled and resurfaced a portion of the City Island circle. We have made calls for catch basins to be cleaned, and there has been a noticeable difference in the areas where they have been cleaned. We are also working on the removal of boats along the

shore near the City Island Bridge.

We have a new captain of the 45th precinct, Captain Johnny Orellana, who will be invited to a future City Island Civic meeting. Our new NCO Officer, Driljan Rugovac, will also be invited to attend.

Civic president Bill Stanton and board member Ricardo Garcia met with Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez, the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Councilmember Jeffrey Dinowitz, State Senator Natalia Fernandez, and other members of the Bronx delegation, who visited businesses that were victims of hate mail.

Bill Clancy is working to improve the appearance of City Island Avenue by filling empty tree pits with trees. Five have been filled in over the past year. Bill would like to have the city plant 40 more trees along the Avenue and is working with the Garden Club and the Parks Department. He would also like to make special tree guards for the pits. He organized the window painting for Halloween, which was a success and brought many people out to join in the fun.

Stu Sorell for the Unity & Solutions Committee asked for ongoing donations of food and money for the food pantry at the Methodist Church, since many need this assistance. Many volunteers came out to help at Trinity Church for Thanksgiving. Blue Collar band played at Trinity as a fundraiser for the food pantry.

Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project has spayed and neutered over 100 stray cats, rescued numerous kittens and find homes for them. The organization requested help in getting medical care for kittens and cats, and the Civic membership voted to donate \$300 dollars to the group.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, which are held on the last Tuesday each month (except December), and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance.

Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight or graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember that all our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our NYPD Neighborhood Community Officer Rugovac can be reached at 917-434-8847.

We are collecting dues for 2023 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Our next City Island Civic Association meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Cathy Cebek

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this Covid period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only, however, some are taking place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free

Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, meditation, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is recommended. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. Proof of vaccination is required for all in-person events. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for February 2023:

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services: (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Feb. 3: with Shari and Monty (online only)

Feb. 10: with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

Feb. 17: with Stu and Leslie (online only)

Feb. 24: with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

Saturday Morning SoulSpa: Spiritual Learning of Torah with Kabbalah: (10 a.m. start, online). With Rabbi David. No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul

Spiritual Writing: Midrash and Meaning with "The Velveteen Rabbi" (Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m.). With Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. Registration required; see website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Tu B'Shevat Seder: A wine-and-cheese seder at Temple Beth-El (Sunday, Feb. 5, 5 to 7 p.m.) Registration required; see website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy(ish) Way: (Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.: class has started, but it is not too late to join). Take a deep dive into the foundation of the siddur (Jewish prayerbook). Very basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet required. Check our website to register and for instructions on required reading. Class will run through January, with some breaks.

Tuesday Morning Meditation: (10 to 10:30 a.m., online). A calming way to start the day. With Tenzin.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO ISRAEL?

Join Rabbi David on a 10-day guided tour of Israel's most historic sites.

Trip begins after Memorial Day weekend. Refundable deposits are now being accepted.

Visit our website for more details.

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

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

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Rachel Stark, Acting President; Shari Berkowitz, Acting Vice-President

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity has been blessed for more than a century in being able to host innumerable community programs, events and celebrations. From Scouts to Seniors, 12-Step Programs and Blood Drives, Picnics, Youth Programs, and the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner—the list of groups

and individuals who have been welcomed to Trinity's facilities is long and joyful.

And these same groups and individuals—the entire City Island community—have always given Trinity the generous support that allowed us to provide a community home for everyone.

Unfortunately, for several months we have been unable to fully offer the facilities needed. We had to remove the aging kitchen stove, and at this point the 50+-year-old kitchen is in real need of modernization.

We are asking the community to once again help Trinity continue our role as partner in the life of City Island. With your financial assistance, we will be able to implement badly needed renovations—so please help us "close" the kitchen (for approximately 1 month) so we can then re-open it fully, going forward in service and ministry.

Donations by mail may be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464; electronically through "Givebutler" <https://givebutler.com/trinity>.

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace through our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry and greater focus on the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.). Each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

On March 5 at 11:30 a.m., Trinity will begin a time meant to benefit all people in our families and the community. This time together will focus on God's desire that all people experience more love, joy and peace. Each class is open to all people and will be based on the teachings of Jesus and the prophets. "I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." John 15:11

On Wednesdays at Trinity at 4:30 p.m., the Youth Group will be held for all children in the 5 through 12th grade. At 6 p.m. there will be a community supper of soup and bread and then at 6:30 p.m. a time of prayer. On Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. there will be prayer time in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845 532-3378.

Rick DeWitt

Quilters by the Sea QOV

Our first Sew Saturday of 2023 will be Feb. 25. If you are interested in seeing how a Quilt of Valor (QOV) is made, please contact Harlan at harlan.sexton1@gmail.com for time and location. We hope to award four to six QOVs to American Legion veterans this year, made here on City Island. Quilters by the Sea QOV will be involved in the February Symphony Space performance of "Letters From Home," the New York stop of a 50-state USO-style show.

Harlan Sexton

Heroes Aren't Born They're Trained Learn CPR!

Learn CPR during February, American Heart Month. Call 1-877-AHA-4CPR for a course near you.

Mark your calendar for National CPR Day — FREE mass CPR training on Saturday, April 28, 2001. Reserve your spot today.

American Heart Association

Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



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

Happy New Year to all from the board of the City Island Community Center. We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is looking forward to 2023. We would like to thank our loyal and longtime members of the Community Center for their ongoing patronage and support! And to those who renewed their membership during our membership drive, we thank you!

As this year starts up, the board is seeking fresh ideas and recommendations for programming in 2023. Please reach out to our President, Cheryl Riordan at 347-843-5076 if you would like to offer a class, run a craft or have any other good thoughts for community engagement at the Center. We are always open to new ideas and welcome new instructors.

We are having a blood drive at the center Feb. 9.

Our schedule of offerings continues through the winter.

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873

City Island Civic Association: Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

Children's Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

Yoga: Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

Yoga and Meditation: Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

Zumba: Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Happy Winter,

Melissa Cebollero

Sons of the American Legion

We at the SAL hope everyone had a great holiday and a Happy New Year. The SAL has been busy this winter with special events. We have been hosting football playoff games and look forward to Jan. 29 for the Championship Sunday game. The games will be at 3 and 6:30 p.m. The SAL will charge for food and will have a cash bar available for your libations.

We are hosting the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 12. Game-day specials will be available all day. To reserve your place,

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please call the Post at 718-885-0639. On Feb. 25, we will host the annual pig's knuckles night, which this year will be \$40 for all the food, beer and wine you can drink. It's the 73rd annual party that the SAL has hosted, and it's always a great night. We encourage all of our male membership interested in attending to call and make reservations.

The SAL has been supportive of many projects in the community, such as the Boy Scouts, who have been working hard to achieve badges in different areas. We also are sponsoring a candidate from Boy Scouts through the American Legion who wishes to attend Boys State, a camp that provides leadership training and teaches fundamentals of government and law making.

We sponsored a table at the Grace Church fundraiser on Jan. 21, and we constantly contribute to those organizations that are in need as they continue to be in support of our community. The SAL takes pride in our commitment to lending a helping hand in the City Island community and our Legion community. We stand for our American Legion family as we continue to be in full support of our veterans who gave their time to defend our great nation. We hope all is well this winter and, as always, God bless our community and our Legion and God bless America

Tom Vivolo

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at 7 a.m., on Saturday at 8 a.m. and at Vigil Saturday evening at 5:15 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Our Religious Education Program is having a good year! Thanks to all who continue to contribute their time and talents. Also, thank you to our parents and students for their commitment.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to spend an hour with Jesus.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses are at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m.

Rosette Dietz

City Island Oyster Reef

The City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) is pleased to report that we had a successful shell collection program, which ended in December. CIOR collected over 23,000 pounds of shells from local restaurants, cured and bagged them at the Pelham Bay landfill (590 bags), and will donate 165 bags to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Marine Center for environmental restoration projects in Long Island Sound. CIOR is thankful to the six City Island restaurant partners in the CIOR Shell Collective Program: Johnny's Reef, Sea Shore Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Seafood City, and Tony's Pier.

In December Karen Heil, the science teacher at P.S. 175, assisted by CIOR volunteer Russell Heath and Anne Fraoli, the educational director of the Billion Oyster Program, taught the seventh and eighth graders how to dissect an oyster. Bronx Parks Commissioner Jessenia Aponte, her staff, and representatives from the Long Island Sound Study attended the dissection. P.S. 175 is committed to teaching students about the oyster life cycle, biodiversity and water-quality parameters, as well as the importance of protecting local wetland areas.

