

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## MOVIE-MAKERS BACK ON CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by CHLOE SABIN

Neighbors on west Fordham Street were pleased to see a film crew hard at work on a short movie.

As many Islanders are aware, City Island has long been a popular location for movie making. Indeed, that has been true since 1906, when a silent film called "The Cruise of the Gladys" was made here, followed by many more over the years, including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "Butterfield 8," along with television programs such as "Boardwalk Empire" and several episodes of "Law and Order."

The Covid pandemic and the recent Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and Writers Guild of America strikes have put a damper on filming here, as elsewhere, so it was a pleasant surprise to see a film company hard at work recently at the west end of Fordham Street, operating with a SAG strike waiver.

Under the direction of Morgan Gould, a short film with the working title "Women Like Us" celebrates the impending marriage of Beth, an overweight woman whose relationship with her mother has become strained. The film is related to a play entitled "Nicole Clark is Having a Baby, written and directed by Morgan Gould," which premiered in Louisville, KY, in the winter of 2020 but was

forced to close because of the pandemic after only five performances.

Beth is played by Nicole Spiezio and her mother by Nancy Robinette, both of them friends of Island resident and actress Emily Kunkel, who is also in the movie and whose house was used for the filming, along with the dock of the Fordham Street Beach Club. Emily told *The Current* that this was not the first time the house had been a movie set. Scenes for Ed Burns's film "The Groomsmen" were set here in 2006, when it was owned by Maryjo Byrne, Emily's godmother, who now lives a couple of blocks away.

Emily's husband, Alden Ford, is also an actor, as well as a director and writer, and they have two young sons, who will be entering school this fall. They are all enthusiastic about life on City Island and were delighted when two neighbors, Linda Murphy and Annemarie Tomsen, who came to watch the filming were actually incorporated into the story.

We await news about the premiere of "Women Like Us," but we can hope that at some point it will be screened at Jerry Landi's studio on City Island Avenue.

## FIRE ON THE WATER



Photos by ERIK KILLEN and ANN-MARIE LIZARAZO

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, at about 6 p.m., a power boat exploded in flames at the gas dock of City Island Yacht Sales & Marina at the north end of the Island, sending huge flames and plumes of smoke into the evening sky. According to eyewitnesses, the owner of the boat had purchased it three weeks earlier and filled the gas tanks with more than 100 gallons of fuel. When the boat was restarted from the fly bridge, it ignited in a huge fire that injured the gas dock attendant, Gary Celli, who was treated at a nearby hospital for wounds to his hands. The owner of the boat was reportedly not injured, and he and Mr. Celli ran off the dock after the explosion. The FDNY Orchard Beach Patrol and firefighters on the dock contained the fire without damage to other boats moored in the marina. The dock lines holding the boat to the gas dock burned off, and the boat eventually drifted into the middle of the channel. The fireboat prevented it from drifting toward the City Island bridge, where numerous fire trucks were stationed in the event that the boat came close enough to cause damage to the bridge. After the fire was put out, the boat sank nearby, where it will likely remain as it is not considered a hazard to navigation. City Island Yacht Sales & Marina has the only operating gas dock on City Island, and it reopened a few days later with two out of three fuel pumps working.



## BRIEFLY...

**HALLOWEEN PARADE**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Participants will gather at Hawkins Park at 5:30 p.m., and the parade will start off at 6 p.m. heading north to Fordham Street and east to King Avenue, culminating in front of Pelham cemetery. Judges will walk around taking photographs and getting information from participants. Prizes will be awarded in various categories, including scariest, best group, best infant, best pet and others. Have a spooky and safe Halloween!

**HALLOWEEN PARTY** at Grace Episcopal Church on Saturday, Oct. 28, will feature live music by True and singer Amanda Rains. There will be dancing and fun at the fundraiser from 7 to 10 p.m. in the parish hall at 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Soft drinks, snacks and candy will be provided. BYOB. Costumes are encouraged and the suggested donation is \$20. Children are free.

**CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN COSTUME WALK** for ages 0 through 14 will take place on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. starting at Hawkins Park, walking on the sidewalk to Ditmars and then back to Winter Street and back to the park, where winners will be selected and prizes handed out. Parents and guardians are encouraged to dress up as well, but the prizes will go to the children. The event is currently sponsored by Atlantic Emeritus Realty and City Island Rocks Ltd. Volunteers and sponsors are asked to contact Bob Carmody at 347-242-4393 or by e-mail at [aerbobci@gmail.com](mailto:aerbobci@gmail.com).

**THE 45TH PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will hold its October meeting at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

**PELL THE PARROT RETURNS.** The City Island Chamber of Commerce will once again sponsor a kid's scavenger hunt. From Oct. 1 through Oct. 15 a cut-out image of Pell the parrot will be supplied to each participating business for kids to find and have their playing sheets marked. Partial sheets can be turned in for prizes, and full sheets will additionally get the child a free raffle ticket for a drawing of a gift certificate to a local business at the end of the event.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during August and September 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - LOST PROPERTY
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 2 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Aug. 22 to Sept. 18, 2023.

8/24 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 4:11 p.m., an Island female was harassed by another female. The victim told police that she was at the bank when the perpetrator screamed "better not mess with me," causing the victim to be annoyed, alarmed and fearful for her safety.

8/31 - A burglary occurred at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 2:20 a.m. A male reporter told police that upon entering the location, he discovered the safe box and cash register were missing. A total of \$3,300 was taken. There were cameras at the location, and upon reviewing the video, police found that two unknown males were seen breaking into the establishment through

the side exit. They were wearing all black clothing.

9/2 - An off-Island female reported lost property at 2 p.m. at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue. The victim states she was at a restaurant and, when she arrived home, she realized her driver's license was missing.

9/15 - On Bay Street at 2:30 a.m., an Island female reported that she was being harassed by an unknown male. The victim told police that a male caller keeps dialing her number up to 20 times a day stating that he will break her face and come over to her home. Victim is scared for her safety. No arrest has been made.

9/16 - An incident of criminal mischief was reported at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 7:40 p.m. An off-Island male stated that an unknown perpetrator did damage to the left tire of his rented vehicle with an unknown object. The victim told police that when he returned to the vehicle he noticed that the tire was slashed.

9/17 - At 4 a.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island male reported an incident of grand larceny auto. The victim told police that unknown perpetrators took his moped, which he had left in front of the building with a chain on the back tire. He last saw the moped at 3:50 a.m. He looked out the window at approximately 4 a.m., when he saw two unknown perpetrators flee on his moped.



Photo by EMMA MULLINS

This busy spider gave the owner of the house a pre-Halloween scare by appearing to envelop it in the web.

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# Pelham Parkway Construction Increases Congestion

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In June of this year, NYS Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the new entrance ramp from the eastbound lanes of Pelham Parkway to northbound I-95 had been completed. This was considered a milestone for the \$30 million project intended to enhance “safety and mobility on the northbound Bruckner Expressway I-95 and the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx.”

However, mobility seems to have been sacrificed, at least for the foreseeable future, as the elimination of ramps has caused traffic tie-ups along the parkway.

The problem arose when the two entrance ramps from eastbound and westbound Pelham Parkway to northbound I-95 were removed. The intention was to create “a better traffic merge for motorists entering the highway and reducing traffic delays,” but the opposite occurred. Ironically, the Governor promised “a safe and seamless commute for motorists that for too long have had to contend with heavy traffic at this northeastern portion of the Bronx.”

That heavy traffic has only been made worse by the reconfiguring of the access roads from Pelham Parkway to and from I-95, which will involve two new signalized intersections with dedicated left

turn lanes from Pelham Parkway to I-95. Whether delays have been caused by the installation of the signals has not been confirmed, but for the present, motorists on westbound Pelham Parkway are often backed up beyond the Shore Road Bridge, mainly because one lane was removed to accommodate the heavy traffic from eastbound Pelham Parkway going to the I-95 entrance.

Although the press office of the State’s Department of Transportation has not responded to questions from *The Current*, it seems that the project has come to what we can only hope is a temporary pause. In the meantime, anyone trying to move past streetlights to get to Pelham Bay or Pelham Parkway had better allow extra time because of the congestion.

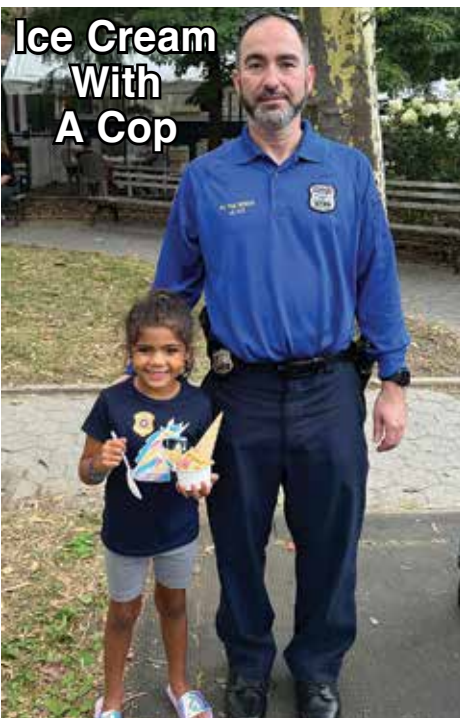
The overall project is slated for completion in the fall of 2024. Needless to say, anyone trying to reach Pelham Bay or the rest of the Bronx via Pelham Parkway hopes that this traffic issue will be resolved long before then, and it is recommended that one allow sufficient extra time on the road. Many Islanders have found that a great deal of time can be saved by taking the Hutchinson River Parkway south from the Bartow-Pell circle to the exits for I-95 or Pelham Parkway.

# FAIR AND RAINY



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

In spite of the rain during the Craft Fair on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, Council Member Marjorie Velázquez shone a bright light on City Island by announcing her grant recipients at the Community Center. The total number of grants came to \$112,500 and will go to the following nonprofits on the Island: City Island Cinema on the Sound (\$25,000); CI Civic Association (\$15,000); CI Community Center (\$15,000); CI Historical Society and Nautical Museum (\$8,000); CI Oyster Reef (\$9,500); CI Rocks (\$5,000); Presbyterian Senior Services (\$20,000); and Billion Oyster Project (\$10,000).



