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One Dollar

ST. MARY'S FINAL DAYS

by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



This 1936 photograph shows St. Mary's second graduating class, including current City Island resident Marie Paladino Livingston (front row, second from right).



Marie Livingston with her great-granddaughter Julianna Hostomsky are shown above at the final kindergarten moving-up ceremony on June 12, 2013.

On June 19, 2013, at 11:30 a.m., the final dismissal bell rang for the students of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. Eighty-two years of Catholic education on City Island provided by the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt and lay faculty came to an end.

St. Mary's was one of 22 elementary schools that were informed in January this year that they would have to close at the end of the 2012-13 academic year. According to the Archdiocese of New York, this is part of the Pathways to Excellence, a three-year restructuring plan that closed schools that had low enrollment or were not economically self-sufficient. "We should never have been closed," said Sister James Patrick, former principal of St. Mary's, "but their minds were already made up downtown."

This summer St. Mary's will still have the parish summer school and summer camp program, which will be run by St. Mary's faculty members in the school building. Father Michael Challinor, pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, is going to meet with Archdiocesan officials in July to discuss the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) program, as well as

the sports and youth programs. Registration forms for CCD in September have already gone out. "There is nothing definite right now," said Father Michael, "but we are trying to work out details for an early-childhood education program come September. If that works out, we are also planning a universal pre-K program in the future."

Lisa Moore, a fifth-grade teacher at the school, will be attending a workshop to learn how to get the building certified for an educational program. "We will have a better understanding of what is going on closer to September," said Father Michael. "I'm not sure how everything will turn out." There are no plans for the Archdiocese to sell the building.

St. Mary's school was opened officially in 1931 in the parish auditorium, a building attached to what is now the convent, which used to face Minneford Avenue. There were 30 children in attendance in grades K through 5 that year. Each year a grade was added until it reached eight grades. Owing to increased enrollment over the years, a larger, permanent school was needed. In 1948, during the pastorate of Father Edward Nilon, a new building was constructed.

Former student Chris Sortino fondly remembers the cigar-smoking Father Nilan and his dog, Boots. The pastor made frequent visits to the classrooms, and the children would all have to stand and sing the "Good Morning" song to him. "The Sisters and teachers were great, and the lunches were horrible," recalls Mrs. Sortino, who attended the school with all her cousins and her younger brother, Ronald Robson.

Deacon Bill Mueller also remembers Father Nilan and the infamous Boots, and he recalls attending the standing-room-only 9 a.m. Children's Mass, where the children were expected to arrive "neatly dressed with shoes shined and hair primped." At the 50th anniversary of his graduation, he and his fellow classmates agreed that St. Mary's was responsible for developing their character and expanding their intellect.

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BSA to Mignone Project: "Back to the Drawing Board"

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Many Islanders attended the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals meeting on June 11, 2013, to voice opposition to the proposed senior housing development on City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. Residents, led by the Civic Association's attorney, Margaret Stix, and second vice president Barbara Dolensek (top photo, fifth and sixth from right), expressed concerns about the planned 214-unit building's safety, flood-zone location, size and density, as well as its effect on the Island's already stressed infrastructure. The applicant and developer, Dr. Domenico Mignone, listened to Islander's testimony against the project (bottom photo, just right of center) and the many questions raised by BSA about the application.



A large and vocal contingent of Islanders attended the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) public hearing on June 11, 2013, to express opposition to the construction of a proposed four-story assisted-living facility on the vacant property on City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. Members of the BSA seemed to agree and put plans for the 214-unit structure on hold.

The effort to block the project as it is currently planned was coordinated by the City Island Civic Association and its attorney, Margaret Stix, whom Civic retained after an Island-wide fund-raiser in 2012. Ms. Stix is the former General Counsel at the Board and clearly knows the ropes when it comes to zoning changes.

In her testimony to the BSA at the hearing, she addressed several issues regarding the developer of the project, the Italian Hospital Society (IHS), whose president, Dr. Domenico Mignone, also attended the

hearing. "The IHS is not legally authorized to develop a facility like this, so they have incorporated as Heritage Housing Developers LLC. They have no program, no operator, no license and no financial analysis."

Several politicians, including Council Member James Vacca and Representative Joseph Crowley, voiced their concerns about the development (see Letters to the Editor this issue). A representative of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto delivered testimony to the Board expressing his opposition to the project. State Senator Jeffrey Klein wrote a letter expressing his opposition to the request for variance, saying that "The application is not supported by any residents, community-based organizations or local elected officials. Furthermore, it was voted down unanimously by Community Board 10 in December of 2012. . . . Clearly this building would be completely out of character for City

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

A 50TH REUNION FOR THE ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1963 is being planned for Oct. 5, 2013. This is a great opportunity to renew old friendships, forge new ones and share fond memories. If you are a 1963 graduate of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, call or e-mail Georgia Bagon Mattison at georgia.bagon@aol.com or call 718-885-2381. Spouses are welcome.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE will be offered by the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on July 10, 17 and 24, at the Harlem Yacht Club on Hunter Avenue on City Island. Classes start at 7 p.m. The cost is \$75, which includes materials. For information or reservations, contact alanlessner@ymail.com or Mike Raffel at uscgauxraf@aol.com.

POST OFFICE WILL NOT CLOSE. The office of Representative Joe Crowley informed *The Current* that the rumor about the closing of the City Island Post Office branch is not true. The branch will remain open, although mail carriers will be dispatched from Co-op City rather than from City Island. There should be no interruption of service during the transition.

LAWN PARTY for the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Fund will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club. The fund currently sponsors two City Island Little League teams and three local scholarships. The price of \$50 includes unlimited food and soft drinks, beer and wine, and there will be plenty of raffles. Donations from local businesses will be appreciated. For more information, e-mail Jack.Jokinen@gmail.com.

FAMILY FUN DAY IN PELHAM BAY PARK. Visit the Playground for All Children in the south park on Saturday, July 13, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. for a day of great family fun! Participants will enjoy activities such as a puppet show, face painting, arts and crafts and live animal viewings with "Snakes and Scales and Turtle Tales." All activities are free. For more information, call 718-430-1891 or e-mail WSZIO@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE: On Aug. 11 and Sept. 15, the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, will host receptions for a new exhibition: the America's Cup seen through the eyes of artists past and present, celebrating boats built on City Island. In the meantime, look for the "Museum on the Avenue" exhibit at 282 City Island Avenue.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present a staged reading of Moises Kaufman's "The Laramie Project" on Friday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. They will also present "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later" on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m., as well as Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m. All productions will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Reservations can be made on line by visiting CITG's website www.cityisland-theatergroup.com, by calling 718-885-3066 or e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. On Friday, Aug. 23, at 8 p.m. CITG will host an unveiling of the window at 282 City Island Avenue promoting these productions. The board invites the community to join in along with the actors to celebrate bringing this event back to City Island.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2013. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 3 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
- 2 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
- 1 - RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from May 20 to June 18, 2013.

5/28 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 29, for reckless

endangerment after the defendant rode his motorcycle on the sidewalk down City Island Avenue.

5/29 - Police responded to a report of criminal mischief near City Island Avenue. A perpetrator known to the complainant did intentionally break his vehicle's windshield.

5/31 - An off-Island male, 63, was arrested and charged with assault after he punched another male in the face.

6/9 - On City Island Avenue, a male Islander, 23, was arrested and charged with DWI.

6/12 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 23, on City Island Avenue and charged him with criminal possession of marijuana and smoking in public.

6/14 - Three off-Island males, ages 25, 26 and 29, were arrested and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance near Centre Street.

6/18 - An off-Island male, 18, was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a weapon (daggers).



In 2012, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Fund held its annual fund-raiser at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club and raised enough to sponsor a regular season City Island Little League team as well as a summer team; they also awarded the second Fordham University scholarship to Vonmarie Thomas, a senior at the Gabelli School of Business, and two scholarships to Brian Deggeller and Ryan Butler of Greenwich High School.

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Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.

I have been in solo Internal Medicine practice in neighboring Co-Op City for over 35 years and have lived on City Island for twenty years. I am seven minutes away by bus and there is free parking available. I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connelly's Book of "Top Doctors".

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

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Dr. Domenico Mignone (at far left), president of the Italian Hospital Society, conferred with his advisers after the hearing at the Board of Standards, where he was advised to “go back to the drawing board” on his proposal to construct a massive assisted-living residence on City Island.

BSA Hearing

Continued from page 1

Island.”

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz also registered his opposition. “My primary reason for opposing this project is its location in a floodplain that would put hundreds of seniors at risk. It is widely known that City Island was one of the most affected Bronx communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy. . . . Overbuilding in areas where we need to develop seawall protection strategies is backward thinking. I urge the BSA to join me in opposing this application.”