Sally Connolly

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla

Your Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. During these cold winter months our members focus on professional development and attend many different training opportunities to hone their skills and better prepare for the boating season. That includes all our newer members who are looking to become certified instructors and vessel examiners.

Our next Flotilla meetings will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and Tuesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our Command staff and officers will be available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests. If you are interested in joining our unit or taking a boating class, send us an e-mail at uscgaux0140504@gmail.com.

David Mooney

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come and view our Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day items. Also, we will be having our half-price sales and bag sales.

We look forward to seeing you.

Arlene Byrne

PSS City Island Center

Welcome February! Check out all the exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC Aging (the new name for the Department for the Aging) and the NYC Health Department, which means a face covering is mandatory.

If you need assistance with your technology devices be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and formal tablet/iPhone training classes in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could possibly benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the center.

February

Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 12:45, Top 20 Movie Classic Songs

Thursday, Feb. 2, at 12:45, Hand Puppet Shadows

Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 12:30, Love Songs Video, Romance Book Mash-Up Game & Valentine's Day Treats

Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 1:30, The Tudors, Art & Majesty in Renaissance England

Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 11, Fat Tuesday Crafts and Games

Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 12:30, Shortbread Social celebrating shortest month of the year!

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

The Current Schedule

Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan

(remote and in-person)

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 to 2:30 p.m. Tablet and iPhone Training Course (must be pre-registered)

Tuesday

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

11 a.m. Board Games

1:15 p.m. Bingo, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 1:15 p.m..

Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)

12:30 p.m. Knitting and Crochet Club

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)

10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Danny Durr (in person and remote)

10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction with staff and college students

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Face masks must be worn at all times, and the windows will remain open to circulate air.

Please note the center is closed on Monday, Feb. 20 for Presidents Day.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club is planning to replace about one-third of its plant containers on City Island Avenue with new ones! Our white rectangular containers have served us well for many years, but they are reaching the end of their lives. The new containers are scheduled to arrive in late winter. They have a different, more modern look and will be round with a gray color. This is a three-year project.

At our Jan. 9 meeting, Jennifer Cappello-Ruggerio, instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, presented the fourth in her series on "Fundamentals of Gardening." She talked about the science of fertilizers and pruning, reporting that new research recommends not removing fall leaves from your garden but to allow them to compost in place, much like the process that takes place in forests. This provides valuable habitat for useful organisms and will eventually break down, providing nutrients to plants.

Spring feeding with fertilizer gives plants a boost. Organic fertilizer has many advantages over synthetic fertilizers, because they break down more slowly and have micronutrients not found in synthetics. Synthetic fertilizers deliver nutrients very quickly, but when they are put on lawns, they can run off more easily, polluting our water ways and wasting money. We are very grateful to Jennifer for her series of presentations.

Our February meeting will be a business meeting with each committee chair and project manager presenting their plans for the year. There will be no special presentation.

We thank all of you who contribute to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a Helping Hand for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson



Low-Budget Winners of the 21st Century

With the Academy Awards right around the corner (March 12, 2023), one may consider that millions upon millions of dollars have been spent throughout the years in the making of hopeful Oscar contenders. The average cost of a movie today is in the \$60 to \$100 million range with blockbusters costing a lot more. And that's just to make the movie and doesn't include the millions spent on advertising. However, money does not assure success at the box office nor a sweep of coveted awards.

A prime example of a low-budget wonder is **Moonlight** (2016), the heartbreaking story of a young black man's search for love and connection in his struggle to find himself. It is told in three segments in the life of Chiron Harris: as a youth called "Little" (Alex Black), adolescent Chiron (Ashton Anders) and young adult called "Black" (Trevante Rhodes). Mahershala Ali has an unforgettable role as Juan, a drug dealer who becomes a father figure for Little, demonstrating how it takes just one adult to give a child the confidence to survive an abusive life. Naomie Harris is outstanding as Chiron's drug addict mother. The other most important person in Chiron's life is his best friend, Kevin (youth: Jaden Piner; adolescent: Jharrel Jerome; young adult: Andre Holland). Budget: \$1.5 million. Awards: The film won three Oscars out of eight nominations, Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor for Ali, which made him the first Muslim to win an Academy Award.

Crash, the best picture of 2005, is an R-rated, violent, heart-wrenching, dramatic film with an outstanding ensemble cast. Set in present-day Los Angeles, it tells many interlocking stories. There is the car-jacking of district attorney Rick Cabot (Brendan Fraser) and his wife, Jean (Sandra Bullock). There is the locksmith (Michael Pena), who is a loving father and good provider, upon whom many people look with distrust because he is Mexican-American. There is Farhad (Shaun Toub), a Persian who speaks little English and who believes everyone is out to cheat him. There is Officer Ryan (Matt Dillon), who struggles to help his ailing father. Ryan's rookie partner, Officer Hansen (Ryan Phillippe), is horrified when he is forced to participate in the hassling of a black couple, a TV director (Terrence Howard) and his light-skinned wife (Thandie Newton). The strongest performance in the film comes from Don Cheadle as Officer Graham, who is trying to take care of his addict mother and find his missing brother, as he solves crimes he encounters. What is astonishing about this film is that the stereotypes we observe are the ones in our own minds, as the behavior we expect to see from each of the characters is not necessarily what transpires. This is a film not of blacks and whites, but of shades of grays and the dispelling of our own stereotypes. Budget: \$6.5 million. Awards: Out of six nominations, the film won three Oscars: Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Film Editing.

Parasite (2020) is the story of greed and class discrimination that threatens the newly formed symbiotic relationship between the wealthy Park family and the destitute Kim clan. Ki-woo Kim (Choi Woo-Shik) is a young man living in poverty in the slums of a nameless South Korean city with his family: his father Ki-taek Kim (Song Kang-ho), mother Chung-sook Kim (Jang Hye-jin) and sister Ki-jung

(Park So-dam). They make ends meet by doing menial tasks such as folding pizza boxes. The wealthy Park family includes Mr. Park (Lee Sun-kyun), his scatterbrained wife, Mrs. Park (Choi Yeo-jeong), daughter Park Da-hye (Jung Ji-so) and son Park Da-song (Jung Hyeon-jun). When the Park daughter's tutor goes away, the unqualified Kim son is hired as the replacement. Soon Kim's entire family insinuate themselves into jobs (art therapist, chauffeur and maid) for the Park family through many dishonest means. This very original genre-busting film moves from black comedy into surprising horror as it follows a poor family angling to improve their lives by claiming to be highly qualified to help the wealthy residents of a beautiful house. This was the first South Korean film to win an Oscar and the first film to win both Best Picture and Best Foreign Film, becoming the first non English-language film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. Budget: \$12 million; Awards: the film won four Oscars out of six nominations, Best Picture, Best Foreign Film, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director (Bong Joon-ho).

The Imitation Game (2014) is based on the real life story of the impossibly arrogant, socially awkward mathematician and legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch). During World War II, Turing joins a team of code-breakers Hugh Alexander (Matthew Goode), John Cairncross (Allen Leech), Peter Hilton (Matthew Beard), Jack Good (James Northcote) and Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley) at the top-secret facility at Bletchley Park. They are under the watchful eye of the uncompromising Commander Denniston (Charles Dance) and protected by head of intelligence Stewart Menzies (Mark Strong). After long two years, Turing and his team successfully develop their own machine to decipher the German's Enigma machine. The film touches on Turing's childhood and his ultimate tragic end when he is persecuted by the British government when his homosexuality is disclosed. This adaptation of the 1983 biography of the codebreaking mathematician received eight Oscar nominations but took home only one. Budget: \$14 million; Awards: Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Writing; Nominations: Best Picture, Best Actor Benedict Cumberbatch, Best Supporting Actress Keira Knightley, Best Director Morten Tyldum, Best Film Editing, Best Original Score, Best Production Design.

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) is the story of Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), an 18-year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai who is a contestant on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" and is one question away from winning the grand prize. However, when the show breaks for the night, police arrest him on suspicion of cheating, wondering how a street kid could know so much. Desperate to prove his innocence, Jamal tells the story of his life in the slum where he and his brother grew up, of their adventures together on the road, of vicious encounters with local gangs and of Latika, the girl he loved and lost. Each chapter of Jamal's increasingly layered story reveals where he learned the answers to the show's seemingly impossible quizzes. When the new day dawns, Jamal is allowed to return to the show to answer the final question. At the heart of its storytelling lies the question of how anyone comes to know the things they know about life and love, and it is presented primarily in flashbacks. In addition to being only the 11th Best-Picture winner to have no nominations for acting, it was also the first film shot using digital technology to win an Oscar for best cinematography. Budget: \$15 million; Awards: Out of ten nominations, it won eight: Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director (Danny Boyle), Best Original Score, Best Cinematography, Best Film Editing, Best Sound Mixing, Best Sound Editing.