### Ice Cream With A Cop



Photos by JOHN DOYLE

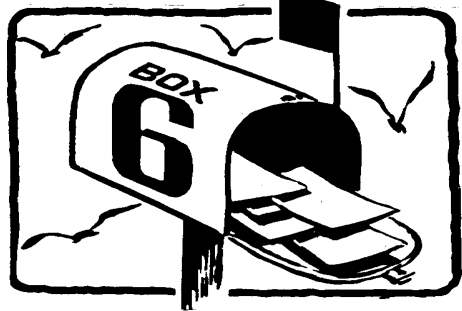
On Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, the 45th Precinct and Community Council hosted “Ice Cream with a Cop” at Hawkins Park from 3 to 8 p.m. The event was supported by the NYC Parks Department which supplied numerous games and support staff for the kids. Over 300 individuals attended the event and kids received a free ice cream cone or cup. Attendees were able to play games with the Community Affairs Officers and talk with them informally about questions they had about community policing. Skip Giacco, the owner of Lickety Split, generously donated all the ice cream. Community Council member Bob Bieder and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto were on hand to lend support.

Photos by RICK DEWITT

In spite of the weather, which threatened rain on Saturday, Sept. 9, and delivered on Sunday, Sept. 10, the City Island Chamber’s Arts & Crafts Fair ended successfully with the Clam Chowder Contest on Sunday (top photos). The People’s first choice for the New England (white) chowder was the Sea Shore Restaurant and the second choice was Sammy’s Shrimp Box. The People’s first choice for Manhattan (red) chowder was Anne Booth Catering at the Harlem Yacht Club, and the second choice was Sammy’s Fish Box. Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, who helped support the contest, voted as her personal choices for New England chowder the Sea Shore Restaurant followed by Artie’s Steak and Seafood; her first choice for Manhattan chowder was the City Island Diner, with Anne Booth Catering taking second place. Bravo to all the restaurants who entered the contest, including Tony’s Pier Restaurant, Johnny’s Reef and Crab Shanty. As everyone knows, any clam chowder on City Island is the best clam chowder!



<b>CHOWDER CONTEST WINNERS SELECTED (BUT REALLY ALL ARE WINNERS) &amp; DESPITE RAIN ON SUNDAY, ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAIR</b>		<b>A NEW MOVIE SHOOTING ON CITY ISLAND AFTER LONG HIATUS</b>		<b>TRAFFIC &amp; CONSTRUCTION HEADACHES ON PELHAM PARKWAY</b>		<b>A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY CROPS UP ON CI</b>	
OOOH! THIS MANHATTAN CLAM CHOWDER IS DELICIOUS!	YES, BUT MAYBE ILLEGAL IN MAINE. IN 1939, A POLITICIAN INTRODUCED A BILL CRIMINALIZING TOMATOES IN CLAM CHOWDER!	IT'S AN INDIE SHORT FILM, SO OF COURSE WE'LL BE AIMING FOR SUNDANCE. THEN, IF WE'RE LUCKY, IT WILL BE SCREENED AT CINEMA ON THE SOUND.		APTLY NAMED AS A PARKWAY. I'VE BEEN PARKED HERE FOR 15 MINUTES WITHOUT MOVING!		THAT'S THE GUY! HE TAKES ALL THE BEST SELLERS & LEAVES OUTDATED TEXT BOOKS!	
DID YOU SEE THAT CONCOCTION IN THE PAPER CUPS AT CITY ISLAND PIZZA CO.?		YEAH! I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME OF THE BEST ART IN THE FAIR!					



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.

We look forward to our next celebration of City Island businesses as part of our 113th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Nov. 4 at the Harlem Yacht Club. More information is included on our website, [www.CityIslandChamber.org](http://www.CityIslandChamber.org). Before that, the Chamber will once again sponsor the Halloween Parade on Tuesday, Oct. 31, which will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Hawkins Park for a 6 p.m. parade. And, of course, we will be happy to see everyone at the 2024 Spring and Fall Arts and Crafts Fairs—hopefully under sunny skies!

**Paul Klein, President  
City Island Chamber of Commerce**

**With Our Thanks**

To the Editor:

The City Island Chamber of Commerce is grateful to all who were a part of our Fall Arts and Crafts Fair the weekend of Sept. 9 and 10. Big thanks to all the intrepid vendors and stalwart shoppers who braved threatening rain on Saturday and the rainy, windy weather on Sunday. And thanks to the musicians who offered sweet sounds on Saturday under the tent near Lickety Split. The Chamber is grateful as well to all who helped to organize the days, to our volunteers and to the ever-supportive community on our Island home.

Our annual Fall Clam Chowder Contest on Sunday, Sept. 10, carried on despite the weather as well, welcoming some 150 people to sample 12 chowders—five Manhattan and seven New England clam chowders—from nine City Island restaurants: Artie's Steak & Seafood, City Island Diner, Crab Shanty, Harlem Yacht Club (Anne Booth Catering), Johnny's Reef, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Sea Shore Restaurant & Marina and Tony's Pier Restaurant. Bravo to all participating restaurants and congratulations to the people's choice winners, as well as those chosen by our City Councilperson Marjorie Velázquez. The City Island Chamber of Commerce also gratefully acknowledges her support of the event.



Photo by PAUL KLEIN

The Chamber will be distributing bins to Chamber member businesses in order to make donations to the Holiday lights easier for residents. Please look for these bins in local businesses.



The 9/11 memorial wall on Carroll Street was touched up by artist Chris Mantiera on the 22nd anniversary of the World Trade Center attack. He is shown above (center) with Bob Carmody, who originally supported the mural's creation, and New York City Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez.

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# LITTLE FREE LIBRARY ON CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by CHARLES EVERS

Here, celebrating the launch of the new Little Free Library at the corner of Beach Street and King Avenue are (l. to r.) Charline Evers; Chris and Chris Mantle, who built the structure on their recent visit from Wales, and neighbor Gail Hitt, along with the Evers' dog Honey.

Many Islanders are not aware that there are three "libraries" on City Island where you can borrow a book, take a book or leave a book without having to sign anything or pay a cent. One is in the lobby of Pilot Cove, another at the southern end of City Island Avenue and the third at the corner of Beach Street and King Avenue, on the property of Charline Evers.

Three years ago, Charline learned about a nationwide nonprofit organization named Little Free Library, whose mission is to "build community, inspire readers and expand book access for all through a global network." She was inspired to replace the small box of free books on her corner with a new, larger, more weather-proof structure.

Charline was delighted when two of her friends from Wales visited her this past summer and offered to build the new library. Plans were drawn, wood was purchased and the new Little Free Library came alive. A special treat was that, together with neighbor Gail Hitt and the Evers pup Honey, the group toasted the new structure with champagne that Charline's friends won in a dance contest on the *Queen Mary 2* when they crossed the Atlantic to New York City.

So, if you are out on a walk, stop by and see if any of the books in the Little Free Library interest you. You might also drop off books that you have read and think others would enjoy. All are welcome!

# Karl Hoedl: Castle to City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Buddy's Hardware at 268 City Island Avenue is one of the busiest shops on the Island, and perhaps one of the smallest. Although Anthony (Buddy) Pontecorvo ran his hardware store for 64 years, this is the first one to carry his name. But these are not the only curious facts about one of the *Current's* longest advertisers. Let's take a closer look at its current owner, Karl Hoedl (also nicknamed Buddy).

Karl was born in 1954 in Stallhof, a small town in southern Austria, near the border of Yugoslavia, the son of a couple that took care of a castle there, one of hundreds that still exist in Austria. Not surprisingly, even as a small boy Karl helped his father and learned the basics of working with tools.

While serving in the Austrian army, Karl met an Austrian living in America who offered Karl a plane ticket to the United States. So, in 1970 Karl arrived in New York, where he quickly made friends with others who spoke German, gradually learned English, and finally realized that Alpo was a dog food, not a canned beef dinner.

Karl's first jobs were in Brooklyn for a slum landlord who paid him \$57 a week and let him live in various empty apartments until they became occupied. By 1978, however, Karl was working on the upper west side in Manhattan as an engineer at 1 Lincoln Plaza.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream, he bought himself a 35-foot 1945 Owens cabin cruiser, which became his home when he learned that Immigration was looking for him. How-

ever, he quickly moved north to Brewster, NY, where he eventually got his green card, thanks to a woman he met at a horse farm there. They married, moved to Dutchess County, raised two children along with several Arabian horses and acquired a summer house in Ocean Park at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Karl worked for Consumers Union in Yonkers, as a senior lab technician responsible for designing and fabricating the testing instruments. Eventually, however, the couple divorced since their busy schedules never allowed them to spend much time together.

As luck would have it, some of the Consumers Union staff had lunch once a month on Friday at Johnny's Reef on City Island. One Friday in 2002 Karl met a doctor there, an ob/gyn who lived on City Island, and they quickly became close friends, and ultimately partners. Karl and Benita Gross lived together for 16 years, first in New Rochelle and then on the Island until she passed away from ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) on Dec. 31, 2018.

During their time together, Karl bought the hardware business from Buddy Pontecorvo, who retired in 2011 after 64 years in the business. That deal did not, however, include the building and the vacant lot, which would have cost him an additional \$800,000, so he moved the business to its present location, 268 City Island Avenue, in 2014, changing the name from Hardware and Yacht Supply to Buddy's Hardware and Marine.

Karl has no immediate plans for retirement, and he will not leave the business until someone else steps up, since he firmly believes that City Island should never be without a hardware store. Although he lives in a waterfront home on Minneford Avenue, he also owns a 45-foot Sea Ray motor yacht that will enable him to fulfill his retirement dream of navigating the Great Loop—up the Hudson, through Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence Seaway through the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi, around Florida into the Caribbean, and maybe back up the East Coast. In the meantime, however, he remains at Buddy's Hardware, ready to serve Island residents and visitors with the tools and techniques he has spent his life mastering.