Several Islanders, including Virginia Gallagher, Helen Anderson, Con Grondahl, Skip Giacco, Carol McCabe, Susan Bellinson and Barbara Dolensek, addressed the BSA chairperson, Meenakshi Srinivasan, with their reasons for opposing the IHS application. They told BSA that this project conflicts with City Island’s Special District Zoning, which restricts building heights to three stories or 35 feet, whichever is lower, and supports low-density development. They described the already congested conditions on Schofield Street, including a condominium development, the firehouse and a pumping station, adding that traffic in and out of a senior residence would raise the congestion level to hazardous.

Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, echoed the concerns of the Civic Association leadership that this development is not favorable for the community and risks reducing the quality of life on City Island. “Board 10 turned Dr. Mignone down in 2011, and now he is trying to bypass the board and disregard the wishes of the community.”

At that time, the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Community Board 10 expressed concern over the small size of the apartments, the relatively high market-rate rentals proposed, the insufficient parking, the density of the structure, the lack of recreational facilities and other issues.

As he listened to the opposition views at the BSA hearing, Dr. Mignone reportedly turned to Mr. Kearns and said, “If they don’t let me build this, I’ll put a Seafood City on the site.”

Veiled threats aside, BSA questioned plans for the project as presented by Jordan Most, an attorney from the firm of Sheldon Lobel, P.C. “The chair is not persuaded by your market issues,” Ms. Srinivasan told Mr. Most. “There is no evidence to support 214 units on the site. Your site is out of character with the community,” she added. The site selected for the project, which is owned by Joseph Briody of Mount Vernon, is zoned manufacturing, and no residences can be built on it, hence the need for a

variance. The lot was once part of Nevins Yacht Yard; more recently, it has been used to store cables for Cablevision and is now storing trucks and automobiles. Part of the lot was once occupied by a building that contained the Island Pub, Moe’s Deli and several apartments, but it was demolished in 2009 after a fire, and the lot was sold to Mr. Briody, who incorporated it into the rest of the property.

The original application included two parts, a zoning variance to enable a residential structure (Use Group 2) in a manufacturing zone, and a building code variance to allow the developer to build part of the structure below the base flood elevation (BFE). Although the drawings submitted to the BSA clearly show a full basement containing a parking garage and the mechanicals for the building, as well as part of the first floor at least a foot below the BFE, the newly released FEMA advisory flood zones placing part of the site within the AE zone apparently persuaded the applicant to withdraw the second part of the application, which Mr. Most announced at the hearing.

Dr. Mignone is working with the George A. Fuller Company, a subsidiary of Capelli Enterprises, a well-funded developer in Westchester County. Dr. Mignone has no experience operating a residential facility for seniors, being in private practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist. The Italian Hospital Society was established in the 1930s and founded a hospital that would eventually become Cabrini Medical Center, which closed in 2008 and filed for bankruptcy in 2009, with \$167 million in debts. However, its mission does not include the operation of residential housing for seniors, and it has not obtained a permit from the New York State Department of Health to build an assisted-living facility.

The Civic Association suspects that Dr. Mignone’s primary function in this development may simply be to make it easier for a developer to obtain the zoning variance, since the not-for-profit status of the IHS would make it unnecessary for the developer to show a “hardship” in his scheme to circumvent the zoning regulations.

BSA seemed to sense the contradictions in the proposal and questioned IHS’s experience and ability to operate an assisted-living residence. In response to the applicant’s claim that the IHS was negotiating with an operator named PJA Management to develop and operate the facility, the Board noted that “IHS has never constructed or operated a residential facility... Come back and clarify the relationship between the non-profit and the for-profit PJA Management.”

Another BSA commissioner echoed these concerns: “I have serious doubts

that you can meet the minimum variance requirements or justify the hardship claim and the size and scale of the project.”

In the end, after raising Department of Health issues in terms of square feet per resident, as well as the size of the lounge and cafeteria in the planned residence, BSA told IHS and its representatives to

“start from scratch” with a revised proposal that responds to the community’s issues and the problems raised by BSA. They gave IHS until July 23 to submit a revised application, which the board would respond to by Aug. 27. If these deadlines are met, the next hearing would then be scheduled for Sept. 10, 2013.

End of a Stylish Era

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

On June 30, 2013, the Lina Petite Salon will close after 40 years on City Island Avenue. The owner, Lina DeGrazia (shown in middle photo giving a haircut to Vincent Siracuse in the salon), will retire and spend more time with her sons, Anthony and Jean-Pierre, and her granddaughter, Sophia (bottom photo). Islanders will miss her holiday-themed and patriotic display windows, as well as her friendly smile and tonsorial talents.



After 40 years and more than 100,000 haircuts, Lina DeGrazia will turn off the dryers for the last time on June 30, 2013, at the Lina Petite Salon. Lina’s customers are devastated at the loss of this stylish fixture on City Island Avenue between Beach and Bowne Streets, next to Temple Beth-El.

Lina provided services to Islanders of all ages and genders for decades, as they sat in the memorable gold chairs and under the quaint row of hairdryers. She gave many Island children their first haircut, coiffed the hair of many a bride-to-be on her wedding day, and covered the gray of a large number of aging Islanders.

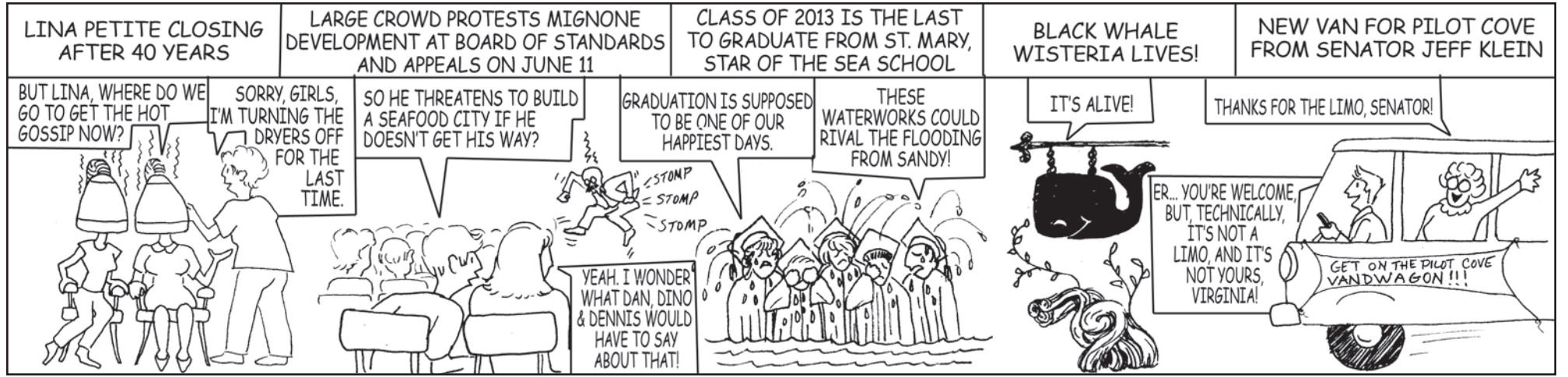
Once called “a funky fossil from the ‘50s” by a reporter from the New York

Post, Lina has seen many styles come and go over the last four decades. She set hairdos in rollers and bobby pins for the teased, bouffant look of the 1950s; gave the Beatles cut to boys in the ‘60s; applied the “perms” so popular in the ‘70s and ‘80s; and “fired up” the blow dryers for the straight styles of the ‘90s and the millennium generation.

“I’ve reached the age and it’s time to retire,” Lina told *The Current*. It is bittersweet for her as many of her customers are her friends and she, in turn, is their confidant. As Russ Schaller, humorist for *The Current*, often joked: “I went to Lina’s to get the latest gossip and ideas for my monthly cartoon.”

Lina Tarantino was born in the Bronx on Arthur Avenue, where she lived with her parents and her sister, Gloria. She attended Grace Dodge Vocational School and learned the art of hair styling. She married Pino DeGrazia in 1971 and had two sons, Anthony and Jean-Pierre.

She began her career at a salon on
Continued on page 8



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.

Opposition to Development

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To: Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair Board of Standards and Appeals

We are writing to the Board of Standards and Appeals to express grave concerns regarding an application for variance for a project on City Island in Council Member James Vacca's district. This application is scheduled to be heard today as calendar numbers 263-12-BZ & 264-12-A. The Italian Hospital Society proposes to build a 214-unit assisted living facility at 222 City Island Avenue, between Schofield and Centre Streets. In order to construct this facility, the developer requires a variance to permit senior housing in an M1-1 zoning district, in addition to a variance allowing him to build a foot below the currently established flood grade.

Section G 107.3 of the New York City Building Code cites the standards for variance that the Board shall consider prior to approval. It is our opinion that this project raises concerns on a number of factors listed, including: (1) the susceptibility of the proposed development, including contents, to flood damage and the effect of such damage on current and future owners; (2) the relationship of the proposed development to the comprehensive plan and flood plain management program for this area; and (3) the safety of access to the property in the event of flooding for ordinary and emergency vehicles.