Kathryn Bigelow was the first woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director for **The Hurt Locker** (2009), which also won Best Picture. It is an American

war thriller starring Jeremy Renner as Sgt. William James, who is part of a War Ordinance Disposal team stationed in Iraq. They are tasked with disarming bombs left by insurgents to kill American soldiers. The tension and psychological stress reactions are reminiscent of the terrifying Vietnam era film **Platoon** (1986), wherein anyone can die at any moment. The outstanding supporting cast includes Ralph Fiennes, David Morse and Guy Pearce, who are all part of the team at various times. When James's tour ends and he returns to his family in the United States, we see how the war has ruined him for everyday life. Budget: \$15 million; Awards: Of nine nominations, it won six: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Film Editing, Best Sound Mixing, Best Sound Editing.

The King's Speech (2010) contains Colin Firth's Oscar-winning performance of a lifetime as Bertie, the Duke of York, a tortured stutterer who is brother to the King of England, Edward VIII (Guy Pearce). When the king takes up with a much-married woman, Wallis Simpson (Eve Best), and the country is on the brink of war with Germany, Bertie is terrified that he might have to fill his brother's shoes while struggling mightily with his stammer. Throughout Bertie's efforts to overcome his impediment, there is humor provided by his unconventional speech therapist, Lionel Logue (the amazing Geoffrey Rush), found by Bertie's loving wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter). Even though Lionel is a

commoner, he and Bertie form a friendship that lasts for the rest of their lives. Budget: \$15 million; Awards: Of twelve nominations, it won four: Best Picture, Best Actor (Colin Firth), Best Director (Tom Hooper), Best Original Screenplay.

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (2014) stars Michael Keaton as Riggan Thomson a former cinema superhero who is mounting an ambitious Broadway production that he hopes will breathe new life into his stagnant career. He is greatly encouraged and assisted by the help of his best friend, Jake (Zach Galifianakis). It's risky, but he hopes that his creative gamble will prove that he's a real artist and not just a washed-up movie star. As opening night approaches, a castmate is injured, leaving Riggan with little choice but to hire Mike Shiner (Edward Norton), boyfriend of one of the cast members (Naomi Watts), who proves to be a loose cannon. In addition, Riggan must deal with his girlfriend (Andrea Riseborough), daughter/assistant (Emma Stone) and ex-wife (Amy Ryan). Throughout the film, Riggan is plagued by the voice of Birdman trying to convince him to give up the play and return to the superhero role in this quite odd film with an excellent cast. Budget: \$18 million; Awards: Out of nine nominations, it won four: Best Picture, Best Director (Alejandro G. Iñárritu), Best Original Screenplay, Best Cinematography.

And until next time, be safe, healthy and happy viewing...

City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello all and happy 2023 from the City Island Culinary Club. Why not make it part of your resolution to pop in and join us and the fun? Our cookie exchange in December was very successful. Members made Italian ricotta cookies, gingersnaps, sugar cookies, chocolate chip and homemade biscotti. It was definitely a Christmas cookie overload.

We met again in January for our first ever soup exchange, and it was mmm good! Members made enough soup so that everyone could take home a few containers to freeze and enjoy all winter: Italian sausage and lentil soup, cream of mushroom, chicken parmesan and beef barley.

For February the theme is meatloaf madness. We will meet on Feb. 6 and 20 at 7 p.m. at the City Island Community Center (190 Fordham Street).

Here is a super easy cream of mushroom soup recipe, just perfect for a chilly February day.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 onions, peeled and diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 pounds (750 g) fresh brown mushrooms, sliced
- 4 teaspoons chopped thyme, divided
- 1/2 cup Marsala wine (or any dry red or white wine)
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth or stock
- 1 to 2 teaspoons salt, adjust to taste
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon black cracked pepper, adjust to taste
- 2 beef bouillon cubes, crumbled
- 1 cup heavy cream or half and half
- Chopped fresh parsley and thyme

Instructions

1. Heat butter and oil in a large pot over medium-high heat until melted. Sauté the onions for 2 to 3 minutes until softened. Cook garlic until fragrant, about 1 minute.
2. Add mushrooms and 2 teaspoons of the thyme, and cook for 5 minutes. Pour in the wine and allow to cook for 3 minutes.
3. Sprinkle mushrooms with flour, mix well, and cook for 2 minutes. Add stock, mix again, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low-medium heat, and season with salt, pepper and crumbled bouillon cubes.
4. Cover and allow to simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, while occasionally stirring, until the soup has thickened.
5. Reduce heat to low, and stir in the cream or half and half. Allow to gently simmer (do not boil). Adjust salt and pepper to your taste.
6. Mix in parsley and the remaining thyme. Serve warm.

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THE BATTLE OF PELL'S POINT

By STEPHEN DEVILLO

Often glanced over by historians, one of the more crucial engagements of the Revolutionary War happened right here in Pelham Bay Park. The Battle of Pell's Point marked the final frustration of a British plan to trap Washington's army in upper Manhattan, prevent its retreat to the Hudson Highlands and effectively end the Revolutionary War.

However, the battle may not have taken place anywhere near Pell's Point (now Rodman's Neck) or Glover's Rock, which commemorates Colonel John Glover, the leader of the battle that saved Washington's army on its way from Manhattan to White Plains. Instead, it was the Pelham Militia, a group of local patriots, including some from City Island, who fought near the famous rock, while Glover and his soldiers fought the British closer to the Hutchinson River.

How the British Got to the Bronx

After the battle of Brooklyn on Aug. 27, Washington's battered army retreated to Manhattan in a daring midnight withdrawal across the East River. Two weeks later the British landed in mid-Manhattan, hoping to trap the Americans in New York City at the island's southern tip. But the British commander William Howe hesitated, and the Americans were able to get past him to the high ground of northern Manhattan.

A sharp fight at Harlem Heights on Sept. 16 demonstrated that the Americans were far from defeated, prompting Howe to seek another approach. If he could get a force onto the mainland and seize the only two bridges across the Harlem River, he could trap Washington on Manhattan and eventually compel his surrender.

The British landing at Throggs Neck on Oct. 12 was quickly stymied when an American force of two dozen Pennsylvania riflemen tore up the planks of the bridge over Westchester Creek and opened fire from the west bank of the creek. The failed landing alerted Washington to the danger posed by Howe's move, and he reluctantly began moving his army out of northern Manhattan to the mainland.

The opportunity to trap and destroy Washington's army was rapidly slipping away when Howe made one last attempt, landing about 4,000 British and Hessians at Pell's Point on Oct. 18. Today known as Rodman's Neck, Pell's Point sheltered a good landing beach at Turtle Cove on its western side. Once ashore at Turtle Cove, it was a quick two miles or so to a bridge across the Hutchinson River, as well as a ford known as "the Wading Place" less than a mile north of the bridge.

From there it would be just a few miles' dash to the west to intercept the main American army, which was strung out along the road as it made its way north. It looked like a foolproof plan, except for the presence of Colonel John Glover and his brigade.

John Glover and His Regiment

A merchant ship captain from Marblehead, MA, Glover was posted on the west side of the Hutchinson River across from the picturesque Split Rock in what today is a remote corner of Pelham Bay Park. Spotting the British masts as they gathered in Turtle Cove, Glover had his men in motion before the last Hessian stepped ashore.

Opting to meet the enemy halfway, Glover posted his own Marblehead Regiment (14th Continental) as a reserve at the Split Rock and went ahead with his three remaining regiments to take up a defensive position on a rise of ground where the Split Rock Road wound through today's golf course. With fewer than 900 men, Glover was badly outnumbered by Howe's 4,000, but, as he later recalled, "I disposed of my little party to the best of my judgement." Glover at least had a dependable brigade behind him, including the Marblehead Regiment.

One of the most unusual units in Washington's diverse army, the Marblehead Regiment was composed of fishermen and mariners who had been thrown out of work by the British closure of the Grand Banks fishing grounds. Though seemingly strange material for an infantry regiment, they were nevertheless men who knew how to work as a team and to follow orders—orders, moreover, given by a crusty sea captain colonel who did not deliberate over his decisions. The Marbleheaders had already proven their value by using their maritime skills to ferry the American army across the difficult waters of the East River a few weeks before, and they would do so again 10 weeks later in crossing the Delaware.