# ONCE IN A BLUE MOON



Photo by BARBARA DENNIS

A trifecta of labels was applied to the moon on Aug. 30, 2023, according to NASA. It was a full moon, a super moon and finally a blue moon. A blue moon is the term for when we see the full moon twice in a single month. Each month, the moon passes through the point closest to Earth (perigee) and the point farthest from Earth (apogee). When the moon is at or near its closest point to Earth at the same time as it is full, it is called a "supermoon." During this event, because the full moon is a little bit closer to Earth than usual, it appears especially large and bright in the sky. This astrological event is rare, hence the derivation of the term "blue moon," but the moon was bright white on Aug. 30. The next super blue moons will occur in a pair, in January and March 2037. See you then!

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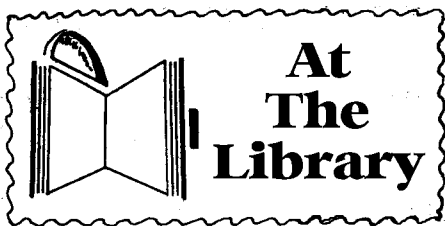
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This location offers free at-home COVID-19 tests for the general public.

**OCTOBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person on City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family.

Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

**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.

**Chill Zone:** No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

**OCTOBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Unwind:** The Uber Game on Tuesday, Oct. 3; Crafternoon on Tuesday, Oct. 10; -Meditation Minute on Tuesday, Oct. 17; Owl Banks on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

**OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Resumé and Job Search:** Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. All work will be conducted on our Library computers. Call us for details and more information. Every Thursday at 11 a.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. Monday, Oct. 16 and 30 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.

**Origami for Adults:** Origami—the art of paper folding—originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it “engages the mind, cultivates concentration, and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.” Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

**Movie:** Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. Saturday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. Adults 18+.

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.

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# City Island Avenue, Formerly Known As Main Street

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As all residents and many visitors to City Island are aware, there is only one road that runs from the north end of the Island to the southern tip. But many are unaware that when City Island was part of the town of Pelham, this road was known as Main Street and was much narrower than it is today, measuring from 33 feet to 50 feet at the widest.

Not long after City Island and the rest of the Bronx were incorporated into New York City in 1898, plans for improving life on the Island sprang up quickly. As the Brooklyn Daily Eagle printed on Sept. 2, 1899, "What with shore roads, street widenings and new streets and public places, there is little of the island that is not to be subjected to one change or another." Many cross streets, along with Main Street, were to be widened, and the new steel bridge was already in the works, to be opened with great fanfare on July 4, 1901.

On June 3, 1904, a public hearing with the Board of Estimate was held, and the proposal to widen Main Street to 80 feet was accepted by the Mayor, the Controller and the President of the Borough of the Bronx, with no objections. It was understood that the funding for the project would be underwritten by City Islanders who owned property adjacent to the affected streets.

The City Island Nautical Museum has a map that was likely produced by the city before work began, indicating in red the projected width of several streets. The detail shown here clearly indicates that the wider street would definitely impact the front yard of Grace Episcopal Church on the corner of Pilot Street. As noted in the Brooklyn Eagle, "The widening of Main and Pilot streets will not only deprive the Episcopal Church of its garden strip on the Pilot street frontage, but

it will cut off part of the end of the church near Main street."

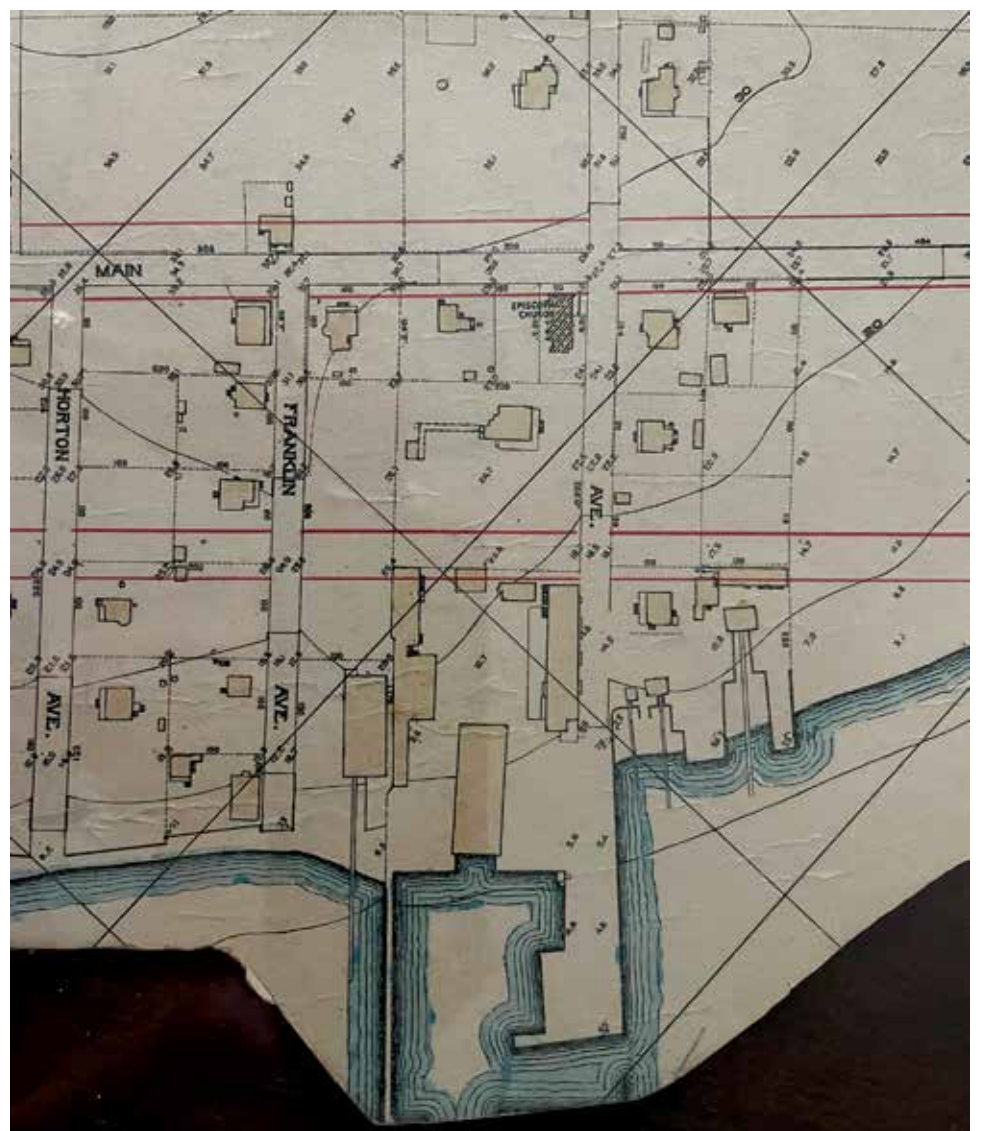
The street widening project was authorized in June 1907, when it was determined that no portion of the expense, estimated at about \$93,000, would be paid by the city. The work finally began and was completed over three years later with a total cost climbing to more than \$600,000. Not only were the streets widened but several buildings were moved back, curbstones were set, slate sidewalks constructed, crosswalks established, fences put in place and driveways installed. By 1912, however, it was recognized that the city would have to assume at least half of the cost because the improvements would benefit visitors to the Island as well as residents and businesses.

In March 1912, after the completion of the project, 72 Islanders submitted a petition to the Board of Estimate claiming that the street widening had not been for local traffic but "mainly to accommodate summer excursionists or summer traffic" and that "at the time of the widening it the City recognized the fact that it was a general improvement . . . and assumed 50 per cent of the cost." They claimed that because City Island was "cut off from the rest of The Bronx by Pelham Bay Park, it cannot be developed, satisfactorily, and there is no way of reaching the Island from Bartow at present except by walking, resulting in an absolute inability of the property to earn any rental at all and preventing any general improvement." For these reasons, they asked that the City assume a larger proportion of the cost, which by this time had increased to more than \$628,000.

Although the final amount paid by the city is not clear, we do know that the city reimbursed Grace Church for damages

inflicted on the property during the street widening process, and that the church was able to afford to repaint the exterior of the church and raise the building five feet in

order to install a new hot-air furnace. We can only assume that the city also helped the numerous stores along the avenue to remove their porches in order to accommodate sidewalks.



Soon after City Island officially became part of New York City in 1898, a plan to widen the streets on the Island was proposed, and the job was finally completed by 1912 at a cost of more than \$600,000.



Speaking of City Island streets, female descendants of Patrick J. Reville, after whom Reville Street is named, gathered at Artie's Restaurant on Aug. 2, 2023, for a reunion (l. to r.): Daly and Maureen Reville, Linda Reville Eisenberg, Irene and Amy Reville. Mr. Reville was head of the Buildings Department for New York City from 1911 to 1937, and the street that was formerly Queen Street was renamed in his honor.

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## Organization News

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

### Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the New Year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," a stimulating, non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Our offerings are either on Zoom only, or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. To participate in any of our offerings, please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in or arrive 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for October 2023:

Friday Evening Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m.)

Oct. 6: Shimini Atzeret Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Levy and band (TBE and Zoom)

Oct. 13: Erev Shabbat Service, with Shari and Monty (TBE and Zoom)

Oct. 20: Erev Shabbat Service with Stu and Leslie (Zoom only)

Oct. 27: Erev Shabbat Service with Stu and Shari (and surprises, Zoom only)

Torah Study: With the start of the New Year (5784) Torah study now begins on Saturday night at 6 p.m. This will be a collective effort, studying in a style we call Chevruta (a group or fellowship) where we learn in partnership with one another. Check our webpage to find the Saturday night link, and you too can be a Chevruta!

New Classes with Rabbi Levy (all sessions on Zoom only; visit our website for registration information).

Soul Cycle: We will look at Jewish holidays and American holy days, and how we might find deeper meaning in them. Oct. 26; 7 p.m.

Big Questions with Rabbi Levy: Join Rabbi Levy on Oct. 15 and 22 at 9:30 a.m. with your Sunday morning coffee and croissant as we delve into the Big Questions facing all of us: How do we disagree constructively? How does love inspire us and challenge us? What is our responsibility to each other, our community, our world?