First and foremost, we strongly oppose this project for safety reasons. If Hurricane Sandy taught us nothing else, it is that we must proceed with caution and proper diligence when building on our waterfront. This site's proximity to the water line, a mere 1,000 feet, should give us further cause for consternation. City Island faced major flooding problems during both Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. A newly constructed residential facility designed for senior citizens, many of whom may face mobility issues, is simply not safe in a neighborhood in the flood plain. There are other, superior locations to locate an assisted living facility that do not face the challenges of the flood plain and the inherent safety risks that come with it.

As the Board may be aware, City Island Special District Zoning was adopted by the Department of City Planning in 1977 precisely in order to avoid the construction of massive buildings on the island. With an FAR of 2.4 and a wall height of 40 feet, the proposed development thwarts the intent of the City Island Special District. It

would overwhelm the surrounding low-rise community with bulk more than four times that of the neighboring developments that inspired the Special District zoning in the first place.

In addition, the City Island Bridge—the only way on and off the island—is regularly backed up with heavy traffic, making it difficult to travel to and from the island in a timely fashion, even on a normal day. Emergency vehicles face this same problem, as evidenced by the Fire Department's policy of not allowing the City Island fire company to respond to emergencies on the Bronx mainland for fear that it will not be able to get back quickly enough to respond to emergencies on City Island. The bridge is scheduled for replacement later this year, further restricting access while construction takes place. Even when the new bridge is complete, the lane configuration remains the same; thus, the access problems on and off of the island will persist.

Additionally, this bridge was closed for a period of time during Hurricane Sandy, making evacuation extremely difficult for those who wanted to leave. We cannot support the location of hundreds of senior citizens in a development so near the water line on an island that is extremely vulnerable to flooding and that faces evacuation hardships and potential difficulties receiving emergency services.

We urge the Board to reject this application for variance. We simply do not want to see the day when a 214-unit building housing senior citizens faces severe flooding, power outages, and evacuation hardships during a storm of Hurricane Sandy's magnitude or, heaven forbid, worse.

James Vacca, Council Member, 13th District

Joseph Crowley, Member of Congress, 14th Congressional District

Klein Appeals to Board of Appeals

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Dear Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan:

I am writing to express my opposition to the above-mentioned request for variance (§72-21) to permit senior housing (UG 2), contrary to use regulations (§42-00) at 222 City Island Avenue (Block 564I, Lot 296) and the variance (Appendix G, Section BC G107, NYC Administrative Code) to permit construction in a flood hazard area which does not comply with Appendix G, Section G304.1.2 of the Building Code. This property is located in a M1-1 zoning district within my Senatorial district.

Please note that this application is not supported by any residents, community based organizations or local elected officials. Furthermore, it was voted down unanimously by Community Board 10 in December of 2012.

Under Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution, the BSA has the authority to vary the application of zoning regulations provided that all of five findings can be satisfied by the application. By way of this correspondence, I would like to contest that at least two of these findings have not been satisfied by the applicant.

First, finding (c) states that “the variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood.” As you may be aware, this project falls under the Special City Island Zoning district which was created to maintain the character of the neighborhood. The planned building is currently in a M1-1 commercial district and is in a FEMA flood zone AE and X. The M1-1 commercial district mandates that all buildings must have a 1.0 Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The change this applicant is seeking would more than double the FAR to 2.40 which would increase the size of the building. This change will also influence the setback of the structure which will make the height look more dramatic to residents.

The building is currently four stories, has 130 units and has an estimated square footage of 97,013 sf. The plans submitted by Sheldon Lobel PC has their building height at four stories or 35 feet with 214 dwelling units and an estimated square footage of 132,271 sf. Compared to Pilot Cove this proposal has nearly double the amount of units and with only a 35% increase in square footage space. During a public hearing hosted by the Community Board in November of 2012 residents also learned the architect plans to store mechanical equipment and HVAC units on the roof which would elevate the building height by eight to ten feet.

Clearly this building would be completely out of character for City Island, which is known for its small residential character and where currently the largest building is Pilot Cove Manor, a senior living facility that is under HUD regulation.

Secondly, finding (e) states that “the variance, if granted, is the minimum variance necessary to afford relief.” However, this applicant will have numerous issues moving forward and may still not be able to complete the project, even if the variance is granted.

Prior to Hurricane Sandy, when the proposal was submitted to the BSA in September 2012, certain assumptions were made regarding this proposal. However, as you know, it showed all New Yorkers that buildings in and around flood prone areas need to be built to protect themselves from future damage. Sandy caused thousands of dollars worth of damage to City Island, leaving residents and businesses shuttered for months. In April of this year, FEMA released new flood maps with the final maps to be decided upon in the next two years. These first proposals completely change the mapping of City Island. In fact, a town hall on this matter was hosted by Congressman Crowley on City Island this past April.

It is my understanding that the applicant's plans have the building being constructed below the flood plan on the island. Considering FEMA is in the process of redrawing the maps and flooding is becoming a common occurrence on the island, it would be foolish for the BSA to grant this variance without first seeing the new FEMA flood maps when they are approved.

In addition to the construction issues, residents have concerns with evacuation of a senior facility of this size considering there is only one access way on and off the island. Furthermore, the applicant currently does not own the property and from what I

understand, does not have adequate funding to purchase such a large parcel, thus making the likelihood of additional problems with the site a certainty.

Please know that the overwhelming sentiment of stakeholders in this community is to not approve this project on City Island. The building will be the first of its kind on the island in height, square footage and number of residential dwellings. The applicant will also have enormous hurdles to pass through if the variance is approved by the BSA, including FEMA regulations and funding issues, which could completely alter the project.

I would ask that the BSA deny this application based on this analysis as well as the testimony from the City Island Civic Association, Community Board 10, the City Island Chamber of Commerce, Elected Officials and other residents of the Island against the proposal. Thank you for your concern and I look forward to hearing your decision shortly.

State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein

Borough President Against Mignone Plan

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Dear Ms. Srinivasan:

I write to urge your agency to oppose the variance request by the Italian Hospital Society to facilitate the construction of a 214-unit senior residential facility at 222 City Island Avenue. My primary reason for opposing this project is its location-in a floodplain that would put hundreds of seniors at risk.

The request by the Italian Hospital Society is to allow living space one foot below the floodplain and to host parking and mechanical facilities entirely below the floodplain. It is widely known that City Island was one of the most affected Bronx communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Flooding was widespread, properties were damaged and the beloved restaurant Tony's Pier was burnt to the ground. FEMA has been working diligently to expand the flood zone maps properly to better protect our residents. This proposal is the antithesis to the hard work by our country's disaster experts. There is only one vehicular means on and off City Island, via the City Island Bridge. During an evacuation, an entire community will need to utilize the bridge to exit the island, while emergency personnel will utilize the bridge to get onto the island. What is the applicant's contingency plan in case of an emergency that will insure the safe evacuation of more than 200 senior citizens off the island? We believe he has none.

The applicant cannot claim an undue burden, as he contracted for the property knowing both the current zoning as well as the zoning regulations identified under the City Island Special District and Lower Density Growth Management Area provisions. The applicant claims that these changes are necessary to better comply with regulations, but he neglects to emphasize that this development will still be en-



Photo by 3M PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the 2013 graduating class of Public School 175: Bottom row (l to r): graduates Alana Zayas, Joseph Mancuso, Danielle Giocondo; faculty Karen Heil, Kathleen Wiehler, Helen Masotti, principal Amy Lipson; parent coordinator Tina Gisante, faculty Jeanne McDonald, HyoJin Kim; graduates Megan Moran, Audriy Mashchenko, Connie Yew. Second row: faculty Lizanne Espina; graduates Deisy Navarro, Tyler Marte, Joneiri Cruz, Sean Ramos, Samahjae Thomas, Esther Kramer, Isaiah Hinton, Laura Clarke, Deirdre Spencer, Mario Castillo, Shania Royes, William Willis, Elena Kola; faculty Ashley Baehrel, Andrew Scopp. Third row: graduates Devon Moreno, Soniqua Crump, Jerahmy Rios, Kosovare Rugova, Maximilian Soyref, Samantha Germosen, Cesar Herrera, Hannah Kirwin, Mathew Santiago, Julia Ejli, Josiah Rios, Chelsey Lopez, James Albertelli. Top row: graduates Francesco Perri, Paige Brown Collins, Michael Valentine, Ashley Livingston, Ethan Wolf, Niya Davis, Nicholas Texidor.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS OF 2013!

by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

At St. Mary's graduation on June 13, acting principal Robert Garrison made the following presentations.

The Principal's Award for Academic Excellence was given to Raeonna Jefferson, and the General Excellence Medal for academic achievement was awarded to Alicia Jones and Amir Williams. Awards were also given in individual subject areas, including the English Language Award to Amanda Toribio, the Reading Award to Nia Lucher, Excellence in Science Award to Gabrielle Cameron, Excellence in Math Award to Amir Williams, Excellence in Social Studies Award to Michael Santamaria and Excellence in Religion Award to Tamia Hackworth. Medals were presented for Excellence in Art to Vincent Lallo, Excellence in Music to Anthony Perkinson and Excellence in Physical Education to Keith Jones.