Perhaps a third of the Marbleheaders were men of color, both African and Native American. The maritime trades were one of the few industries in colonial America where a man who "pulled his weight" could be treated with something approaching equality regardless of ancestry. Having endured worse things than an afternoon firefight, the Marblehead men knew they could rely on each other.

The Battle of the Pelham Militia

To deal with the oncoming British and Hessians, an outnumbered Glover decided upon a New England-style defense, and in so doing he would derail Howe's last opportunity to trap Washington. The Split Rock Road was lined by classic New England stone walls, perfect for the "skulking" kind of warfare that the British found so annoying. It was less than two miles from the beach at Turtle Cove to the bridge over the Hutchinson River, but for General Howe it would prove to be an agonizingly long two miles.

Today the immense glacial erratic known as Glover's Rock is a local landmark alongside Orchard Beach Road, and tradition has long had it that Glover first faced the British there. In recent years, however, historians have come to doubt this, as by



Photos by STEPHEN DEVILLO and BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Top: This large glacial granite rock on Orchard Beach Road is dedicated to Colonel John Glover, who led a brigade of 843 Americans in October 1776 against 4,000 British soldiers in the Battle of Pell's Point. Below is a mural in the Bronx County Courthouse painted by James Monroe Hewlett depicting the battle of Pell's Point.

all indications Glover drew up his battle formation over a mile to the north, inside the present-day Split Rock Golf Course. Nevertheless, 18th-century cannon balls were uncovered in the vicinity of Glover's Rock in the early 1900s, and again in 1980 (one of them is in the collection of the City Island Nautical Museum.)

The solution to this puzzle was discovered by Pelham Town Historian Blake Bell, who found evidence that the Pelham militia engaged the British at Glover's Rock, though apparently not in coordination with Colonel Glover. A freebooting Loyalist band led by the legendary Robert Rogers had been raiding along the Long Island Sound all summer, making the militia, which likely included men from City Island, quick to turn out and rally at the well-known landmark of Glover's Rock.

Perhaps surprised that the enemy was not the raggle-taggle band of amphibious Tories they expected, but rather brass-hatted Hessians and fearsome British Redcoats, the Pelham militia nevertheless opened fire on Howe's men before breaking off and falling back toward Pelham along the shoreline pathway east of Glover's position. Howe detailed a small force under George Cornwallis to pursue the militia while he turned his main force up the Split Rock Road.

Before long they ran into Glover's men, posted behind stone walls and positioned so they could leapfrog one another. One regiment would open fire, but before the enemy could form up to storm their position, they would pull back behind a regiment manning another stone wall, and the process would be repeated.

The Battle of Split Rock

Howe now knew that he was not dealing with local militia, but seasoned Continental soldiers. Overestimating the opposing American force, Howe called a 90-minute pause in the action to deploy his soldiers and prepare for a pitched battle.

And a pitched battle was what he got that day along the Split Rock Road. The wall-by-wall fighting consumed most of what remained of the day, and with each wasted hour the chance for a decisive victory against Washington grew dimmer. As daylight faded Glover had fallen back almost to the Split Rock when he received some troublesome news. Cornwallis had by then bird-dogged the militia all the way to Pelham Manor, where the militia attempted

a stand on Prospect Hill overlooking the Hutchinson River. The British drove the militia off the hill, but instead of scattering they instead regrouped on another hill to the north.

The Pelham militia had unwittingly led Cornwallis's task force around Glover's left flank, putting the British in a position to seize the bridge over the Hutchinson River and block Glover's access to the ford, thereby cutting off his line of retreat and affording General Howe at least the shadow of a victory. But lacking orders and with one eye on the still-feisty militiamen, Cornwallis made no move to descend from Prospect Hill.

Cornwallis's hesitation gave Glover the chance to break off the battle and bring his men to safety across the bridge as the mid-October twilight settled in. The battle of Pell's Point ended with a desultory artillery exchange between Glover's guns on the west bank of the Hutchinson River and the British field pieces on Prospect Hill. (A 12-pound cannonball lobbed at the British was recently dug up in a Pelham backyard.) As night fell, Glover led his men three miles to the northwest, edging closer to the main American army while still positioned to contest a westward advance by the British.

The Battle of White Plains

Meanwhile, George Washington was completing his escape from Howe's trap, heading up along the west side of the Bronx River toward the crossroads town of White Plains. Washington's plan was to lead his diminished army north to the Continental supply depot at Fishkill, snugly situated amidst the rugged hills of the Hudson Highlands. But first he would have to stop and make a stand at White Plains, where supplies of pork and flour had to be loaded onto slow-moving wagons and sent on their way to Fishkill. The battles at Throggs Neck and Pell's Point had given him the time to get to White Plains and take up fortified positions blocking the road north to Fishkill.

Respectful of the fighting spirit the Americans had shown at Harlem Heights, Throggs Neck and above all at Pell's Point, General Howe declined to continue his by-now-useless westward march and again tangle with Glover's salty Yankees. Instead, he moved his army north to New Rochelle,

Continued on page 17

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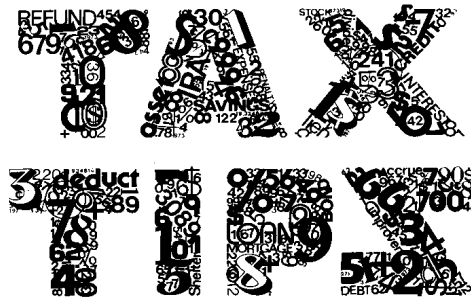
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Individual Taxpayers: The Year in Review

The 2022 calendar has closed, and it's time to get ready for tax season. Here's what individuals and families need to know about tax provisions for 2022.

Personal Exemptions: Personal exemptions are eliminated for tax years 2018 through 2025.

Standard Deductions: The standard deduction for married couples filing a joint return in 2022 is \$25,900. For singles and married individuals filing separately, it is \$12,950, and for heads of household, the deduction is \$19,400. The additional standard deduction for blind people and senior citizens in 2022 is \$1,400 for married individuals and \$1,750 for singles and heads of households.

Income Tax Rates: In 2022 the top tax rate of 37 percent affects individuals whose income exceeds \$539,900 (\$647,850 for married taxpayers filing a joint return). Marginal tax rates for 2022 are as follows: 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37%. As a reminder, while the tax rate structure remains comparable to prior years, the tax-bracket thresholds increased significantly for each filing status.

Estate and Gift Taxes: The 2022 annual exemption of \$12.06 million per individual increases to \$12.92 million in 2023, for estate, gift and generation-skipping taxes, with a top tax rate of 40 percent. The annual exclusion for gifts in 2023 increases to \$17,000 up from \$16,000 in 2022.

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT): For 2022, exemption amounts increased to \$75,900 for single and head of household filers, \$118,100 for married people filing jointly and for qualifying widows or widowers, and \$59,050 for married taxpayers filing separately.

Pease and PEP (Personal Exemption Phaseout): Both Pease (limitations on itemized deductions) and PEP (personal exemption phase-out) have been eliminated under TCJA.

Flexible Spending Account (FSA): A Flexible Spending Account (FSA) is limited to \$2,850 per year in 2022 and applies only to salary reduction contributions under a health FSA. The term "taxable year" as it applies to FSAs refers to the plan year of the cafeteria plan, which is typically the period during which salary reduction elections are made.

Long-Term Capital Gains: In 2022, tax rates on capital gains and dividends remain the same as 2021 rates (0%, 15%, and a top rate of 20%); however, taxpayers should be reminded that threshold amounts don't correspond to the tax bracket rate structure as they have in the past. For example, taxpayers whose income is below \$41,675 for single filers and \$83,350 for married filing jointly pay 0% capital gains tax. For individuals whose income is at or above \$459,750 (\$517,200 married filing jointly), the rate for both capital gains and dividends is capped at 20 percent.

Miscellaneous Deductions: Miscellaneous deductions that exceed 2 percent of AGI (adjusted gross income) are eliminated for tax years 2018 through 2025. As such, you can no longer deduct on Schedule A expenses related to tax preparation, moving (except for members of the Armed Forces on active duty who move because of a military order), job hunting or unreimbursed employee expenses such as tools, supplies, required uniforms, travel and mileage. Business owners are not affected and can still deduct business-related expenses on Schedule C.