### Special Events

Sukkot Pot Luck Brunch: Join us in our new Sukkah, right in our yard, for a harvest festival brunch. Sunday, Oct. 1, at 11 a.m.

Simchat Torah: Celebrate the beginning of Creation and the renewal of Torah, with special guest Rami (Rabbi Shohama's spiritual compadre). At TBE on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m.

Making Strides to end Breast Cancer. Please join our team as we walk to beat breast cancer on Oct. 22, at Bay Plaza; Co-op City. See our website for registration information.

Chat Tea Fundraising Event: Enjoy an afternoon retreat with refined refreshments, entertainment by a violin prodigy and perhaps some karaoke to close the afternoon fundraiser for our wonderful Shul by the Sea. Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. \$50 donation.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We would be happy to host you.

Chesed Committee: If you need a help-

ing 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](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

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

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](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

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

**Rachel Stark, President;**  
**Shari Berkowitz, Vice President**

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We're back! St. Mary's Thrift Shop is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We missed you. Hope to see you soon.

**Arlene Byrne**

### Trinity United Methodist Church

We welcome all of you to our times of worship, prayer, Sunday school, youth group and to the times of helping others.

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.

We have two prayer times; Wednesday mornings at 10 we study the Bible and pray. Wednesday evenings at 6:40 in the Sanctuary we pray, sing hymns and hear the Word of God read and preached.

Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 we have our Youth Group for 5th through 12th grades.

On Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open. The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Beginning Oct. 8, our Sunday School will reopen in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and Youth, won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for Children and Youth, and we do so with love, joy and peace.

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission; "That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ." Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we all live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won't you come? If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845-532-3378.

**Rick DeWitt**

### City Island Nautical Museum

Visit us this month before we close for the season! The museum is a simple, fun, family-friendly option to visit and learn about City's Island's nautical history, culture and more! We are open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. and have docents on site to show you around.

If you wish to visit the museum to do research or to bring a group to see the exhibits, please e-mail [info@cityislandmuseum.org](mailto:info@cityislandmuseum.org) and we will get back to you with suggested times for a visit.

Don't miss the opportunity to take a last look at the collection of stunning sailing photographs by Morris Rosenfeld on display in our Library. And we have a few items left



Photo by SANDRA PANZARELLA

**Members of City Island's Quilt of Valor group onboard the USS Intrepid for her 80th Anniversary of Commissioning (l to r): Harlan Sexton, Evangeline Parenti and Maryann Occhicone. They explained the national Quilt of Valor nomination process to former crew members and their families, who had come from across the country.**

from our successful tag sale, so stop by and take a look.

The Museum shop features beautiful nautical-themed gifts, but if you can't get to the Museum before we close, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (at its new location 271 City Island Avenue, just south of the Black Whale) has Museum gifts for sale or you can order online through our website, [www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org).

As we get closer to the end of the year, it's time to think about becoming a 2024 member or renewing your membership for next year. Individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45 and corporate membership is \$75. We are a non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible. Membership entitles you to visit the Museum for free and to get a 10 percent discount at the gift shop. Single day tickets are \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

**Lauren Nye**

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program is off to a great start. We look forward to another successful year!

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday afternoon Oct. 1, at 1:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain. All animals are welcome!

Our monthly holy hour will resume on the First Friday, Oct. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

The Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the month of October. Come take a look around.

**Rosette Dietz**

### 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, on the corner of Pilot Street.

Our priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services since last August and is very active in the Island community. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Halloween Party: Everyone in the community is invited to Grace Church's Halloween Party Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be a live band, dancing, snacks and lots of fun in the Parish Hall. BYOB. Costumes are encouraged. Suggested donation \$20.

Confirmation and Blessing of the Animals. On Sunday, Oct. 1, Bishop Mary

Glasspool will be with us for Confirmation of three candidates: Sofia Aponte, Naomi Boyle and Maggie Moroney. After the service, the Bishop will bless pets for the annual St. Francis Blessing of the Animals!

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month. Several of our teenagers will receive confirmation by Bishop Mary Glasspool on Oct. 1 during the 10 a.m. service. 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](mailto:karenrnl@optonline.net). We will begin preparing for the Christmas Pageant and other special services.

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., usually held on the second Sunday of the month. The next bible reading is scheduled for Oct. 8.

Thanks to all who stopped by the Grace booth at the City Island Arts and Crafts Fair on Sept. 9. Hope you enjoyed all the cupcakes, cookies, banana and pumpkin breads, pies, brownies and more baked by our parishioners and friends of Grace.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist food pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

**Karen Nani**

### AARP Chapter 318

We meet at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our next meeting will be Oct. 26 at 1 p.m. We will discuss upcoming holiday events. Bingo to follow.

**Cathy Kehoe**

## CORRECTION

Last month's news from the Civic Association was written by Barbara Dolensek not Cathy Cebek.

### City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 in the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. The Civic will host a candidates' night for the City Council position for Council District 13.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. And bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference

*Continued on page 15*





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

Happy and healthy autumn to all. Our City Island Community Center is excited to usher in the season with a fun and important line-up of events and activities.

Join us on Thursday, Oct. 5, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for the 45th Precinct Community Council meeting. Meet local community officers and community members for updates and bring any issues you may have.

The Civic Association is moving its October meeting from the traditional last Tuesday of the month and will meet at the Community Center on Oct. 24 instead of Oct 31.

And save the date for the return of the Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 4. Our harvest dance will have live music featuring Freddie Lando (the Golden Voice of the Bronx) and "Belmont's own" Caroline Delguidice, hot buffet with dessert and coffee, 50/50 raffle. Members pay \$40 for singles, \$75 for couples; non-members pay \$45 and \$85. BYOB.

**Reminder:** Rentals have returned at the Community Center for approved special celebrations and events. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 if you're interested in any upcoming dates.

Our fall schedule of offerings is as follows:

**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 October this year and 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 & 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.

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**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 Center information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!  
**Melissa Cebollero**

**Sons of the American Legion**

Thank you to all who attended the September meeting. Both your presence and your input were appreciated in planning our future events. Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. If you are considering joining the SAL, this would be a good night to stop by before the meeting to inquire about eligibility and talk with some of our members. We are accepting dues for the 2024 season. Your payment of \$30 can be dropped off at the Post or mailed to 550 City Island Avenue, attention: SAL.

On Oct. 6, 7 and 8, the Legion will be holding its annual Pumpkin Sale. Please come out and support the Legion with one of our biggest fundraisers.

On Oct. 14, we will be having our annual Pig Roast. It will run from 2 to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The charge per person is \$40. Please come in and put your name and number of people in your party on our list or call it into the Legion after 11 a.m. seven days a week at 718-885-0639.

Come out on Football Sundays at the Post and enjoy watching your favorite team with Legion family and friends.

On Sept. 12 we had our Bronx County Visitation Dinner honoring Dept. Commander Timothy J. Collmer, Dept. Auxiliary President Karen D. St. Hilaire and SAL Detachment Commander Peter J. Dangerous. At the dinner it was announced that our own William Clancy will be running for 2025 SAL National Commander. We wish Bill the best in his campaign, and we look to support him in any way we can.

We welcome back the American Legion youth band for another year. We are proud to support them and look forward to hearing their music over the coming months.

Thank you all, and have a safe and happy Halloween.

**Peter Chadwick**

**Quilters by the Sea QOV**

The next Sew Saturday is Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be an instructional session. One of our members will demonstrate how to cut fabric and sew the pieces into quilt squares for a Quilt of Valor. This is perfect for new and advanced beginners. Come try out a new skill! No need to bring any supplies or to RSVP. Our regular members will also sew up one or two quilt tops. We meet at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post.

**Harlan Sexton**

**City Island Oyster Reef**

Our seasonal shell collection is complete, and we recycled more than 10,000 pounds of hard clam and oyster shells, which will be donated to support environmental efforts in Long Island Sound. This fall we will need continued help transporting the cured

shell to Cornell's Cooperative Extension's Marine Center in Southold on Long Island. On Oct. 28 and Dec. 10 we will be bagging shells in the Pelham Bay landfill. On Sept. 18 we took an additional five cubic yards of shell from last year's collection efforts to Cornell. We couldn't have done it without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

We have been active on the CIOR skiff throughout the summer monitoring water-quality parameters, measuring oysters and identifying biodiversity, and the work continues through the middle of October, so check out our website to register.

The Viva la Sound Environmental Festival is Saturday, Sept. 30, at Ambrosini Field. It is free for all and promises to be a fun day for the entire family! The Viva workshops will take place the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15; they will provide an opportunity to delve into topics such as water-quality monitoring, oyster measuring, microplastics and the importance of wetlands.

**Sally Connolly**

**PSS City Island Center**

Check out all exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer in October.

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. He is offering a series of classes on android phones and tablets at 11 a.m. and iPhones 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. The 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 benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to take someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. 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 are 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 at 718-885-0727.

**October Activities**

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. Dealing with Arthritis (free virtual presentation by Montefiore at PSS Life! University)

Thursday, Oct. 12, at 12:30 p.m. Ask Dr. Dick--Atherosclerosis, Cholesterol and Blood Pressure.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 12:30 p.m. Financial Scams with Reina Revina, NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection

Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. Adventures in TV Writing (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Thursday, Oct. 19, 12:30 p.m. Birthday Party with Cake and live entertainment by Mark Doyle

Friday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. Get Your Shingrix Shot with Pilgram Pharmacy—Sign Up Before October 17 to receive your first dose.

Monday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m. Watch Party—It Happened in Havana: A Yiddish Love Story (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. Nutrition Talk with Registered Dietitian Pnina Mohr (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 12:30 p.m. Halloween Costume Contest and Party

**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 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11 a.m. to 12 noon Android Smartphone and Tablets

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 to 2 p.m. iPhone classes

**Tuesday**

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

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

12 noon In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1 p.m. Walking at Orchard Beach

**Wednesday**

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)

11 a.m. Gardening Club

1:15 p.m. In The News

**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

1:45 p.m. Self Defense with Sensei Eddie

**Friday**

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

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Board Games (Bingo at 1:15 on Friday, Oct. 13)

**New Events:**

Tuesdays in October at 12:45 p.m. Health Insurance Information and Assistance with Tree

Thursdays in October: Coffee Talk featuring a different coffee every week, all day We will be closed on Monday, Oct. 9.