The American Legion Award from the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 for the best essay entitled "What is America's Role in the World?" was presented to Nicholas Moore. The Ladies Auxiliary Post 156 gave its award to Tamia Hackworth for the best essay entitled "Who would you honor with a National Holiday?"

The City of New York John C. Liu Comptroller's Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement was presented to Amir Williams and Raeonna Jefferson. The State of New York Thomas P. DiNapoli Comptroller's Student Achievement Award in recognition of hard work, academic excellence and civic commitment was given to Nicholas Moore. The Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Award for perseverance was presented to Robert Moran.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Commodore John Barry Memorial Award for Excellence in American History was given to Amir Williams, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement was presented to Nicholas Moore.

Christine Rice received both the Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* and the Mary Ann Clancy Community Service Award. A check from the City Island AARP Chapter 318 for the

most improved student was awarded to Nia Phillips. The City Island Community Center Scholarship for service to the community was given to Nicholas Moore.

The CompuTar Grade 8 Student of the Year check and certificate were awarded to Raeonna Jefferson, and the Christian Service medals for service at the altar were given to Raeonna Jefferson, Nicholas Moore, Robert Moran and Michael Santamaria.

Congratulations to the final graduating class!

Public School 175

At the June 21 graduation ceremony, principal Amy Lipson made the following presentations: The City Island School Principal's Award for Excellence was presented to Joseph Mancuso; the City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence was given to Esther Kramer; and the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic Excellence was given to Ethan Wolf. The recipient of the Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance was Joneiri Cruz, and the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award was given to Samantha Germosen.

At the Awards Dinner on June 19, the following presentations were made: The New York State Senate Jeffrey Klein Award for Student Leadership to Deirdre Spencer; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Award for Academic Achievement to Mario Castillo; the City Council Citation for Achievement to Ethan Wolf, and the City Council Speakers Award for Achievement and Community Service to Alana Zayas.

Julia Ejli won the NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement; the City of N.Y. Commission on Women's Issues Leadership Award went to Danielle Giocondo; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was awarded to Laura Clarke, and the Blanche Schwartz Effort Award to Shania Royes.

The NYC Public Advocate Award for Academic Achievement was presented to Nicholas Texidor; the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement and Character went to Joseph Mancuso; the Alice Persteins Award for Community Involvement was given to Ashley Livingston; the Alice Connolly Award for Service



Photo by LIFE TOUCH

The graduating class of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School for 2013. Pictured l. to r., top row: Gabrielle Cameron, Tamia Hackworth, Raeonna Jefferson, Alicia Jones, Lavonna Laviola, and Nia Lucher. Second row: Krystal Mensah-Stone, Nia Phillips, Christine Rice, Amanda Toribio, Christopher Bruno and Daniel Johnson. Third row: Miles Johnson, Keith Jones III, Vincent Lallo, Nicholas Moore, Victor Robert Moran and Anthony Perkinson. Fourth row: Michael Santamaria, Jeremy Thomas, Damien Thorne and Amir Williams. Bottom row: Rev. Michael Challinor, pastor, Robert Garrison, acting principal, and Erin Zangaglia, teacher.

went to Elena Kola; the Gloria Misurski Award was given to Matthew Santiago.

The Island Current Catherine Scott Literary Award was presented to Deirdre Spencer; the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156 essay contest winner was Matthew Santiago, and the essay contest winner for the American Legion Woman's Auxiliary was Esther Kramer. Alana Zayas won the Christine Jorgensen Hansen Community Service Award and the AARP #318 School Service Award went to James Albertelli.

Honor roll students were Julia Ejli, Danielle Giocondo, Esther Kramer, Deirdre Spencer and Ethan Wolf.

The UFT presented awards in individual subject areas: English Language Arts,

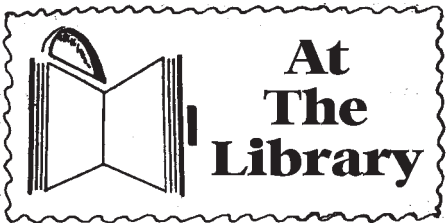
Esther Kramer; Mathematics, Sean Ramos; Science, Esther Kramer; Social Studies, Ethan Wolf; Computers and Technology, Deisy Navarro and Matthew Santiago. Julia Ejli won the Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award, the Physical Education Award went to Michael Valentine and the Music Award was given to Paige Brown Collins. The P.S. 175 Effort Awards were presented to Mario Castillo, Joneiri Cruz, Samantha Germosen and Connie Yew. The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to James Albertelli, Laura Clarke, Julia Ejli, Danielle Giocondo, Joseph Mancuso, Megan Moran, Deisy Navarro, Deirdre Spencer and Alana Zayas.

Congratulations to all the award winners and all the 2013 graduates!



If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The two-year-olds at the **Minneford Avenue Playgroup** have had a wonderful first introduction to school, learning shapes, alphabets and colors and counting to 10. They celebrated spring by learning about gardening and displayed their art at the Focal Point Gallery.



City Island Branch Library Events for July 2013

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July Children's Programs

Special Programs: Bilingual Birdies is back! A foreign language and live music program for children ages newborn to 5 years old with parents or caregiver. The bilingual musicians teach through live music, movement, puppetry and games. Each session ends with a lively bubble dance party! Children learn basic vocabulary and short phrases while playing with instruments and fun props. Mondays July 1 and Aug. 5 at 11:30 a.m.

Make Art with Pop Artist Michael Albert, the author of "An Artists America," a picture book retrospective of his art collection. Mr. Albert will talk about his book and his art and will teach the children his trademark style of art, "Cerealism," a technique of collage work made from cereal boxes. Children ages 5-12. Friday, July 19, at 3 p.m.

Summer Reading Program: Begin your summer right with suggested readings for children. Come in and pick up a copy of the Summer Reading Program for 2013.

July Teen Programs

Sneak A Snack: It's hot outside! Summertime is here, so come inside to our air-conditioned library. All are welcome to read a book at our tables, check out a laptop for library use or have a quick snack in our conference room.

Summer Reading Program for Teens: We have the best suggested book readings for teens. Come in and pick up a copy today.

July Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the internet before. Gain proficiency in using e-mail, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Tuesday, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resume into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Wednesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

Weekly Movies: Please check the flyers in the library or call for Saturday movies or lecture programs. All events begin at 1 p.m.

NYC Neighborhood Library Awards:

New York City's 206 libraries play important roles in communities throughout the five boroughs. Since the city's neighborhoods are very diverse and unique, we are asking you the following questions: How does your local library help your community? What makes your library special? If you answer our questionnaire, the library may receive a generous grant. Come in or call for more detailed information.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue and Bay Street. of cancellations: Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for events in August and for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

Bartow-Pell Events

Young or old, seeking rustic pleasure or urban sophistication—there is something for everyone this summer at Bartow-Pell.

First Friday on Friday, July 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. features a musical presentation in partnership with the Bronx Music Heritage Center: versatile pianist-singer-band leader Mark Anthony Reid, who flows seamlessly from American standards and jazz to classical, gospel and tropical rhythms. The Bronx Seaside Trolley will make a continuous hourly loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors & students; members free.

Yoga at the Mansion: Summer Sun Salutations on Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, and Aug. 7, from 7 to 8:15 a.m. Summer is the perfect time for yoga: de-stress, get strong and flexible, and have fun! This beginner level class is also suitable for those who want to deepen their practice in a steady, mindful approach. If the weather allows, we'll practice outside. Taught by certified Anusara® yoga teacher Ann Casapini. Five-class series. Class size limited to 12. Registration and pre-payment required. 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost: \$90 for series; members \$75.

BPMM Adventures: Summer Session I: Monday, July 15-Friday, July 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children entering grades 1 through 5 are invited to spend a week at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum having fun and learning about ecology, sustainability and local history. This unique program mixes core activities in the organic children's garden with exploration of the 19th-century mansion, the Northeast Woodlands Native American wigwam, and family life in both, plus engaging crafts, creative cooking, Urban Park Ranger hikes, and more. Registration deadline is July 1. Cost: \$160 per child; members \$130 per child. Scholarships available. Registration and pre-payment required.

Shutter Shop on Shore Road Volunteer Restoration Workshop, Monday, July 29-Friday, August 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ca. 1840 Greek Revival Bartow mansion features interior window shutters—sadly in need of repair—that help protect from summer's sun and winter's chill. Participants in the shutter restoration workshop will learn how to safely remove lead paint, prepare and paint wood surfaces, make repairs, and more under the guidance of preservation/restoration specialists. Workshop offered in partnership with Historic House Trust of NYC and Adventures in Preservation. Lunch provided with tours of the mansion and speakers. Participants must be 18 or over. Registration required. 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost: \$295 (covers snacks, lunch, and insurance)

August

First Friday, Aug. 2, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Bronx Music Heritage Center, BPMM welcomes back Latin Jazz Percussionist Bobby Sanabria and his band. A multiple Grammy nominee, Bobby is also a composer, arranger, conductor, and bandleader, who has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Paquito D'Rivera and other jazz legends. The band's appearance last summer at Bartow-Pell drove the audience to its feet—samba ensued! The Bronx Seaside Trolley will make a continuous hourly loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors & students; members free.