Individuals: Tax Credits

Adoption Credit: In 2022 a nonrefundable credit of up to \$14,890 (i.e., only

those with tax liability will benefit) is available for qualified adoption expenses for each eligible child.

Child and Dependent Care Credit: If you pay someone to take care of your dependent (defined as being under the age of 13 at the end of the tax year or incapable of self-care) to work or look for work, you may qualify for a credit of up to \$1,050 or 35 percent of \$3,000 of eligible expenses in 2022. For two or more qualifying dependents, you can claim up to 35 percent of \$6,000 (or \$2,100) of eligible expenses. For higher-income earners, the credit percentage is reduced, but not below 20 percent, regardless of the amount of adjusted gross income. This tax credit is nonrefundable.

Child Tax Credit and Credit for Other Dependents: For 2022, the child tax credit reverts to \$2,000 per child, under the age of 17. The refundable portion of the credit is \$1,400 in 2022, so that even if taxpayers do not owe any tax, they can still claim the credit. A \$500 nonrefundable credit is also available for dependents who do not qualify for the Child Tax Credit (e.g., dependents age 17 and older).

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): For the tax year 2022, the maximum earned income tax credit (EITC) for low, and moderate-income workers and working families increased to \$6,935 (up from \$6,728 in 2021). For taxpayers with no qualifying children, the maximum credit is \$560.

The maximum income limit (three or more qualifying children) for the EITC increased to \$59,187 (up from \$57,414 in 2021) for married filing jointly and \$53,057 for taxpayers whose filing status is single or head of household. The credit varies by family size, filing status, and other factors, with the maximum credit going to joint filers with three or more qualifying children.

Individuals: Education Expenses

Coverdell Education Savings Account: You can contribute up to \$2,000 a year to Coverdell savings accounts in 2022. These accounts can be used to offset the cost of elementary and secondary education, as well as post-secondary education.

American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit: The maximum credit is \$2,500 per student for the American Opportunity Tax Credit. The Lifetime Learning Credit remains at \$2,000 per return. To claim the full credit for either, your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) must be \$80,000 or less (\$160,000 or less for married filing jointly).

Employer-Provided Educational Assistance: As an employee in 2022, you can exclude up to \$5,250 of qualifying post-secondary and graduate education expenses that are reimbursed by your employer.

Student Loan Interest: In 2022, you can deduct up to \$2,500 in student-loan interest if your modified adjusted gross income is less than \$70,000 (single) or \$140,000 (married filing jointly). The credit cannot be claimed if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is more than \$85,000 for single filers (\$170,000 if married filing jointly).

Individuals: Retirement

Contribution Limits: For 2022, the elective deferral (contribution) limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is \$20,500. For persons aged 50 or older in 2022, the limit is \$27,000 (\$6,500 catch-up contribution).

Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (Saver's Credit): In 2022, the adjusted gross income limit for the saver's credit for low- and moderate-income workers is \$68,000 for married couples filing jointly, \$51,000 for heads of household and \$34,000 for married individuals filing separately and for singles. The maximum credit amount is \$2,000 (\$4,000 if married filing jointly). As a reminder, starting in 2018, the Saver's Credit can be taken for your contributions to an ABL (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account if you're the designated beneficiary. However, keep in mind that your eligible contributions may be reduced by any recent distributions you received from your ABL account.

Small-Business Taxpayers: The Year in Review

Here is what business owners need to know about tax provisions for 2022:

Standard Mileage Rates: Due to inflation, there were two standard mileage rates in 2022: 62.5 cents per business mile driven (July 1–Dec. 31, 2022) and 58.5 per business mile driven (Jan.1–June 30, 2022).

Health Care Tax Credit for Small Businesses: Small-business employers who pay at least half the premiums for single health insurance coverage for their employees may be eligible for the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit if they employ fewer than the equivalent of 25 full-time workers and average annual wages do not exceed \$50,000. This amount is adjusted annually for inflation (e.g., for 2021 returns it was \$56,000). In 2022, the tax credit is worth up to 50 percent of your contribution toward employees' premium costs (up to 35 percent for tax-exempt employers).

Section 179 Expensing and Depreciation: For 2022, the Section 179 expense deduction increased to a maximum deduction of \$1.08 million of the first \$2.70 million of qualifying equipment placed in service during the current tax year. The deduction is indexed to inflation for tax years after 2018 and enhanced to include improvements to nonresidential qualified real property such as roofs, fire protection, alarm systems and security systems, and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

Businesses are allowed to immediately deduct 100 percent of the cost of eligible property placed in service after Sept. 27, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2023, after which it will be phased downward over a four-year period: 80% in 2023, 60% in 2024, 40% in 2025 and 20% in 2026. The standard business depreciation amount is 26 cents per mile (same as 2021).

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): Extended through 2025 (The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021), the Work Opportunity Tax Credit can be used by employers who hire long-term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 weeks or more). It is generally equal to 40

percent of the first \$6,000 of wages paid to a new hire. Please call if you have any questions about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

SIMPLE IRA Plan Contributions: Contribution limits for SIMPLE IRA plans increased to \$14,000 for persons under age 50 and \$17,000 for persons aged 50 or older in 2022. The maximum compensation used to determine contributions is \$305,000.

Editor's Note: Ed Heben and his wife, Bette, moved to City Island in 1984 to establish a foothold here, both financial and social. It turned out that the choice of City Island as the place to raise their sons and to establish a business was not only a good decision for the Heben family, but it was also beneficial for The Island Current. Ed's Tax Tips column has run for over 30 years and has been a well-read source of financial advice for our readers. Ed announced in January 2023 that he is retiring as a regular Current contributor. The editorial board and staff of this newspaper are sad to see him go, but very grateful for his many years of volunteering. We have accepted his resignation and this will be his last regular column. However, he has tentatively agreed to periodically contribute articles on important financial issues and tax law changes. We hope our readers will encourage him to stick around and keep the calculator clicking.



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Happy 2023! New Year, New Beginnings!

After 24 years Kaleidoscope Gallery is moving to a larger location to better serve the community. The City Island Chamber office will still be located within the Gallery at our new location, 271 City Island Ave. Our hours will remain the same, 11am to 7pm daily, and our phone number will remain the same, 718-885-3090.



Our jewelry design and repair services will continue as we expand other aspects of the Gallery.

Please join us and share in our new endeavor.

Paul Klein & Nicole Nielson

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

JANUARY 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
24	Tue	0103	7.88	0729	-0.80	1319	8.12	2003	-1.17	Tue 24
25	Wed	0156	7.88	0826	-0.72	1416	7.75	2054	-0.86	Wed 25
26	Thu	0251	7.75	0925	-0.52	1517	7.30	2147	-0.45	Thu 26
27	Fri	0351	7.55	1027	-0.27	1623	6.86	2244	-0.03	Fri 27
28	Sat	0453	7.35	1132	-0.04	1729	6.51	2345	0.35	Sat 28
29	Sun	0557	7.20	1235	0.11	1833	6.31			Sun 29
30	Mon	0047	0.61	0658	7.15	1336	0.17	1934	6.27	Mon 30
31	Tue	0146	0.75	0756	7.18	1432	0.15	2029	6.37	Tue 31
FEBRUARY 2023										
01	Wed	0241	0.77	0850	7.28	1523	0.10	2120	6.53	Wed 01
02	Thu	0331	0.74	0939	7.38	1610	0.05	2207	6.71	Thu 02
03	Fri	0415	0.68	1023	7.45	1651	0.04	2249	6.87	Fri 03
04	Sat	0454	0.62	1102	7.46	1728	0.07	2327	6.97	Sat 04
05	Sun	0527	0.57	1134	7.42	1759	0.12	2357	7.02	Sun 05
06	Mon	0550	0.51	1154	7.35	1818	0.16			Mon 06
07	Tue	0014	7.06	0608	0.40	1208	7.32	1829	0.13	Tue 07
08	Wed	0027	7.18	0635	0.26	1233	7.30	1852	0.07	Wed 08
09	Thu	0054	7.33	0709	0.17	1308	7.24	1925	0.04	Thu 09
10	Fri	0128	7.46	0749	0.14	1348	7.10	2004	0.09	Fri 10
11	Sat	0209	7.52	0833	0.21	1432	6.88	2047	0.23	Sat 11
12	Sun	0254	7.51	0922	0.35	1522	6.59	2135	0.45	Sun 12
13	Mon	0345	7.44	1017	0.53	1619	6.31	2229	0.69	Mon 13
14	Tue	0442	7.34	1123	0.66	1723	6.12	2330	0.88	Tue 14
15	Wed	0546	7.28	1251	0.62	1839	6.13			Wed 15
16	Thu	0044	0.91	0659	7.36	1429	0.26	2007	6.42	Thu 16
17	Fri	0216	0.67	0818	7.61	1534	-0.26	2120	6.92	Fri 17
18	Sat	0336	0.16	0931	7.95	1628	-0.75	2218	7.45	Sat 18
19	Sun	0438	-0.39	1032	8.25	1719	-1.12	2309	7.89	Sun 19
20	Mon	0532	-0.84	1126	8.39	1806	-1.31	2357	8.18	Mon 20
21	Tue	0624	-1.12	1216	8.35	1851	-1.30			Tue 21
22	Wed	0043	8.28	0714	-1.18	1306	8.11	1936	-1.09	Wed 22
23	Thu	0130	8.20	0805	-1.01	1356	7.72	2022	-0.72	Thu 23
24	Fri	0218	7.97	0858	-0.67	1449	7.25	2108	-0.23	Fri 24
25	Sat	0311	7.63	0955	-0.23	1548	6.77	2200	0.31	Sat 25
26	Sun	0411	7.28	1056	0.22	1653	6.38	2301	0.81	Sun 26
27	Mon	0518	6.99	1201	0.56	1800	6.18			Mon 27
28	Tue	0009	1.16	0625	6.87	1303	0.74	1903	6.19	Tue 28