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips with a donation which is needed to keep this service at City Island. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please stop by the Center when you have a chance! Stay safe and healthy.

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

**Garden Club of City Island**

At our September general meeting, member and professional gardener Mary Colby gave a fun talk on her favorite gardening tools, where to purchase them and how to take care of them. This was followed by a slide show of recent photos of her beautiful gardens and of gardens she has designed. We are looking forward to having Mary present at future meetings.

At our Oct. 2 meeting, Hailey Clancy will give a talk on Native Plant Gardening and why this is important. The presentation will feature photos of her garden, which she is transitioning to native plants. In November, in keeping with our efforts to support related City Island projects, Barbara Dolensek will give us an update on the City Island Oyster Reef. The presentations will start around 10:15 and run for 20 to 45 minutes. All are welcome!!

The Garden Club has contracted with MG Lawn Green, Inc., to purchase new plant containers for the north end of City Island Avenue. These will replace the old white containers and will match the round containers installed last spring in the center of the Island. Plans are also in the works for our annual distribution of holiday wreaths to City Island's public spaces on Thanksgiving weekend. These projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. 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](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

**Judy Judson**





### Down Deep

**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (1954) was based on the popular novel by Jules Verne. In 1866, Professor Pierre M. Aronax (Paul Lukas) and his assistant Conseil (Peter Lorre), stranded in San Francisco by reports of a giant sea monster attacking ships in the Pacific Ocean, are invited to join an expedition to search for the creature. During the search, they and harpooner Ned Land (Kirk Douglas) are thrown overboard during an attack, eventually discovering that the supposed monster is actually a submarine piloted by the brilliant but haunted Captain Nemo (James Mason). As a curiosity, there is a 1916 silent film version available on YouTube that was set during the Civil War when reports of a sea monster attacking ships alarmed the U.S. Navy.

**Run Silent Run Deep** (1958) is a World War II drama about commanding officer "Rich" Richardson (Clark Gable), who is placed in charge of the USS *Nerka* after Japanese forces torpedo his submarine. The current crew is led by passed-over-for-promotion Lieutenant Jim Bledsoe (Burt Lancaster), who is openly hostile to their new commander, especially when it becomes clear that Richardson's sole obsession is finding and destroying the Japanese ship that sank his old vessel.

**Operation Petticoat** (1958) is a classic World War II comedy starring Cary Grant as Lieutenant Commander Matt Sherman, who is in charge of the submarine *Sea Tiger*, which was badly damaged at a Philippine shipyard by a Japanese air raid. Seeking to get back to sea before an oncoming invasion, Sherman enlists the help of newly transferred con artist Lieutenant Nick Holden (Tony Curtis) to use his talents to procure the much-needed supplies. During a supply stop, a group of beautiful nurses are taken on board to protect them from the invasion, with hilarious results.

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow, **K-19: The Widowmaker** (2002) is set during the Cold War and follows Captain Alexi Vostrikov (Harrison Ford) along with executive officer Mikhail Polenin (Liam Neeson), the crew's original captain, who is ordered to take over command of the nuclear missile submarine K-19, pride of the Soviet Navy. His assignment: Prepare the K-19 for sea and take her out on patrol—no matter what the cost. But problems with the K-19 arise that may lead to a core meltdown and explosion that will kill all aboard and possibly trigger a nuclear war.

**The Poseidon Adventure** (1972) is a non-military story of an ocean liner that encounters a tsunami and capsizes in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The handful of survivors include Mike Rogo (Ernest Borgnine), Linda Rogo (Stella Stevens), Acres (Roddy McDowall), Belle Rosen (Oscar-nominated Shelley Winters) and Manny Rosen (Jack Albertson)—led by no-nonsense minister Frank Scott (Gene Hackman). They desperately attempt to climb from the top of the ship (now submerged) to the bottom (now "the top"). The film's theme song, "The Morning After," sung by Maureen McGovern, earned an Oscar.

**Das Boot** aka **The Boat** (German, 1981) is the story of a German World War II submarine in search of Allied vessels in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. The film recounts the lives of the courageous U-boat captain (Jurgen Prochnow) and his inexperienced crew, who have no loyalty to the Nazis. A journalist (Herbert Groenemeyer) has been assigned to cover the mission, a useful plot device to create explanations for the audience. The battle scenes are powerful in counterpoint to the depiction of the tedium of life aboard the cramped vessel. A re-release of the film in 1997 added an hour of added footage, which greatly enhanced the suspense and is well worth seeing. I saw this version in a Sony Screening Room sitting on a big stuffed chair with an ottoman and

stayed awake for the entire film. Of note: a German TV series that is a sequel to the film was released in 2018, and fans are waiting for the fourth season.

**The Hunt for Red October** (1990) based on the Tom Clancy novel, has an intricate plot wherein the Russians have built an advanced technological marvel, a new submarine called *Red October*, with the highly respected Ramius (Sean Connery) at the helm. When the ship goes missing, the Soviets want the Americans to help destroy it by claiming Ramius has gone mad and intends to attack the U.S. However, Jack Ryan (Alec Baldwin), having met the skipper once, believes that Ramius is actually trying to defect. Admiral James Greer (James Earl Jones) sends Ryan to an American submarine to convince Captain Bart Mancuso (Scott Glenn) not to fire upon the Soviet vessel.

**The Abyss** (1989/1993) is an American science fiction film written and directed by James Cameron. It is the story of a civilian diving team in search of a lost nuclear submarine. The team leaders are Virgil "Bud" Brigman (Ed Harris) and Dr. Lindsey Brigman (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio), formerly married petroleum engineers, who were drafted to assist a gung-ho Navy SEAL Lieutenant Hiram Coffey (Michael Biehn) in this top-secret recovery mission. In a race against Soviet vessels to locate the submarine, the crew encounters an alien aquatic species. The Oscar-winning special effects are mesmerizing. The theatrical version was 145 minutes, but a longer special edition of 171 minutes released in 1993 fleshes out many of the characters and changes the ending into a political statement.

**Crimson Tide** (1995) is an action thriller that takes place during a period of political turmoil in Russia, in which ultranationalists threaten to launch nuclear missiles at the United States and Japan. The film focuses on a clash of wills between the seasoned commanding officer of a U.S. nuclear missile submarine, Captain Frank Ramsey (Gene Hackman), and his new executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hunter (Denzel Washington). The two have a major conflict arising from different interpretations of an order to launch their missiles resulting in a mutiny attempt. The story parallels a real incident that took place during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**U-571** (2000) takes place in 1942, when a group of American submariners undertakes a mission to steal an Enigma machine from a German submarine. Among those on the team facing these tremendous risks are Lt. Andrew Tyler (Matthew McConaughey), Lt. Cmdr. Mike Dahlgren (Bill Paxton), Lt. Pete Emmett (Jon Bon Jovi) and Chief Gunner's Mate Henry Clough (Harvey Keitel). The success of this mission could change the course of the war.

In **The Core** (2003) geophysicist Dr. Josh Keyes (Aaron Eckhart) discovers that an unknown force has caused the earth's inner core to stop rotating and its magnetic field to rapidly deteriorate, causing catastrophic consequences. To resolve the crisis, Keyes, along with a team of the world's most gifted scientists, travel into the earth's core in the ship *Virgil*. Their mission: detonate a device that will reactivate the core. The film stars Aaron Eckhart as Dr. Joshua Keyes, who is head of the project, a professor of geophysics and designer of the *Virgil's* navigation; Hilary Swank as pilot Major Rebecca Childs, USAF astronaut; Delroy Lindo as Dr. Edward Brazzelton, the designer of *Virgil* and the ultrasonic lasers; Stanley Tucci as Dr. Conrad Zimsky, Earth specialist and designer of Project DESTINI; Tcheky Karyo as Dr. Serge Leveque, nuclear weapons specialist; Bruce Greenwood as Commander Robert Iverson, USN, Major Childs' commander and mentor; D. J. Qualls as Theodore Donald "Rat" Finch, a computer hacker recruited to control the flow of information on the Internet to prevent public panic; Alfre Woodard as Dr. Talma Stickley, NASA mission controller; and Richard Jenkins as leader of the operation Lt. General Thomas Purcell, U.S. Army. Strong suspension of disbelief is required.

**Aquaman** (2018) stars Jason Momoa as Arthur Curry, the human-born heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis, who is forced to go on a quest to stop his half-brother, King Orm (Patrick Wilson), from uniting the seven underwater kingdoms to destroy the surface world. The supporting cast includes Amber Heard as Mera, princess of Xebel, Aquaman's love interest, and warrior daughter of King Nereus (Dolph

Lungren). Aquaman's parents are played by Temuera Morrison as his father, lighthouse keeper Tom Curry, and Nicole Kidman as Queen of Atlantis Atlanna, who is mother of both Arthur and Orm. With help from royal counselor Vulko (Willem Dafoe), Aquaman must retrieve the legendary Trident of Atlan and embrace his destiny as protector of the deep. This DC Comics superhero film is quite a hoot.

**Hunter Killer** (2018) is an intriguing film that goes deeper than the usual military thriller. When American submarine Captain Joe Glass (Gerard Butler) answers a distress call from a U.S. sub in the Arctic Ocean, he comes upon another sub that has been sunk. Much to the consternation of his crew, Captain Glass rescues some Russian sailors from their sabotaged submarine, including Captain Sergei Andropov (Michael Nyqvist). Meanwhile a secret Russian coup d'état is in progress, led by Russian Minister of Defense Admiral Dmitriy Durov (Michael Gore). An elite group of U.S. Navy SEALs monitoring the situation is deployed to sneak through enemy waters and rescue the kidnapped Russian president (Alexander Diachenko). What transpires is a showdown wherein both captains must show integrity, ingenuity, humanity and trust in order to prevent World War III.