BPMM Adventures: Summer Session II: Monday, August 5-Friday, August 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See above description for activities, but note that each session is different, so children who attended in July will be equally enthralled in August. Registration deadline July 22. Cost: \$160 per child; members \$130 per child. Scholarships available. Registration and pre-payment required. 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org.

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
422 City Island Ave.	3/4/13	\$460,000	1 Family
25c Schofield St.	3/8/13	\$90,000	1 Family
4 Landing Way	4/29/13	\$560,000	Condo
180 Terrace St.	4/30/13	\$286,000	2 Family
76 Bay Street	5/2/13	\$474,700	1 Family
175 Fordham St.	5/2/13	\$700,000	2 Family
164 Ditmars St.	5/15/13	\$425,000	1 Family

Box 6

Continued from page 4

tirely out of character with the surrounding neighborhood.

Furthermore, the applicant was advised of other areas on the mainland where such a development would be appropriate, including the recently rezoned parcels at the end of Pelham Parkway en route to City Island. The applicant insisted 222 City Island Avenue was the best property for this facility without giving a sound reason why it must be this site.

A vast array of voices, both civic and of elected officials, has expressed opposition to granting this variance. Community Board 10 unanimously voted to oppose the request for the variance. The City Island Civic Association has raised funds to hire an attorney and extensively documented their concerns and opposition. The City Island Chamber of Commerce has objected to the project. City Council Member James Vacca with Congressman Joseph Crowley provided a letter opposing the variance request. The City Council has indicated that a package of legislation is being considered that would tighten restrictions for construction in the flood plain with special attention

being paid to healthcare facilities in particular. New York State Senator Jeffrey Klein and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto have also stated their opposition to the variance.

I am an ardent supporter of senior and supportive housing, as is evident by the \$6,001,000 I have allocated since I came into office in May 2009. These funds have leveraged the construction of 1,128 units of new housing for senior citizens. What I cannot do is support housing for the sake of supporting housing when it puts my constituents at severe risk. If there is one thing that Superstorm Sandy taught us is that we need to build a more resilient Bronx, City and region. Overbuilding in areas where we need to develop seawall protection strategies is backward thinking. As Borough President, I cannot allow us to make the same mistakes of the past, and I urge the Board of Standards and Appeals to join me in opposing this application.

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Bronx Borough President

Loss of Pump-Out Station

To the Editor:

The loss of the pump-out station (see June issue of *The Island Current*) is a real blow to clean waters around City Island. It was very nice to have the *Eco Pal I* pump-out boat come when I called them on VHF.

For many sailboat owners, it is a challenge to find a pump-out dock. Whenever I cruise to places like Oyster Bay, Northport, Huntington, Port Jefferson and elsewhere, there are always pump-out boats. It makes me wonder why those towns can afford to have pump-out service and New York City can't.

Long Island Sound was designated a No Discharge Area in 2011, which makes it illegal to dump boat sewage within three miles of the coast. The designation requires that there be at least one pump-out facility for every 200 boats with holding tanks. Using the 200-boat figure, how many pump-out facilities (that sailboats can use) should City Island have?

Mike Rauh

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Full Time Senior Center Opens at Grace Church

Rumors have been circulating about a senior center opening here on City Island, and they are all true! Shopping trips, exercise classes, lunch, card games, board games, crafts, movies, computer classes and more will be available to all seniors 60 or older throughout the year in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church, on the corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue.

After many years of offering a lunch and exercise program, the expanded full-time center is scheduled to be open every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning on July 8, when the first lunch offered will be free of charge.

The senior center is funded by both the Presbyterian Senior Services and the New

York City Department of the Aging, which are grateful for the generous contributions and support of elected officials.

Van service is available to pick up seniors who need assistance at their homes. For pickup on City Island Avenue, call 347-834-6466.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help out and to share their knowledge in different areas of expertise, especially in such activities as knitting, crocheting and arts and crafts.

The center would also appreciate donations of board games, word games, art supplies, yarn and other appropriate items.

For more information regarding the center's activities and to volunteer, call Debbie or Patty at 718-885-0727.

From Whom All Blessings Flow



Photos by MARK NANI

The Blessing of the Fleet, sponsored by the City Island Power Squadron, was held on Sunday, June 23, 2013 with sunny skies and high spirits in evidence. The City Island spiritual leaders, Fr. Michael Challinor, Reb David Markus, Reverend Everett Yew and Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia all shared in doing the honors.

Concierge Day on City Island

by PERRY JANOSKI



Photo by PERRY JANOSKI

Maria Caruso, director of tourism for the City Island Chamber of Commerce, led a group of tourism professionals on the Bronx Seaside Trolley to various attractions in the City Island area on May 22, 2013.

City Island was the featured attraction for 30 hotel concierges, travel agents and media representatives on Wednesday, May 22, thanks to the second annual Concierge Day sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

Maria Caruso, director of tourism for the Chamber of Commerce, conceived the all-day event to give tourism professionals an opportunity to experience at first hand the unique character of City Island and all that it offers for visitors.

An estimated 52 million tourists visited the New York metropolitan area in 2012, making it a banner year for tourism, and it has become clear that many of these tourists are interested in exploring neighborhoods outside of Manhattan. This event-filled day made it clear to travel professionals that the northeast Bronx deserves to be considered a prime destination for visitors from all over the world.

The all-day City Island event began at the handsome clubhouse for the Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses, championship-caliber public courses in New York City's largest park, which at 2,766 acres is three times the size of Central Park.

The group then boarded the Bronx Tourism Council's Seaside Trolley and headed to the Bronx Equestrian Center, which provides trail rides, English and Western riding lessons and multiple family activities.

As the trolley crossed the City Island Bridge, one guest commented: "It's as if a piece of Maine broke off and floated down the Long Island Sound."

The visitors were amazed by the anomaly of an active but tranquil waterfront village in the middle of a large urban center, and several seemed mesmerized by the sense of discovery that often accompanies a first visit to City Island.

Captain Chris of the Island Current fleet hosted a half-hour guided boat tour around Eastchester Bay, pointing out its tiny islands and beaches, many of them the subject of mystery and legend.

After a cup of chowder at the Sea Shore, guests were given a brief history of the Island by Barbara Dolensek as the trolley made its way along City Island Avenue, followed by a short visit to the City Island Nautical Museum.

The tour continued down the Island, stopping at Grace Episcopal Church, home to the City Island Theater Group, which recently presented a highly successful production of "Boeing Boeing." Its next production, opening Sept. 20, will be "The Laramie Project" and "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later."

Next stop was a fascinating tour of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park by a docent who guided guests back in time to enjoy its rich history.

Back on the Island, the group spread out along City Island Avenue to explore art and antique galleries, including Chamber member businesses: Focal Point Gallery, Early Ruth Antiques, City Island Diner, Lickety Split Ice Cream, Fe Fi Faux Gallery, the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, and the Kaleidoscope Gallery.

A delicious dish of mussels with French wine at Bistro SK was followed by a cocktail reception at the City Island Yacht Club, where the commodore spoke of the joys of sailing, a significant part of City Island history.

As the concierges and travel agents made their way off the Island, it was clear that they had thoroughly enjoyed the event-filled day and were pleased to be able to share with their clients the many options offered by City Island and Pelham Bay Park.

Hutchinson River Birthday Cleanup

The Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP) and the Anne Hutchinson Annual Birthday Celebration will combine for a beach cleanup and picnic along the Hutchinson River on Sunday, Aug. 11, starting at 8:30 a.m. Participants will meet at the corner of City Island Road diagonally across from the Bronx Equestrian Center.

To celebrate the 422nd birthday of Anne Marbury Hutchinson, the river's namesake, and in preparation for HRRP's annual Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary Cleanup in September, the group on Aug. 11 will clean the shoreline launching site and stop to picnic when the tide rises.

Tom Vasti, vice president of the East Bronx History Forum and trustee docent at the City Island Nautical Museum, will treat the group with a special presentation called "Anne and Her River."

Participants are asked to bring a picnic lunch, as well as gloves, appropriate footwear (it may be muddy), sunscreen, bug protection and a sun hat. Water, cleanup bags and grabbers will be provided.

For more information and to sign up, email Eleanor Rae at HutchinsonRRP@aol.com; or call Toby Lieberman at 718-885-3423 or Violet Smith at 718-885-0978.

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Steve

When Should You Update Your Estate Plan? Ten Reasons to Do It Now

By CORMAC McENERY

If you already have an estate plan, you have determined the best way to care for the loved ones you leave behind. However, like any good strategic plan, your estate plan needs to be updated from time to time. Both internal and external factors can impact your plans. Regular updates take these factors into account and ensure that the plan reflects your true intent.