Photos by the BURLINGTONONTARIOBIRDER

Construction of a tempo

The Mating Game

Nature has a way of protecting us from becoming too complacent in our day-to-day lives. We are surrounded by reminders of the virtue of humility, of the fundamental fact that no matter how much we think we may know or have seen, there is always something new and wondrous that awaits. It draws us forward, if we let it, and keeps us young at heart.

In the latest installment of what is new, wondrous and awaiting City Islanders, we present the mating ritual of the red-breasted merganser. For years, we have watched these birds come and go, in for the winter and out for the spring. And yet it was only last month that we had the great pleasure of finally bearing witness to this extraordinary display, played out again and again among a small flock of 42 individuals in Eastchester Bay.

Some people have described what the male does in pursuit of the female as a kind of salute and then a curtsy. It is as good a description as any so far as we are concerned, but if you don't quite see it in the pictures above try this video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqGcMQy4ZDE>.

Like other waterfowl that winter in our area, red-breasted mergansers form mating pairs while they are here—hence the aforementioned ritual—and then they migrate north in the spring to mate and raise young. After mating, though, the males leave the females, who will do the work of duckling-rearing on their own. They are not like geese and swans, who share parenting responsibilities, nor do they mate for life. Instead, red-breasted mergansers are programmed to find new females to pair with the following winter. Be on the lookout in 2024. You won't be disappointed.

Parenting in a Complicated World: Existentialism and How We Raise Our Children

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Did anyone ever tell you to suck it up, this is as good as it gets, so make the most of what you've got and create your own philosophy of life? Did you ever take a Philosophy 101? Do you remember your first encounter with the term existentialism? Perhaps you read Sartre's "No Exit" or Camus's "The Stranger"?

Existentialism can be defined as a philosophical approach that emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of the will. There is no "universal goodness" or "inherent evil" out there in the universe—just us and our actions.

Parenting is the perfect scenario for life on life's terms. You can read all of the self-help books, from Doctor Spock to Terry Brazelton to James Dodson to whomever, but when that wailing from the nursery wakes you at 3 a.m. for the third night in a row, it is up to you to create meaning from that situation. And once your tween has decided to hang out with the "wrong crowd," your ability to navigate the situation is put to the test.

Existentialism suggests that life in and

of itself is meaningless. We can "make meaning" of our lives by creating values for what we do. Some of us turn to religion, some of us turn to economic success, some of us turn to family values. In the end, we are the "meaning makers" for our children.

I have often said that if you do not want to raise your children based on your own values, the culture would be happy to do so. We create values with our children when we explain why we do what we do as a family. If you are just chasing a buck, complaining about "other people" you encounter, disregarding climate change realities and striving for quiet and compliant kids, you have created a value system. Kids are quite smart at figuring out what is really important by watching us.

Be in touch with what you value. Find ways to make your life align with those values as best you can. If your meaning comes through your faith community, that's fine, just as long as it's your intentional meaning and not just a series of reactions to all of the stupid life stuff or someone else's idea of what's right and what's wrong.

Parenting is the hardest job most of us will ever do. Be loving and intentional!

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February 18 10:30am-3:30pm
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Aug 7-11	Session IV	Race Team and Adventure Sailing

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Daisies, salvia cardonna, and white orlaya grown from seed behind the beehive

Pottering About

A pottering garden is a plantsman's small, much-loved area where every inch is examined every day. Pottering, or doddering as the case may present itself, is not only relegated to the elderly, although I seem to be beginning to fall into this category. Where I pause to inspect favorite plants most often, I find the grass trodden and bare.

Gardening, aside from all the labor involved is at least 50 percent seeing, peering and scanning. There is no better pleasure than to study tiny snowdrops or hellebores budding into action. Individual

inspection is paramount to my daily routine. When the temperature drops, a tender potted tree may be in need of a fleece cover. Tender biennials will have frost damage without a good cloche hat. And so I potter on. Strip all the leaves from the climbing roses to more easily bend the stems toward the ground. This practice produces a heavy crop of roses, more so than if the stems stood straight away to the sky.

In a small garden the eye falls upon small chores more readily. The ivy has a gap in the fence, so I twine more leaders around the ugly metal to produce my fedge, that is, a hedge and a fence togeth-

er. And there is no better solution to these eyesores than clothing them in ivy, which also lends a beautiful, dark-green background to all your flowers and shrubs.

Most people forsake the ubiquitous ivy that is so easy to grow. English ivy, hедера helix, is evergreen and the least invasive. Boston ivy loses its leaves and produces a network of tracery on buildings in winter. English ivy is a terrific climber or ground cover that adds nobility, creating a sense of age and mystery. I use it everywhere, including alongside buildings as ground cover, which keeps the house dry.

There are 11 species of ivy and more than 300 cultivars. I love the variegated ones mixed with solid green. Greenish flowers appear on old plants in autumn, followed by black or orange fruit, which lasts well into winter and feeds the birds when not much else is available.

Ivy can cover unsightly sheds. The plants need very little water and little light and is the perfect answer to the low-maintenance garden. The roots support the

plant but cannot penetrate solid objects, thereby dispelling the myth that ivy is destructive to buildings. Yes, it will get under siding and under your roof. Also, it can affect crumbling mortar, but if you have a sound masonry wall, clad it with ivy and make a secret garden to potter about in.

It is said that gardening does not allow one to get mentally old, because too many hopes and schemes are yet to be realized. Hope is ever present. For example, I am waiting for my little pear tree to bear fruit, but I will have to wait at least five more years. Thus I feel I am assured that I will see it as my life rolls on. It is the anticipation and the reward that are most satisfying. It is not unusual for older people to get heavily involved in gardening. After retirement, there may be no better hobby, in fact it is the hobby of kings and queens.

You can visit Mary in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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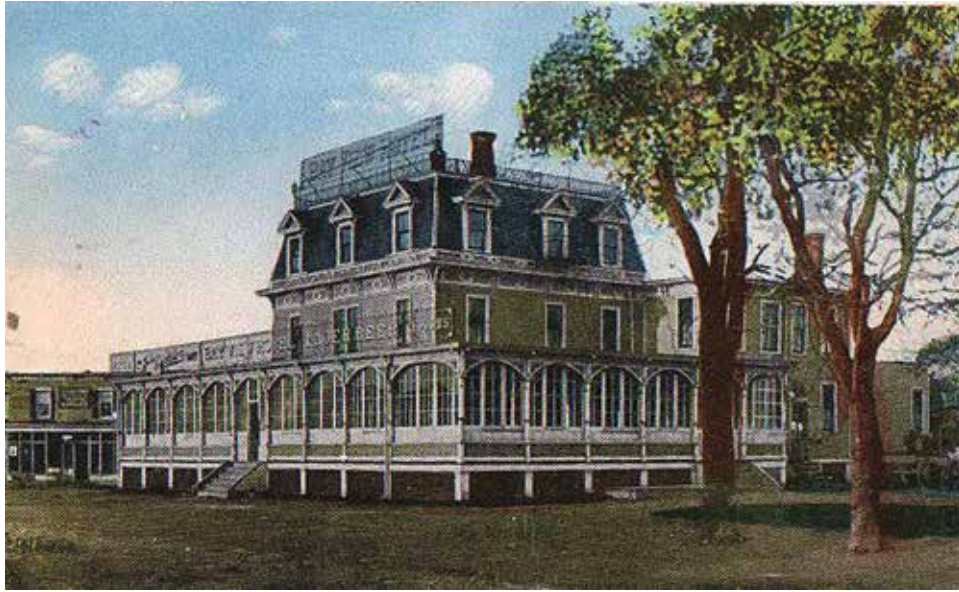


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C.I., the Resort

Continued from page 9

acres at the southern end of what was then called Main Street were purchased from the Hortons in the 1870s by a stockbroker named William Belden, who had decided to make City Island his summer home. On Friday, Sept. 24, 1867, Belden, Jay Gould and James Fisk had manipulated the gold market, which forced hundreds of firms to collapse and ruined thousands of investors. Belden eventually decided to change from stockbroker to resort operator, and on City Island he turned the property on both sides of Main Street into a summer camp. In addition to the large mansion that eventually became the Morris Yacht Club, Belden had a bowling alley, a pavilion, a rifle range and a merry-go-round.