A variety of foreign films depict movies on this theme. **The Black Sea** (British, 2014) is a solid submarine thriller with a heist movie twist. Soon after losing his salvage job, former naval officer Robinson (Jude Law) assembles a misfit crew of unemployed sailors for a risky mission: find a sunken Nazi U-boat rumored to contain a fortune in gold. Promising each man an equal share, Robinson leads the mixed British and Russian crew to comb the depths of the Black Sea. Before long, greed takes hold of a crew already divided along language and cultural lines—and the fewer men that make it back alive, the more gold to go around.

**The Command** (British, 2018) is based on a true story that recounts the 2000 Kursk submarine disaster. It tells the story of the Russian nuclear submarine as it is sinking to the bottom of the Barents Sea and the trapped sailors are fighting to survive. Officer Mikhail Averin (Matthias Schoenaerts) is part of the crew that is still alive and waiting for rescue. Mikhail's pregnant wife, Tanya (Léa Seydoux), pleads with the bureaucracy led by Vladimir Petrenko (Max Von Sydow) for information about the status of the crew.

However, the rescue mission seems hindered by politics and bureaucracy among Russia, France, Norway and Britain, with the British navy chief Commodore David Russell (Colin Firth) trying to convince Russia to receive foreign aid via backchanneling with an old friend, Admiral Vyacheslav Grudzinsky (Peter Simonischek).

**The Wolf's Call** aka **Le Chant du Loup** (French/dubbed in English, 2019) is a submarine movie in which the main character is the sonarman. This gripping Cold War thriller stars François Civil, who plays Chanterade, a gifted young audiologist who has perfect pitch and can pick out any detail of a weapon or rudder type just by listening to the sound. He is tapped for a mission aboard a nuclear sub. As tensions escalate dangerously between France and Russia, he must apply his unusual aptitude to help save the world from nuclear destruction.

**The Burning Sea** aka **Nordsjøen** (Norwegian, 2021) is an ecological disaster movie that tells the story of the environmental consequences of a prosperous period of offshore drilling in one of the world's largest oil fields in the North Sea. After 50 years of drilling, a crack opens on the ocean floor, causing a rig to collapse, and rig worker Stian (Henrik Bjelland) descends to the bottom of the rig to shut down a well that can't be reached remotely. His companion submarine operator, Sofia (Kristine Kujath Thorp), and her robotics partner, Arthur (Rolf Kristian Larsen), search for them and others who are missing and assess the cause of the damage. To their horror, what they discover is that this is just the start of a possible apocalyptic catastrophe.

And until next time, stay safe, and happy viewing...



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# ICE AND THE SOUND

By BERNARD WITLIEB

Because this past summer has been unusually hot, Current historian Bernie Witlieb thought it appropriate to remind readers of the good old cold days on City Island.

Sometimes Long Island Sound returns to its origins. About 18,000 years ago, a 1,000-foot-thick glacier called the Laurentide Ice Sheet covered the basin between Connecticut and Long Island. When the ice sheet finished melting about 8,000 years ago, the alpine freshwater Lake Connecticut had formed, separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a sand ridge. The sea levels rose, and the two bodies of water merged, creating the mix of salt and fresh water tidal estuary known as Long Island Sound. However, from time to time in the past the Sound has frozen over enough to prevent the passage of vessels and to allow people to cross from shore to shore.

Local newspapers recorded many such instances. In 1780 a young man traveled via horse-drawn sleigh from Southold to Orient Point. Many walked the eight miles from Greenwich to Long Island during the winter of 1857. The last such event occurred in 1977, when the floating ice forced ashore a bell buoy that was usually 300 feet into the Sound. Ice jams around City Island produced ships in distress, local problems and even entertainment.

The frozen waterway made newspapers nationwide. For example, the Evansville (IN) Journal on Feb. 4, 1867, noted: "Navigation of Long Island Sound is completely closed for fifteen miles. Ice extends to the right and left of Throgg's Neck, and heavy wagons cross from New Rochelle to City Island."

The Sun on Feb. 19, 1885, reported that scores of City Islanders stood for hours shore watching the steamer *Narragansett* on its way to Hell Gate cut a channel through the "unbroken plain of snow-decked ice" that was the Sound. It had taken the ship "nearly twenty hours of herculean tugging and yanking of numerous hawsers to loosen the firm grip the [nearly a foot thick] ice

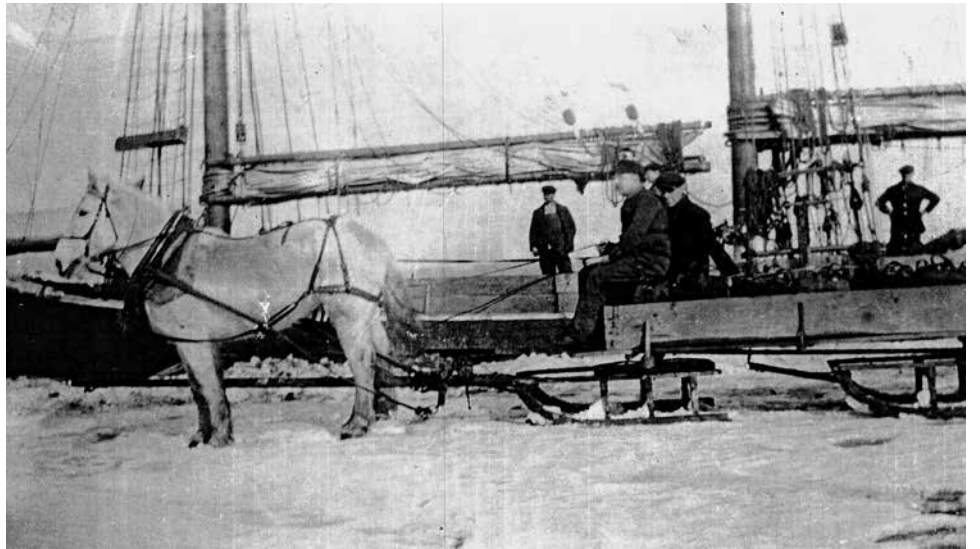
had got on her keel." Many barges and tugs were icebound in City Island harbor, unable to move. Also trapped was the schooner *J.M. Moreales*, carried by the wind "bang on to Belsen's Point," immobile despite the *Narragansett's* attaching two huge hawsers to her stern—they broke.

Surrounded by ice and shut in, City Island itself bore the brunt of the weather. A "phenomenal tide" stranded large mounds of foot-thick ice "six feet and more above the level of the ice plain. Some made the best of it by iceboating on Eastchester Bay. Shoving a rowboat before them, two young fisherman walked four-fifths of the way to Hart Island, using the boat only for about a minute when a gap in the ice appeared. An old Island resident said, "This is worse than it was in '81, when things froze up around here till we thought we were perched over the North Pole, by gosh."

During the winter of 1886, dense ice "as far east as can be seen with a glass" from City Island trapped eight schooners and two steam tugs with 17 barges in tow. Also, the usually reliable New Rochelle-to-City Island steamer *Capt. John Deveau* was frozen at the City Island dock, reported *The Sun* on Feb. 8, 1886. No steamers could leave from or arrive at City Island for a few days.

Regional cooling continued for three more decades. According to the Jan. 17, 1893, issue of the *New-York Tribune*, the ice around the island had imprisoned six tugs and schooners. One, the schooner *Druid*, leaked so badly from ice cuts that its cargo was carried ashore. The tug *Hercules* was held fast by ice near the Stepping Stones. After a few days of trying to escape the ice near the Stepping Stones, the tug *A.E. Burnside* with a tow of barges broke free and made it to NYC. A blinding snowstorm, abetted by high winds, hampered pilots seeking the best channels. To pass the time, ship crews visited each other by walking over the ice.

Ice, however, can prove to be no obstacle to a determined escapee. The Sun on



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Back in the day, during a cold winter, the ice around City Island could support ice boats racing to New Rochelle and wagons, as it froze most large vessels in place.

Jan. 2, 1893, related the story of Hart Island fugitive John Cavanagh, who fled over the ice despite having to swim several times where there were gaps in the ice. He reached City Island just past 5 a.m. and woke John Price, who refused to give him dry clothes. Then wearing his ice-coated convict's outfit, Cavanagh ran up the road from the Island to Bartow, eventually escaping into Pelham

Bay Park. But a decade earlier, the Jan. 6, 1882, issue of the *New York Times* reported the discovery of the frozen corpse of a thief who had stolen the sloop *Lillie B.* owned by City Island's Captain Francis Bacon three days earlier. It seems that he had navigated the Sound as far as New Haven before falling victim to subzero temperatures and strong winds.

"The ice has never been so thick and even off surface," said longtime Island residents, as reported in the Jan. 20, 1904, issue of *Evening World*. Not only were there iceboating and skating, "but sleighs bound for the Island roadhouses are driven over it." Two days later the same newspaper noted that 40 "coasting vessels" were icebound at City Island. With the Sound "a compact ice field from shore to shore and from Hell Gate to New Haven," a hundred sea captains walk ashore over solid ice every morning from their vessels to City Island," according to the *Bennington (VT) Evening Banner* that same day.

Frigid winters produced hardships for City Island. Pipes froze and burst. Snowstorms routinely isolated the Island from the mainland, the source of much food and many supplies. The *Evening World* on Feb. 6, 1918, reported that 15 tugs and 45 barges laden with coal were stuck in the ice off City Island, Whitestone Landing and Execution Lighthouse. The Sun two days later added that the closed-off City Island did not have a bushel of coal, and residents were "breaking up their docks and outhouses for fuel."

As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a famous nonresident of City Island, wrote in "The Song of Hiawatha":

Oh the long and dreary Winter!  
Oh the cold and cruel Winter!

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# Let's Talk About Mental Health in Our Children

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Sigmund Freud was once asked what were the necessary components of good mental health. His answer was startling in its simplicity: "Lieben und arbeiten"—"to love and to work." It sounds easy, but as I have pondered that statement since I first read it in graduate school over 40 years ago, I have come to appreciate how insightful and inclusive these words are.

Mental health among our youth is a major concern for most parents these days. What do we need to be aware of to make sure that our children are doing "well enough"? I will turn to my five-part concept of our wholistic selves to provide you will a framework for checking in with your loved ones.