Here are the top eight reasons to update your estate plan now:

1. Change in desires. You may change your mind about some of your earlier decisions.

2. Changes to the tax code. Tax law is constantly changing. Updates guarantee that your estate benefits from the most advantageous tax treatment.

3. Changes in your family. You or other members of your family may have divorced, in which case provisions for ex-spouses may need restructuring. Or, if a marriage has taken place, your will does not automatically provide for the new spouse or protect children from a former marriage. If a child has been born to you, your guardianship desires for that child need to be added. In the case of new grandchildren, you may choose to make special provisions for things like their education.

4. Illness. Should you or a member of your family become seriously ill, you may want to revise your will to cover additional costs such as long-term or nursing home care. Or, if someone in the family has special needs, assets can be protected in a trust that does not disqualify them from receiving government benefits.

5. Change in assets. Different kinds and amounts of assets benefit from different estate planning opportunities and challenges. Succession planning, discounted gifting or an inheritance can all provide opportunities to reduce taxes and provide

creditor protection.

6. Change in residence. Maybe you are a "snowbird" and move south to avoid those long, hard northern winters. Different states have different estate laws. While your will is valid wherever you go, moving between a separate-property state and a community-property state affects how your estate is taxed when one partner is deceased.

7. After the death of a loved one. If you left a significant portion of your estate to a spouse, another heir or dependent, and they die before you, you need to update your will to reflect a new recipient.

8. Your executor dies, becomes incapacitated or your relationship changes.

9. Supplemental Needs Trust. Your executor should direct, in your will, to distribute any social services dependant beneficiary's bequest under your will into a Supplemental Needs Trust, so that a bequest to such a beneficiary does not disqualify that beneficiary from benefits such as Medicaid, Veterans or SSI benefits that he or she may be receiving, or about to become eligible to receive, at the time of the distribution of that bequest under your will.

10. Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy. As important as a will, sometimes more so, is a Durable Power of Attorney, with appropriate Medicaid compliant powers and Health Care Proxy, and one should update these documents periodically.

According to the AARP, the federal tax rate on estates is slated to change yet again. One of life's greatest rules is that nothing stays the same. Update your estate plan to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you are no longer here.

Cormac McEnery, Esq., of City Island can be reached at 718-885-1234 or Cormac@cormacmcenery.com.

Lina Petite

Continued from page 3

Fordham Road in 1968, but Lina and her husband soon realized they needed a bigger place. So they moved the Lina Petite Salon, a name suggested by her sister, to 474 City Island Avenue in the building now owned by Islander Bob May. "Haircuts were \$2 when I opened," she reminisced.

Lina and Pino quickly gained a loyal following on City Island. Many of the customers have been regulars for more than 25 years, including Alice Stuttig, Marie Livingston and Margaret Fennel. In fact, Lina cut and styled the hair of several generations of Fennels, including Margaret, her daughter Liz and her granddaughter Chris. Two of her longest-running customers, Evie Gauss and Margie DiCandido, have since passed away, but they had their hair done by Lina every week for over 35 years.

Alice Stuttig once surprised Lina by arriving for her appointment in a hearse. She had been waiting for the bus in front of Grace Church on a hot day when a funeral was going on inside. While the drivers were waiting for the service to end, they noticed Alice and asked if she needed assistance. She accepted their offer for a ride and had them deliver her to the salon. Lina greeted Alice at the door as usual, chalking it up to another typical occurrence on City Island.

The salon survived several major changes over the years. Lina and Pino separated but continued to work together. Her sister, Gloria, who assisted Lina at the salon on Saturdays and holidays, passed away in 2006 after a brave battle with cancer. Throughout it all, Lina's friendly laugh never wavered as she exchanged gossip and jokes (sometimes off-color) with customers.

Lina now lives in Pilot Cove Manor on City Island, and she looks forward to traveling and visiting her children during her retirement. Anthony and his wife, Julie, live in California and have one daughter,

Sophia. They are expecting their second child, and Lina looks forward to spending more time with all of them, especially attending Sophia's Irish dance competitions. She will also be visiting Jean-Pierre and his wife, Melissa, in Long Beach, California.

What's to become of the salon? Lina told *The Current* that another hair stylist has been considering renting the space and equipment, but she can't say for sure whether the deal will go through. Islanders can only hope that any new salon will be as memorable, as friendly and as much fun as the Lina Petite Salon was for 40 years.

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St. Mary's Closing

Continued from page 1

"Just like the beautiful statue of St. Mary, Star of the Sea that looks out from our church steeple like a beacon, our school was the symbol and the shining light of hope that prepared me and many generations of students to face this world as concerned Catholics and responsible citizens."

Islander Judy Rauh, who graduated in 1960, said that "St. Mary, Star of the Sea School was a very special place in the 1950s, a place where we felt like we belonged. (Note: We were not allowed to call it St. Mary's School. 'That St. Mary's was on Carpenter Avenue,' the nuns told us.) I particularly remember the variety shows we used to put on every year. The performances were held at night, and it was so exciting to gather in our classrooms when it was dark outside. In eighth grade we sang songs from "The Music Man," with Bobby Foster in the starring role. Six of my classmates still live on City Island."

At the last kindergarten moving-up ceremony on June 12, 90-year-old Marie Livingston, mother of fourth-grade teacher Helen McMahon, came to see her great-granddaughter Julianna Hostomsky graduate. "Many of my children and grandchildren graduated from the school. Four generations went here," she said. "I am heartsick. My father, James Paladino, along with Monsignor Nilon, practically built this school. There are dedication plaques on some of the classroom doors with my

parents' names on them." She added: "It's like the end of an era. The teachers are like family, and children have found a special place here and don't want to leave." Julianna and her older brother, Donald, will be attending Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham Manor in September. Other children from St. Mary's have also chosen OLPH.

During the kindergarten ceremony, Sister Joan McKinney, who taught at St. Mary's for 25 years, was presented with a plaque that read, in part, "to remind you of all the students you have taught and have achieved their dreams because of you." Sister Joanie has accepted an assignment at a Catholic school in Yonkers. Mr. Garrison, acting principal, will be teaching fifth grade in a Catholic school in Rockland County.

An emotional eighth-grade graduation took place on June 13 (see story page 5). The students were upbeat and excited while the teachers were teary-eyed and sad, knowing that this graduation was the last. One grandmother summed up the conflicting emotions of the day: "Kids are different today; they are much more into themselves. We are more emotional."

Each year a distinguished alumni award is given, and this year's recipient was Marie Hauptner, class of 1939. She was the secretary at the school for 22 years. The most recent secretary, Ann Wilson, was also in attendance.

The closing song at the graduation, "Thank You" by MoZella, summed up the



These students are performing at the annual Christmas Pageant in December 2012.



The graduating class of 2013 will be the last for St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

feelings of many of the past and recent graduates. The first stanza goes "Mixed up and lost, you showed me love at no cost, and when nobody else cared, you were there."

The parting words of Father Michael at the graduation Mass on June 7 were: "You are the last graduation class. Go out and do us proud. Let people know that St. Mary's existed and that it was a great school."

Seniors on the Road Again

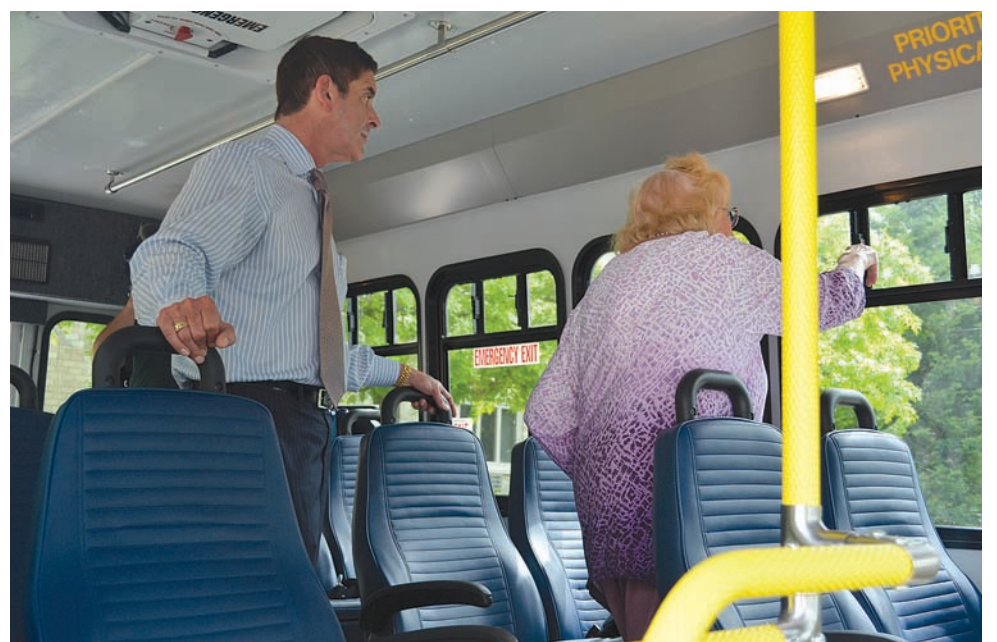


Photo courtesy STATE SENATOR JEFF KLEIN

State Senator Jeff Klein joined Pilot Cove Manor residents and community leaders John Marano and Virginia Gallagher on Friday, May 31, 2013, to commemorate the arrival of a new senior van for Pilot Cove Manor nursing facility, home to over 100 seniors. He said, "I am proud that working with the NYS Department of Transportation and Ms. Gallagher, we were able to replace Pilot Cove Manor's previous van, a van that had been in use for over 20 years. This senior van provides a critical service to the seniors here at Pilot Cove and I am pleased that I was able to make sure that City Island's seniors are transported safely and soundly."