In 1892, the N.Y. Evening World referred to the resort as “once the palatial country home of William Belden” and now a tourist site for patrons who could reach it by train and trolley from Bartow Station or by steamship. Steamships traveled regularly from all over the city to the Belden Point dock, which no longer exists and was eventually replaced in 1900 by a larger dock at the end of Main Street. In 1900, Collis P. Huntington, the railroad tsar, passed away, and because he had apparently funded the development of the resort and was never paid back, the Belden property was inherited by Huntington’s widow and later became part of the Huntington Estate.

The New York Times reported in August 1900 that Tammany Hall had obtained right of first refusal for the property, then called Arlington Park, to be used as a summer residence for entertaining political friends. That sale never took place, but we know that the Huntington estate leased the property to a series of groups, among them St. Bartholomew’s Church, which used the lawn as a summer camp for men. The August 22, 1902, issue of the City Island News advertises “Schaffer’s Arlington Park and Hotel,” featuring new bath houses. At some point during the next decade the property was changed to the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino, which continued to make Belden Point the tourist attraction it had been in the 1890s.

The New-York Tribune reported on

Nov. 15, 1914, that the grounds had been leased by the Huntington estate to a syndicate headed by Julius Keller, vice president of the Society of Restaurateurs and proprietor of the famous N.Y. restaurant Maxim’s. Keller did some major work on the site, adding a third floor, a breakfast hall, and a dairy. The Tribune ran a series of ads in April 1916 for Chateau Laurier, describing it as the former Monte Carlo Hotel but now with a great French restaurant and other amenities, and it appears to have been a fashionable summer hotel and night club until the 1920s. During the 1930s, the property was leased and then sold to the Morris Yacht Club, which had been evicted from Pelham Bay Park by Robert Moses.

City Island: No Longer a Resort

It seems clear to those who live on City Island that this community is more residential than recreational, if one discounts the number of restaurants here. There are no longer any hotels here, or bathing beaches, or boat rentals. In fact, there hasn’t even been a bed-and-breakfast since 2006, when Le Refuge Inn had to close its doors because its location at 586 City Island Avenue, in the Samuel Pell House, was only zoned for residential use.

Pierre Saint-Denis, a restaurateur and musician, had operated a well-established restaurant called Le Refuge on East 82nd Street in Manhattan, but in 1992 he moved to City Island, where he bought the beautiful house at 620 City Island Avenue. There he opened Le Refuge Inn, which offered a great deal more than accommodations: great French cuisine and weekly concerts of classical music that quickly became popular with Island residents. In 2004 he sold the house to Adolfo Carrión, then Bronx Borough President, and moved Le Refuge to the Pell house, where he enjoyed the same success as both a French restaurant and a bed-and-breakfast, working in collaboration with Michelle French, the building’s owner. However, in 2006, the Department of Buildings received complaints about the zoning violation and, in spite of the fact that Le Refuge had received widespread praise in the media, from visitors, and by City Island residents, the business came to an end, and the last hotel on City Island closed for good.



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Top left: The Bay View Hotel was a popular resort at the north end of City Island built in the 1860s. Above right: Thwaite’s restaurant, which closed in the 1980s, was originally a hotel on the corner of Cross Street and City Island Avenue. Above: The Monte Carlo Hotel was a popular tourist attraction on Belden Point in the building built by Samuel Decatur Horton that eventually became the Morris Yacht Club.



Photo REVOLUTIONARY WAR JOURNAL

The Battle of Pell’s Point pictured here would more accurately be called the Battle of Pelham, since it was fought at least a mile away from Pell’s Point (now Rodman’s Neck).

Battle of Pell's Point

Continued from page 13

where he would linger for several days before finally moving his troops to confront Washington, by now well dug in at White Plains.

The battle of White Plains between Oct. 28 and Nov. 1 would mark the end of a summer campaign that might well have seen the inglorious end of American independence. Instead, Glover’s men had the honor of firing the last shots of the battle from their fortified position atop Miller Hill, and Howe turned away from what

had become an inconclusive standoff to instead storm Fort Mifflin in northern Manhattan, leaving Washington to safely complete his northward move to Fishkill. From there the war would shift to New Jersey and the long “retreat to victory” that ended eight weeks later with Washington’s surprise victories at Trenton and Princeton.

With thanks to Blake Bell, Jorge Santiago, and the East Bronx History Forum.

Stephen Paul DeVillo is the author of “The Battle of White Plains: Washington and Howe in Westchester,” available from the History Press (www.aarcadiapublishing.com) or in local bookstores.

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Obituaries

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Photo by RON TERNER

Addie Cozzi

Addie Cozzi, a resident of City Island for more than 70 years, passed away of natural causes on Dec. 28, 2022, at the age of 94.

She loved City Island and knew everyone after moving here with her family from the Fordham section of the Bronx in 1951.

In the 1950s, Addie and her father, Egidio, affectionally known as "Jiggs," opened a store at 229 City Island Avenue, "Combinations by Cozzi," where she worked selling a new product: storm and screen windows. Later she worked for many years at Artie's Manor, and later began buying rental properties on City Island and doted on her many tenants. She loved her experience owning "Addie's Sweet Shop" across from P.S. 175, which allowed her to interact with children, who always took to her.

Always a high-energy woman, she would walk from one end of City Island to the other and back well into her 80s, pretty much every day, her pockets stuffed with dog biscuits, interacting with every dog she encountered. Always civic minded, she was an active member of the City Island Civic Association.

Later in life, Addie was cared for by her daughter along with friends and neighbors Jim and Carmen Mehrle. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Esposito, and her brother, Joseph Cozzi. She is survived by her daughter, Maryanne Solomon (Filippone), and grandson, Eric, of Santa Monica, CA; her sister, Lillian Salazar; her niece, Joanne Cozzi Delaney; and nephews Joe Cozzi and Adam Salazar. She was also survived by her niece, Judi Cozzi, who passed away a short time afterward.



Photo by RON TERNER

Judi Cozzi

Clam digger Judi Cozzi passed away peacefully on Jan. 13, 2023, at the age of 61. She had been battling multiple serious illnesses for nine months at Regency Extended Care in Yonkers, NY.

Judi was born in the Bronx on Oct. 20, 1961, to Arline and Joseph Cozzi. She attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School before graduating from Columbus High School. She had an innate ability to work with all things electronic, and while attending Westchester Community College, Judi supported herself as a freelance computer technician until she ultimately gained a full-time position on the I.T. team at Fordham University.

Judi was a one-of-a-kind fun-loving free spirit. (She once got Tina Turner to autograph her stomach!) She had a great sense of humor and quick wit, and she could always say something to put a smile on your face and make you laugh. You never had to wonder what she was thinking because she let you know. She was a caring and loyal friend for life.

She made use of her time during the Covid lockdown by engaging in regular Bible study, which she continued as long as she was able. During her time at Regency Extended Care and in the hospital, she was well loved by her caregivers, who appreciated the spirit of gratitude she always showed them. Despite her infirmities, she always had a ready smile for her visitors. Judi was a lover of music, especially the Rolling Stones, and was the only person in the nursing facility with a poster of Mick Jagger in her room.

Judi was predeceased by her parents and her brother Alfred Cozzi. She is survived by her siblings, Joe Cozzi and Joanne Cozzi Delaney, who were at her side throughout her illness, as well as extended family and friends. She will be greatly missed.