• **Physical well-being:** Do my children have a good sleep schedule? Do they get enough physical activity each day? Do they have a healthy diet? Can they self-regulate with regard to daily living habits and everyday situations in a variety of environments (home/school/grocery store/playground/religious services/etc.)?

• **Cognitive well-being:** Do my children do well enough in school? Does the teacher have concerns about learning issues or attention issues or challenges with vision or hearing? Can my children understand directions and express them well?

• **Emotional well-being:** Do my children express a variety of emotions: joy, sadness, anger, fear, calmness, love? Can they name and manage their feelings? Do their challenges change during the day without getting "stuck" in a difficult emotional place?

• **Social well-being:** Do my children have at least one good friend? Can they maintain relationships with peers and solve conflicts without violence? Do they value the company of others yet also have comfort within their own skin?

• **Spiritual well-being:** Do my children have a sense of awe about the universe? Do they have a faith practice that allows them

to make meaning out of difficult situations? Are they optimistic about the state of the world and the future of their own lives?

How do we check in with our children? Just spend time with them, and allow these questions to arise organically. We can prime the pump by sharing our own sense of well-being. We can praise our children when they exhibit well-being in their own lives: a good sports performance, success in school, a "bounce back" from a difficult mood, a successful "peacemaking" with a friend, a shared sense of wonder about the natural world. Take it slow and easy. Have a "breakfast date" with just the two of you. Use time together in the car to chat. Believe me as a grandparent of two adolescents: These children grow up quickly, and you don't want to miss out on all of the drama/love/pain/joy that raising a child will entail.

If difficulties persist in any of these areas—more than a few weeks in a difficult state of being, with ongoing resistance to support and love—then it may be time to reach out for help. Your pediatrician, the school counselor, a clergy member or a trusted therapist can all be resources for you. It truly does "take a village" to raise our children.

Parenting may be the hardest work you ever do, but it is also the most important. I wish you well on this journey with our precious next generation.

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## Obituaries

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



### Phillip "Felipe" Marquez

Island resident Phillip Marquez passed away on Sept. 8, 2023, at the age of 78.

Phillip, who was known to friends and family as Felipe, was born in Manhattan to Cornelius and Benigna Marquez and raised in the city with his two brothers, Francisco and Sonny.

In 1966, he married Miguelina Rivera,

with whom he shared 57 years of marriage. A craftsman at heart, Phillip honed his skills in tool and die-making and dedicated himself to the printing industry for many years. His mastery of machinery and keen repair abilities were admired by all who knew his work.

Philip was an engaging, compassionate person and conversationalist, and his quick wit and penchant for pranks brought joy to his children and grandchildren. His love for animals, especially dogs, was passed down to his children and grandchildren. His canine companions were Pluto, Willie and, most recently, Princess.

He also had a deep appreciation for the arts, especially jazz, as well as boxing and baseball. His love for games, including dominos, pool and card games, was boundless. He was an avid reader, especially of daily newspapers, and an active conversationalist.

Above all, Phillip Marquez was a cherished father and devoted husband, and his absence will be deeply felt by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Miguelina; his children, Lillian (also a resident of City Island) and Felipe Jr.; his grandchildren, Felipe 3rd, Felicia, Marcus, Carly and Gavin; and a community of friends and family.

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

OCTOBER 2023									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0118	8.25	0740	-0.54	1332	8.79	2017	-0.93	Sun 01
02 Mon	0207	7.92	0823	-0.19	1418	8.50	2108	-0.54	Mon 02
03 Tue	0257	7.51	0908	0.29	1507	8.10	2202	-0.03	Tue 03
04 Wed	0354	7.10	0958	0.82	1604	7.67	2302	0.50	Wed 04
05 Thu	0459	6.79	1101	1.33	1716	7.30			Thu 05
06 Fri	0005	0.94	0607	6.65	1214	1.67	1830	7.11	Fri 06
07 Sat	0107	1.20	0711	6.71	1322	1.79	1935	7.11	Sat 07
08 Sun	0206	1.28	0809	6.92	1423	1.69	2033	7.23	Sun 08
09 Mon	0258	1.23	0901	7.20	1516	1.46	2124	7.39	Mon 09
10 Tue	0344	1.11	0947	7.47	1602	1.17	2210	7.51	Tue 10
11 Wed	0425	0.97	1029	7.67	1643	0.88	2250	7.57	Wed 11
12 Thu	0500	0.85	1104	7.79	1719	0.61	2324	7.55	Thu 12
13 Fri	0527	0.75	1130	7.84	1748	0.40	2349	7.49	Fri 13
14 Sat	0544	0.66	1143	7.92	1810	0.21			Sat 14
15 Sun	0005	7.44	0602	0.54	1202	8.06	1834	0.07	Sun 15
16 Mon	0028	7.42	0631	0.47	1232	8.21	1905	0.01	Mon 16
17 Tue	0101	7.38	0707	0.49	1309	8.29	1943	0.06	Tue 17
18 Wed	0141	7.30	0748	0.62	1351	8.26	2026	0.23	Wed 18
19 Thu	0225	7.16	0833	0.85	1437	8.11	2115	0.50	Thu 19
20 Fri	0316	6.97	0925	1.15	1530	7.84	2212	0.81	Fri 20
21 Sat	0414	6.79	1024	1.42	1630	7.52	2321	1.04	Sat 21
22 Sun	0522	6.72	1136	1.57	1740	7.26			Sun 22
23 Mon	0059	1.05	0650	6.88	1323	1.39	1910	7.20	Mon 23
24 Tue	0221	0.74	0818	7.31	1450	0.80	2044	7.43	Tue 24
25 Wed	0322	0.32	0920	7.83	1552	0.10	2148	7.72	Wed 25
26 Thu	0416	-0.08	1012	8.29	1647	-0.53	2242	7.94	Thu 26
27 Fri	0504	-0.38	1059	8.62	1737	-0.98	2330	8.02	Fri 27
28 Sat	0550	-0.53	1144	8.78	1826	-1.19			Sat 28
29 Sun	0017	7.96	0634	-0.49	1227	8.76	1913	-1.16	Sun 29
30 Mon	0103	7.78	0716	-0.28	1310	8.57	1959	-0.89	Mon 30
31 Tue	0148	7.51	0757	0.07	1352	8.27	2046	-0.46	Tue 31
NOVEMBER 2023									
01 Wed	0236	7.21	0837	0.51	1438	7.88	2135	0.07	Wed 01
02 Thu	0327	6.93	0920	0.98	1528	7.46	2227	0.59	Thu 02
03 Fri	0426	6.71	1012	1.42	1629	7.08	2323	1.03	Fri 03
04 Sat	0529	6.61	1123	1.74	1744	6.82			Sat 04
05 Sun	0021	1.33	0531	6.65	1136	1.86	1752	6.73	Sun 05

All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 5



**Free Parking for a Free Show**

The Monday after the first weekend after Labor Day is always a welcome beginning for birders in our area. For one, it coincides with the fall migration and all that entails. But more importantly, starting then the parking is free again at Orchard Beach. So if you want to see some cool birds on Hunter Island, say, and do it at minimal cost, now's the time. Some of the warblers that we've seen recently on Hunter include the American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green as well as Black and White Warblers and an Ovenbird. In the southern zone of the park, where the parking is always free, some noted warbler finds include a Cape May, Tennessee, Connecticut, Blackburnian, Bay-Breasted and perhaps a rare Brewster's warbler, which is a hybrid of the Golden and Blue-winged Warblers.

On the hunt for another rare bird that has recently been sighted in our area—a Say's Phoebe—we took a ride over to the Bartow-Pell Mansion. No sooner had we parked for free when we noticed a fly-catcher high atop a nearby tree. With the sun lighting it up, though, we were unable to detect the orange-toned breast feathers that are characteristic of a Say's Phoebe and so could not in good conscience make that call. In the end, we settled on an Eastern Wood Peewee. Other finds on the Bartow-Pell grounds included a couple of

House Wrens, Pine Warblers and American Goldfinches. Although each one of these specimens made it a point to claim certain trees as their own—in a few instances aggressively chasing others away—it was the Goldfinches that held our particular attention.

When not in breeding plumage, which is fairly striking for a male American Goldfinch, these little sparrow-looking birds are easy to identify by their whiny, see-sawish call. At Bartow-Pell, a flock of mostly juveniles were flitting about from tree to tree, in marvelous fascination, it seemed, with their recently acquired ability to fly. We had been seeing goldfinches in our yard, as they seem to prefer seed from our dying-back coneflowers, but not in these kinds of numbers. There must have been 20 or 30!

So many goldfinches so close to the Shore Road reminds us of all the additional wildlife just a short, pleasant drive from City Island. In addition to migrating and rare birds, there are the regulars such as wild turkeys and owls, coyotes and the occasional red fox, rabbits (because the canines have to eat!), skunks and raccoons (no, they're not all on City Island!), and, of course, lot and lots of deer. The Bartow-Pell Mansion is not just a peek at what life was like for people a hundred or so years ago. It is an opportunity to see what the wildlife in our area is still like after all that time.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

The sunset muskmallow (*Abelmoschus Manihot*), a tender perennial in zones 8 to 10 that needs to be overwintered indoors here in zone 7. It likes free-draining moist soil.

### The Good Earth

Soil is not sexy or attractive unless you have touched really rich, dark, chocolate brown, crumbly, beautiful, home-made compost. Unfortunately, this most important element to a garden is often overlooked. Out of laziness, I forgot to improve my soil during the pandemic. Even though I have a dry garden with plants that like impoverished soil, they still need nutrient-rich amendments to flourish and keep performing well. Without our help, the earth gets hungry and tired.

The earth consists of either sand or clay or a mixture of both. Sand is made up of bits of rock that are pulverized. It is often too light and free draining, with barely enough nutrients. Although clay is mineral rich, it has no air pockets so that the poor roots of plants are slamming as if against rock, since there is not enough air. The ratio should be between crumbs of earth and air pockets.

Adding as much humus as you can will create loam, the coveted holy grail of soil.