Several longtime teachers at St. Mary's, including Helen McMahon, Lisa Moore and Theresa Bivona, are shown above on International Day.

Junior Wonders Nursery School

Register Now for 2013-14 School Year

We offer half-day morning and afternoon classes for two, three and four year old children.

Junior Wonders Nursery School is located in the landmark Community Church of the Pelhams, adjacent to the train station.

For information and a tour, contact the Program Director Irene Englisch.



(914) 738-6518
www.juniorwonders.com
448 Washington Ave. Pelham
(corner of Highbrook and Washington Ave.)

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JUNE

Fri., June 28, **"The Bronx Salutes America" Fireworks**, 9 p.m. off Orchard Beach.

Sat., June 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: tuna noodle casserole.

JULY

Thurs., July 25, **Pelham Cemetery Lot Owners meet**, 7:30 p.m., Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue. This meeting is for lot owners only.

Sat., July 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Barbecued or baked chicken with rice and beans.

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

AUGUST

Sun. Aug. 11, **Hutchinson River Restoration Project** beach cleanup and picnic along the Hutchinson River, 8:30 a.m.

Sat., Aug. 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: meatloaf with potatoes and vegetables.

Tues., Aug. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

City Island Republicans

We want to thank everyone who signed the petitions that will help get Joe Lhota on the ballot in the Republican primary.

Currently, at party headquarters, our new chairman, John Greaney, is hard at work with new events and ideas for the upcoming election season.

Mike Rendino is our new Republican Election Commissioner for Bronx County. Primary Day will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, Your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue, offers a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. The spirited congregation led by our innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener; our joyful and musical associate spiritual leader, Reb David Evan Markus; and our multitalented rabbinic intern, Reb Eva Sax-Bolder. For 79 years, Temple Beth-El has welcomed all who come to celebrate and pray here at 480 City Island Avenue as our services embrace diversity.

Friday night Sabbath services commence at 7:30 p.m. We use a prayer book written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew, which is transliterated, allowing all words to be easily sung and read. Your Shul by the Sea Band offers a delightful quality to our services and some of us are inspired to dance as we welcome the Sabbath.

Our special events and services for July, August and September are as follows.

Temple Beth-El's annual Shabbat by the Sea is scheduled for July 19 at the home of our congregants Ken Binder and Steve Roth, with a lovely waterside view of a brilliant sunset, good food and company, and, of course, Rabbi Shohama, Reb David, Reb Eva and Your Shul by the Sea Band.

On Aug. 9 and Aug. 23, the Friday night service will be led by clergy. Community will be leading services other Friday nights in both July and August.

Have a wonderful summer and remember the High Holy Days come early this year: Rosh Hashanah on Sept. 4, 5 and 6 and Yom Kippur on Sept. 13 and 14. We look forward to seeing you then at our free High Holy Days services.

High Holidays, 2013-5774: Aug. 31 (8 p.m.): Slichot; Sept. 4 (8 p.m.): Erev Rosh Hashanah; Sept. 5 (10 a.m.): Rosh Hashanah, Shofar Service noon (children invited); Tashlich 12:30 p.m.; Sept. 6 (10 a.m.): Rosh Hashanah; Sept. 13 (7 p.m.): Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur); Sept. 14 (10 a.m.): Yom Kippur; Sept. 14 (Mid-day Programs): Yom Kippur, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Lecture/Discussion, 4 to 5 p.m. Yoga, Chant, Walk; Sept. 14 (5:30 p.m.): Yom Kippur Mincha and Jonah; Sept. 14 (6:30 p.m.): YK Ne'ilah, Havdalah, Break Fast; Sept. 20 (7:30 p.m.): Sukkot / Desserts; Sept. 27 (7:30 p.m.): Simchat Torah.

Temple Beth-El is developing new program offerings: Saturday and Sunday morning classes, study of the Jewish holidays, a book club, as well as a special opportunity for adults to learn toward conversion or bnei mitzvah. Persons wishing more information can contact Reb David Markus at davidevanmarkus@gmail.com or consult the Temple Beth-El website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Dates are subject to change and those interested should check our website for the latest updates. Temple Beth-El is a fragrance free zone in consideration of those with allergies.

Ellen Ruth Topol

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite I, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Lambs Babysitting available first Sundays (July 7 and Aug. 5 at 9:50 a.m.) in Grace Church Hall.

Eileen Marcus

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our Golf Outing was postponed because of rain and will take place on Friday, Sept. 6. The fee is \$125 per golfer and includes registration, lunch, dinner and open bar back at the Post. We are also raffling off tickets to play a round of golf on the Trump National Course in Westchester County. Stop by the Post for chances.

The day after the outing will be the annual clambake. Sign up at the Post during July and August.

We are now collecting 2014 dues. They are \$30 and can be dropped off at the Post.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our thrift shop will be closed during July and August and will open again in the fall. Watch for our opening date!

On Thursday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation, and we encourage everyone to join us at one of our Masses that day. These are scheduled for 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Registration has begun for our Religious Education program for September 2013.



Photos by RICK DEWITT

On the evening of May 18, 2013, Trinity Church was packed to the rafters with more than 50 members of the Milal Missionary Choir and those who came out to hear their special music. The special event was planned to help Trinity celebrate 162 years serving City Island. For the final piece of music, the Trinity choir joined the Milal Choir and everyone was on their feet. A reception was held after the performance, and some of the congregation helped Reverend Yew cut one of the special cakes prepared for the evening. The congregation is very grateful to the many Island businesses and individuals who generously helped make this evening a huge success.

Forms have been mailed to past students, and additional ones are available in the back of the church. Please return the form as soon as possible, so that plans may be made for our fall classes.

Plans will be under way during the summer months for our outdoor Mass on Sept. 14. This is always a lovely evening. Mark your calendars and plan to be with us that evening.

Have a safe and pleasant summer.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service and will be open all summer. All children are welcome to attend.

This year the children raised over \$200 for Imagine No Malaria, helping the New York Conference raise a total of \$40,000. Mark your calendars now for a spaghetti dinner and square dance to be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Nov. 16. More details will be announced in the September issue of *The Current*. Words can not express the gratitude Trinity has for the Milal Missionary Choir, those who came to hear them, and the many businesses and individuals who helped make the concert a huge success. Thank you all!

The Budget Corner is now closed for the summer season. Kindly hold on to your donations until September. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be on Sept. 3, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. Thank you to everyone who marched in the Memorial Day Parade. Everyone had a good time at our end of year dinner with a great announcement regarding our Cancer Bingo, which exceeded last year's raffles. Have a great summer, everyone, with safe travels. Have lots of fun, be well and see you in September.

Maryann Occhicone

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weight Watchers Meetings: There is now a regular meeting on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Teen Dance: Teen dances continuing this summer for grades 6, 7 and 8. July 20 and Aug. 17, 8 to 10:30 p.m. Free.

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown has brought traditional and contemporary folk music to the Bronx for 26 years. As we enter our second season on City Island, we present live performances from some of the very finest artists in the folk genre. We host a show on either the first or second Saturday of each month. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, unless otherwise noted. We are a 501(c)(3) organization

run entirely by volunteers. Please visit www.uptowncoffeehouse.org or call 718-885-2955 for our latest schedule and details.

City Island Parenting Group: This program is suspended for the summer and will resume in September.

NEW PROGRAMS

Ballroom Dance: It is time to dance like those stars on TV: waltz, tango, cha cha, jive, salsa, bachata and more. Instructor Mimi Kim is a three-time U.S. Theater Art Dance Champion and Korean ballroom dance champion. Classes start June 4 and end July 23. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 per person or \$100 for all eight classes. For more information, call Mimi at 718-885-1975.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreamara.com.

Jill's Playgroup: for pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Art and Craft Classes: Pre-school class and kindergarten through third-grade classes. For registration and more information, call Eileen Stodut 914- 633-1695.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former Laguardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. \$90 for five-week session, \$25 materials fee (after session ends students bring materials home).

For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat before summer? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout with me for an hour. Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

Zumba with Letti: Letti is a fantastic Zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Classes are \$10 or 5 class card for \$40.