Photo by RON TERNER

Virginia Gallagher

Longtime City Island resident Virginia Gallagher passed away on Dec. 30, 2022, at Moravian Hall Square in Nazareth, PA., at the age of 96.

Virginia O'Donohue was born in the Bronx on Feb. 28, 1926, to Michael John and Margaret O'Donohue. She was married to Jack Gallagher in 1952, and in 1954, the couple moved to City Island, where Virginia's aunt and uncle Mary and Bill Schwarz were living. Mr. Gallagher passed away in 1972. Virginia Gallagher attended Pace University and Cornell and worked for many years for the New York Daily News, which named her the paper's first affirmative action officer.

During her 50 years on City Island, Virginia Gallagher played many roles in the community. She served as president of the Civic Association from 1962 to 1981, during which time she pressured the city to build P.S. 175 on the former site of Nevins Yacht Yard. She was a founding member of the City Island Community Center and the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC) and later served as president of the City Island Historical Society.

Off the Island, Mrs. Gallagher served as a vice president of the Bronx County Historical Society, and in 1990 received its William C. Beller Award for Excellence and Achievement. She was the first elected chair of Community Planning Board 12

during the period when Co-op City was built. In 1977 she was appointed to Community Board 10, where she served for many years as chair and as head of the Parks Committee.

Virginia Gallagher joined with many City Island residents to fight the landfill in Pelham Bay Park but lost that battle, although she was successful in helping create the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. Because of her many achievements, Virginia Gallagher received many awards and honors from city and state elected officials, as well as the Bronx Board of Realtors. Under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani she served as a New York City Tax Commissioner for eight years.

Mrs. Gallagher is probably best known on the Island today for her involvement in Pilot Cove Manor. In 1979 she took over the presidency of the City Island Senior Citizens Residence, which had been trying to build senior citizen housing on City Island under the leadership of Reverend Richard Smith of Grace Episcopal Church. She worked to obtain \$7.5 million in federal funding and \$500,000 in state funding to purchase the property near Consolidated Yacht Yard on east Pilot Street, and Pilot Cove Manor became a reality in 1981. Some years later, the Pilot Cove Manor board of directors, which is responsible for hiring management, voted Mrs. Gallagher, under her corporation, VMG Management, as the manager of Pilot Cove, a position she held until 2005.

Mrs. Gallagher was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her brother, John O'Donohue; her nephew, Jim O'Donohue; four nieces, and 17 grandnieces and grandnephews.

A memorial service will be held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Feb. 28, at 11 a.m., followed by interment at Calvary Cemetery in Queens.



Anthony Grimaldi

Anthony "Tony" Grimaldi, 87, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away suddenly on Dec. 30, 2022.

Tony was born in East Harlem on Sept. 19, 1935, to Madeline "Helen" and Michael Grimaldi. He graduated in 1953 from Benjamin Franklin High School, where he was proud to be vice president of his senior

class. Soon after graduation, he moved to City Island, where he met his future wife, Marjorie, known as "Betty." They had two children, Helen Grimaldi Vaughan and Joe Grimaldi.

Tony was a salesman in the printing business for over 40 years and retired at the age of 70. He loved going to Atlantic City and Las Vegas to play blackjack. He was a huge Yankee fan and followed them starting in 1949, when he went to Yankee Stadium for the first time with the Police Athletic League.

He was extremely proud of his Italian heritage and was vice president of the Sons of Italy on Williamsbridge Road for many years. He was an excellent dancer and loved listening to Frank Sinatra. He had a great sense of humor and loved reminiscing about his past. He was lucky enough to vacation every year with his family and enjoyed visiting Europe with his friends.

Tony coached "The Lido" and "Tony & Sons" for many years in the City Island Little League. He loved to talk about his coaching day with former players, whom he saw on his daily walks. Family meant everything to Tony. He was the most generous and loving person to his family and friends. He had a kind word for everyone he met. He was an avid walker and would walk up and down City Island Avenue several times a day. He was always smiling and said hello to people he passed by.

Tony was predeceased by his parents, his brother Michael "Mickey" Grimaldi and his son-in-law, Stephen Vaughan. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betty Grimaldi; his two children, Helen and Joe; his daughter-in-law, Bernadette Galvin Grimaldi, and his four grandchildren, Nicholas Vaughan, Joseph Grimaldi, Matthew Grimaldi and Jenna Grimaldi, and by his brother, Fred Grimaldi.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Jan. 4, 2023. A celebration of his life followed at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club. He was laid to rest in Pelham Cemetery on City Island.

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Photo by JACK BURGMASER

Thanks to all who generously donated to the Garden Club's Beautification Fund, the plant containers on City Island Avenue will be replaced over the next three years, beginning in February. The old containers have done a great job over the years, but it's time. Phase 1 will take place in the central part of the Island. The containers, which have been used by the Jerome Avenue Business District, will be 31 inches in diameter and will have an advanced watering system to help keep the plants well-watered.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Elected officials and Parks Department personnel took part in a groundbreaking ceremony in Pelham Bay Park on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, to celebrate the beginning of reconstruction of the landmark pavilion at Orchard Beach. The full renovation of this historic 140,000 square-foot bathhouse facility will return what was once the crown jewel of Pelham Bay Park to its former glory by 2025, according to Marvel Architects. The project has been made possible with \$24.9 million from the Bronx borough president, \$24.7 million in funding from the mayor's office, \$20 million in state grants and \$18 million from the City Council.

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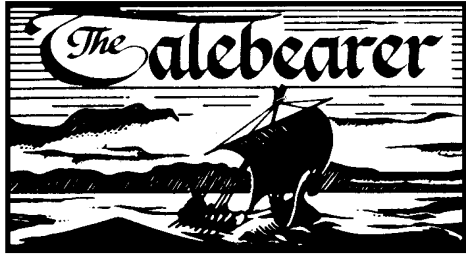
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Christopher Joseph Hennessy was born on Oct. 14, 2022.

Long-distance happy birthday wishes on Feb. 1 to former Bay Street resident Virginia DiGregorio. We love you and miss you!

January birthday greetings to Barbara Dolensek from the staff of *The Island Current*.

Welcome to Bay Street's newest resident, Page Delano, who comes to us from Brooklyn. We know you'll love living here!

Congratulations to Horton Street's Peter Hickey on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout! His family is extremely proud of him.

Lots of good news from the Ulmer family: Happy 22nd anniversary and best wishes for continued happiness to our daughter and son-in-law, Deb and Jeff, on Jan. 8. Happy birthday(s) on Jan. 29 to Karen (Ulmer) and son-in-law Jeffrey on



Twins Joseph and Oliver Bivona celebrated their second birthday together!

Jan. 5. And a very happy birthday on Feb. 26 to our son-in-law Scott who turns the BIG 50!

Happy fourth birthday to our wonderful grandson and nephew Wyatt Joseph Pollack on Feb. 14. We love you to the moon and back! Grammy, B Pa, Titi Jill and Aunt Bri.

Welcome on Oct. 14 to Christopher Joseph Hennessy, named for his father, his Pop and his Great-Grandpa Joe. Proud parents are King Avenue's Erin and Chris; delighted big sisters are Maggie and Catherine.

Happy second birthday to Joseph and Oliver Bivona. Parents Antoinette and Nick Bivona, as well as grandparents Theresa and Joseph, wish you two all the best!

Happy birthday to King Avenue's Malory Byrnes on Jan. 2, to Sarah Graves on Jan. 12 and to Chris McGuire Jr. on Jan. 29. Sending love from all your friends and family.

A very happy 80th birthday to Hunter Avenue's Gerry McCormick Sr. Cheers to good health and happiness! All our love, Judy, Katie, Chris, Gerry, Rose, Coors, Skip, Kiann and Ashes.

Wishing all a very happy Valentine's Day on Feb. 14.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BETTE HEBEN

After a pandemic hiatus, the annual gathering of *The Island Current* staff returned on Jan. 8, 2023, at the home of longtime contributor Barbara Dolensek. Barbara and Judy Rauh were honored for their more than 40 years of service with special plaques featuring their first articles from the 1970s. Shown above are members of the best newspaper staff in the country (bias disclaimer): seated l. to r. Barbara Dolensek, Marsha Treiber, Melanie Benvenue, Karen Nani, Sandy Dunn and Rose Kolb. Standing: Maria Sutherland, Bruce Weis, Monica and Elliott Glick, Ed Heben, Virginia Dannegger, John Sheridan, Judy Rauh, Margaret Lenz and Tom Smith.

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