In the woods, leaf litter and animal droppings are pulled down into the soil by earthworms. We can replicate this in our own gardens by topping up the soil with leaf mold, farmyard manure, mushroom compost or homemade compost. It is not necessary any more to double dig, a back breaking practice that has, thankfully, been debunked. On sandy soils, you won't have to dig at all, but if the sand particles are too fine, it is best to add horticultural grit, along with compost, while you mix the backfill into your holes before planting. On clay soils, I puncture the ground with a pitchfork before laying all the good stuff on top.

Another reason not to dig is because you will disturb the weed seeds which are everywhere. It is best to top up and smother them. The only reason to dig clay soils is in the autumn, for the winter cold will help break up the clay clumps. You can also turn the weeds upside down, and they will break down and feed the soil too. Conditioning the soil in autumn is absolutely the best thing you can do for your garden,

A mature tree will produce at least five pounds of leaves per square yard under it. If you make bins for it from chicken wire, by next fall you will have lovely soil that will act as a nourishing mulch. I bought a leaf chopper gadget that chops up the leaves enough to use as a mulch immediately. A plastic bag fits under it to catch the debris and—presto—mulch. It is a bit of work but you have to rake it up anyway, right? Or you can have the gardener run over and over them with the mower and rake it into bags to be spread over the garden. These are some of the chores still at hand while we enjoy the last of nature's fling and the beautiful mellow tones of the autumnal light.

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.

# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello neighbors. It is with great pleasure that the City Island Culinary Club is back in the kitchen heating things up for the fall. Our first session focused on tailgating foods. In October we will be having a Bundt Pan Dinner theme, anything cooked in a bundt pan. This session will be fun since our members tend to be very creative. Here's an example for you to try (with special thanks to Rocco and Lisa Patto):

### Bundt Pan Lasagna Recipe

#### Ingredients

- Nonstick cooking spray, for the bundt pan
- Kosher salt
- 15 lasagna noodles (from a 1-pound package)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 24-ounce jar marinara sauce
- 1 10-ounce box frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 1 16-ounce container whole-milk ricotta
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan, plus more for topping
- 2 large eggs
- 1 pound thinly sliced fresh mozzarella
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

#### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Spray a 10-cup bundt pan with cooking spray. Line a baking sheet with a clean kitchen towel or paper towels.

2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the lasagna noodles to al dente according to the package directions. Drain the noodles and spread them flat on the prepared baking sheet to dry completely. (You may need to create two or three layers to fit all of the noodles; put paper towels between each layer).

3. Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a medium skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the meat and cook, breaking it up with a wooden spoon, until browned, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic

and onion, and continue to cook until the onion is softened, about 3 minutes. Stir in the marinara sauce and add half a cup of water. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Set aside.

4. Wrap the spinach in a clean kitchen towel and squeeze until very dry. Combine the spinach, ricotta, Parmesan, eggs and 1 teaspoon of salt in a bowl and mix thoroughly.

5. Cut 3 of the noodles in half and set aside. Use the remaining 12 whole noodles to line the prepared bundt pan, laying them crosswise and overlapping like a fan, so that one end of each noodle goes up the center tube of the pan and the other end hangs over the edge. Spoon half of the spinach mixture into the bottom, then arrange half of the mozzarella slices on top. Drizzle 1 cup of sauce over everything, then top with the 6 reserved noodle halves so that they overlap. Repeat the layers with the remaining spinach mixture and mozzarella and another 1 cup of sauce. Fold over the overhanging ends of the noodles to enclose the lasagna. If the noodles are a little too long and cover the hole of the pan, use kitchen scissors to trim them.

6. Bake until the noodles on top are turning golden brown and starting to crisp up, 45 to 50 minutes. Let rest for 10 minutes, then invert the pan onto a cutting board or serving platter to unmold the lasagna. Reheat the remaining sauce and pour into the center. Sprinkle with the parsley and a little Parmesan. Slice and serve.

If this sounds interesting to you, come on down and join us Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. in the City Island Community Center.

We have many fun events coming up to make this an amazing season. On Nov. 4 we will have our Fall Harvest Dinner. For Thanksgiving we will make side dishes for the Trinity Church's Thanksgiving Dinner. We are also planning a holiday brunch event. For more information on us and our events, go to our City Island Culinary Club Facebook page.



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Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

City Island Rising sponsored a Stop N' Swap event on Sept. 16, 2023, in Hawkins Park. Residents donated good, used items at 12 noon and then returned from 2 to 4 p.m. to browse and take what they needed in a swap.

## Org News

Continued from page 8

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](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Additionally, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist con-

stituents with community issues.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana Is Captain of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO (Neighborhood Community Officer) is Officer Driljan Rugovac (917-434-8847). Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera ([hannah.rivera@nypd.org](mailto:hannah.rivera@nypd.org)) and Wilfredo Sanchez ([wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org](mailto:wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org)).

Community Board 10 includes City Island: Bronx Community Board #10, 3165 E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; Phone: (718) 892-1161; Facebook: @BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are still 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](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

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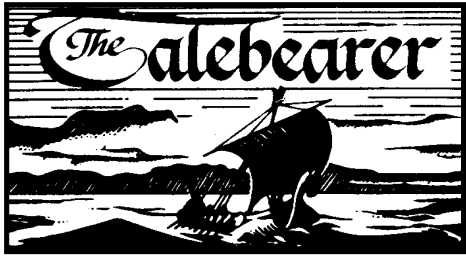
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



**Former Islander, Timothy Mullin was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force Reserves.**

It's another boy! Welcome to the world, Lochlan Hunter Forres Burnett, born at home, in Glasgow, to former Islander Bruce (Skip) Burnett and Lynsey Burnett. Proud grandparents are former Islanders Debbie and Bruce Burnett of Florida and Christine and William Barnes of Scotland. Thrilled aunt and uncle are former Islanders Kara and Griffin Burnett.

Congratulations to CMSgt. Timothy Mullin, who recently graduated from the United States Air Force Reserve Chief Orientation Course at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. He is currently assigned as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant Functional Manager. In his role, Chief Mullin assists in managing more than 500 Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeants and advises more than 40 Command Chiefs on matters concerning the discipline, health, morale and professional development for over 70,000 military members and civilians. Thank you for your service!

Happy 15th birthday to my grandson, Joe Penny, on Oct. 24! Also, good luck as you enter your second year at Fordham Prep and your sports too. Lots of love, Grandma Penny.

Belated congratulations to P.S. 175's Karen Heil on receiving the Big Apple Award in June this year. The honor, which recognizes classroom excellence, is given only to 40 teachers in New York City every year. Ms. Heil teaches science and leads many projects at the City Island School, including the Soapbox Derby and the Science Fair. She also works closely with the City Island Oyster Reef in its



**Islanders Sebastian Wiley and Jennifer Fajardo were married on Sept. 16, 2023, at the Monastery of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers.**



**City Islanders Marissa Ferris and Andrew McGuire were married on July 8, 2023, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.**

educational programs. Kudos to Ms. Heil! Happy 70th birthday on Oct. 29 to Maryann Occhicone of Minneford Avenue. Wishing you health, wealth and happiness. With love from your family, friends and neighbors.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Hunter Avenue's Judy and Gerry McCormick, who will celebrate their 37th anniversary on Oct. 4. All our love, Katie, Chris, Gerry Jr. and Rosie.

Happy, happy October birthdays to Liz Montalbano and Cathi Swett. Love from the "SWOEB."

Congratulations and best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to City Islanders Marissa Ferris and Andrew McGuire on their July 8 wedding at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The reception was held at the Harbor Club at Prime in Huntington, NY, where a fantastic time was had by all.



**P.S. 175 teacher Karen Heil received the Big Apple Award in June 2023 for teaching excellence. Shown above at the award presentation are (l. to r.): District Science Coordinator Claudine Conover, P.S. 175 Assistant Principal Kathleen Wiehler, Principal Julie Porras, Karen Heil and District Superintendent Cristine Vaughan.**



**Elise Catherine Nani was baptized by Fr. Kevin Moroney at Grace Episcopal Church on Sept. 10, 2023, surrounded by parents and godparents (l. to r.) Leah and Roger Nani and Mae and Tim Garn.**

Marissa was a stunning bride and Andrew a handsome groom—the perfect couple! Your entire family wishes you both all the love and happiness as you begin your married life together. Cheers to the new Mr. and Mrs. McGuire. We love you both!

Happy birthday wishes to our dear friend Helen. We hold you close in our hearts and celebrate our friendship with you for over 35 years. With love from your City Island girlfriends.

Wishing a very happy 12th birthday on Oct. 12 to Thora and Waverly Treiber from their loving family.

Best wishes on his Diamond Birthday on Oct. 20 to King Avenue's Michael Treat, with love from his sisters, Bernadette, Jeanne and Madeline.

Blessings to Elise Catherine Nani, who was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on Sept. 10. Proud parents are clam digger Roger Nani and his wife, Leah, along with big brother, Luke, who will celebrate his fourth birthday on Oct. 13. Very proud grandparents of both Elise and Luke are Islanders Karen and Paul Nani.

Happy birthday to Horton Street residents Lorena and Mark Nani. Lorena's big day is on Oct. 2, followed by Mark's on Oct. 22. Along with birthday celebrations, they are expecting their second child in November.

Congratulations to Islanders Sebastian Wiley and Jennifer Fajardo, who were married on Sept. 16 at the Monastery of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers. Sebastian is the son of Alexandra Whitcombe and grandson of Elizabeth (Tibby) Whitcombe and the late Mark Whitcombe. A reception at the Davenport Mansion in New Rochelle followed the ceremony. The new Mrs. Wiley works at Clipper Coffee on City

Island as she continues her studies, and Sebastian works at Delta Air Lines.

Happy 38th wedding anniversary wishes on Oct. 12 to Bay Street's Maria and Bob Swieciki. With love from your family and friends.

Best wishes and happy seventh anniversary to Cait and Richie O'Dwyer, who will celebrate their big day on Oct. 7, with love from your family and friends.

Happy October anniversaries to Judy and Mike Rauh and Judy's brother and sister-in-law, John and Linda Wright.

Maria Swieciki



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