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These Yoga Stretch poses helps remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10.00 a class. Call 718-885-0535.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for age 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

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

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

Sarah Persteins

City Island Theater Group

Because of the community's continued interest, the City Island Theater Group is proud to present an encore staged reading of Moises Kaufman's "The Laramie Project" on Friday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. This will be followed by "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later" on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m.

CITG invites the community to join their board and the cast members of "Laramie" to the unveiling of the window designed by Joe Burck at 282 City Island Avenue on Friday, Aug. 23, at 8 p.m. We are very grateful to Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir for their continued support.

In November CITG will present Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park." Productions and dates for the 2014 season have been selected and are awaiting approval rights.

The CITG board of directors looks forward to celebrating 15 years of producing quality theater on City Island in 2014.

Mary McIntyre

American Legion Post #156

Our Memorial Day parade was a big hit. We thank the community for its continued support of those who have served and died for our country.

Once again the Post is City Island's unofficial cooling center. Stop by and have a drink and catch up on the local news.

Now that party season has arrived, we have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 100 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

We are in need of flag stewards to help put up the flags this year. Anyone interested should contact the Post at 718-885-0639.

While cleaning out our office recently, our Post archivists discovered a 1935 pho-

tograph (26"x 8"), a framed sepia photo showing both our Post and the Sam Young Post #620 at a place called the Stonehouse. Please visit the Post to help us identify people in the pictures.

Currently, there are several members on sick call. Eric Eckland is recovering from a recent fall. Richard Heilmann is recovering from surgery. Bob Branizza is currently in a nursing facility in Westchester County. Jack "POP" Sullivan is doing well. He currently has around-the-clock care at his house on King Avenue and would love to have a visit from some of his friends from the Post.

We are in need of new members. If you have served our country, consider joining the American Legion. The stronger we are, the better our country will be.

Thomas Lynch

PSS Healthy Seniors

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. We hope more people will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Dee, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street; **Cardio Fitness with Mary:** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue; **Arthritis Exercise with Patty:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Orchard Beach Walk:** Wednesdays; van leaves Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. (must have three walkers); **Yoga Stretch with Michael:** Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Fit for Life with Sarah:** Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall. Note: To make ends meet a little better, all classes will be \$3, except Arthritis Exercise, which will continue to be free.

Senior Writing Group

What is your favorite family story? Did anybody ever say to you "You should write that down" after you told a story about the good old days. Your friends laughed, they cried, they smiled. Come write your memories with us every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. No charge. Everyone is welcome.

Volunteering

Please think about volunteering for one of our senior programs. We need help in many areas, including clerical and computer, reception, telephoning, visiting and help with parties and events to name a few.

Telephone Reassurance

If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Caregivers Support

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

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday: Bay Plaza or Stop & Shop; Thursday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. Suggested contribution for round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van.

Program Services

Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts to shows. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Debbie Erosa

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Our Feathered Friends

Hollywood's fascination with birds has something for everyone. An excellent classic drama, based on a true story, is **Birdman of Alcatraz** (1962), which stars Burt Lancaster as Robert Stroud, who was sentenced to life in prison. A withdrawn and rebellious man, he discovers a wounded bird and is so taken with the creature that he eventually becomes a world-famous ornithologist, finding cures and treatments for various bird diseases. This is an engrossing film with acting that garnered several Academy Award nominations.

Alfred Hitchcock's contribution to this topic is his thriller **The Birds** (1963), which stars Tippi Hedren as a spoiled heiress who meets a handsome stranger, Mitch Brenner (Rod Taylor), at a pet store. Taken with him, she follows him to his home on Bodega Bay, where he lives with his mother (Jessica Tandy) and daughter (Veronica Cartwright). Strange things start occurring when she arrives, and eventually the birds in the town start attacking people. The special effects are quite remarkable in this thought-provoking film.

A disturbing post-Vietnam War drama is **Birdy** (1984), which stars Matthew Modine in the title role as a Vietnam vet who has been fascinated with birds since childhood, to the extent that we even see him in flashbacks attempting to fly. His best friend, Al (Nicolas Cage), is also a vet who was wounded physically during the war, whereas Birdy's problems are mental and emotional. Matthew Modine's performance is extraordinary as we see him taking on the persona of a bird, shutting out the rest of life. It is up to Al to try to bring him back to reality, a task that the psychiatrists are betting he won't be able to do.

A stunning fantasy/adventure/romance with some comedy thrown in is **Ladyhawke** (1985). Set in 13th-century France, the film stars Matthew Broderick as Philippe, a pickpocket who has managed to escape a dungeon. He is befriended by Navarre (Rutger Hauer), a mysterious knight who travels with a beautiful falcon. At night Navarre disappears, and Philippe finds a stunning, equally mysterious woman, Isabeau (Michelle Pfeiffer) who asks many questions about Navarre. It is clear that she loves him. Philippe often talks to the audience, offering comic relief to a mythic tale with exceptional cinematography.

The Crow (1994) is a highly stylized violent fantasy based on a graphic novel (AKA comic book). It is the story of Eric Draven (Brandon Lee), a rock musician who is slaughtered along with his fiancée, Shelly (Sofia Shinas), by a vicious gang that terrorizes the decaying city in which they live. On the anniversary of Draven's death, a mystical crow appears at his grave. He rises from the dead and, with the bird as his guide, goes on a mission of revenge against the gang that murdered him. Star Brandon Lee was killed while filming a scene in which he was shot with a shell from an improperly cleaned gun that was supposed to be loaded with blanks. Like his father, martial arts superstar Bruce Lee, Brandon was fated to enjoy his greatest popular success after his premature death.

A wonderful family film is **Fly Away Home** (1996). After her mother is killed in a car crash (during the first two minutes of

the film), Amy (Anna Paquin) must leave her New Zealand home to go live with her father, Thomas (Jeff Daniels), in Canada. Thomas is an eccentric artist who makes huge metal sculptures and has a hobby of trying to fly with his friend David (Terry Kinney). Amy is miserable in her new home, but one day she finds a bunch of geese eggs abandoned because their mother was killed by land developers. She takes them in and becomes their "mother" when they hatch. How these birds are taught to fly and migrate is fascinating. This is a very uplifting tale of perseverance and dedication that is beautiful cinematically as well.

An off-beat musical from England is **Little Voice** (1998), which stars Jane Horrocks as Laura, a reclusive young woman who hides in her room listening to and mimicking the songs of Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Billie Holiday and others. She is discovered by Ray (Michael Caine), the boyfriend of her mother (Brenda Blethyn), who wants to capitalize on her huge talent. Laura captures the heart of Billy (Ewan McGregor), a shy telephone lineman who is fascinated with birds and keeps a flock outside his home. This film is adapted from a stage play that was developed especially for Jane Horrocks, who performs all the numbers herself. It is an amazing performance, not to be missed.

A rather quirky art film by writer-director Jim Jarmusch is **Ghost Dog: The**

Way of the Samurai (2000). It stars Forrest Whitaker in the title role as the hit man for a mob. He follows a Japanese code of honor and believes he must dedicate his life to a mobster who once saved his life. He lives on a rooftop and communicates to the mob via carrier pigeon. This is a fascinating melding of philosophic and comedic elements. Interspersed throughout are serious quotes from "The Way of the Samurai"; the mobsters are aging, funny caricatures in this surprisingly interesting film.

Chicken Run (2000), which is wonderful for adults and children alike, is a clay-mation film. Truly original, it tells the story of a group of chickens who live in Auschwitz-like accommodations. At first the chickens are rather complacent in captivity, but they soon realize that they must escape, for Mrs. Tweedy, the owner of the chicken farm, is determined to make pot pies out of them all. It could be a little too intense for very young children, but the story is truly magical, charming and inventive, and the delightful film is enough to make anyone a vegetarian.

There also are some very fine documentaries about birds. **Winged Migration** (2001) uses breathtaking cinematography in Jacques Perrin's mystical film about migrating birds. The movie was shot over the course of four years on all seven continents, using in-flight cameras. Over 590 miles of film was used to create this

89-minute movie. The filmmakers raised birds of several species from birth. The newborn birds imprinted on staff members and were trained to fly along with the film crews. Several of these species had never been imprinted before. Most of the footage is aerial, and the viewer appears to be flying alongside birds in this sweeping global tour from a bird's-eye view.

Four years in the making, **The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill** (2003) is a poignant film that chronicles the true story of Mark Bittner, an unemployed musician living rent-free in a cabin in San Francisco, and the relationship he develops with a flock of wild parrots on Telegraph Hill. He introduces us to the noisy birds he nurtures, and they appear to have problems and behaviors very much like humans. The ending has an unexpected delightful twist.

March of the Penguins (2005) is a stunning look at the life of emperor penguins living in one of the harshest climates on the planet. The product of more than a year of filming in daunting conditions on the Antarctic ice, this Oscar-winning documentary shows never-before-captured footage of the penguins' life, as it explores their quest for monogamy and the extreme hardships they endure for the survival of the family.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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THE MORRIS YACHT CLUB: A HISTORY

This is the last in a series of articles on each of the six yacht and boating clubs that are celebrated in a new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum.



The Morris Yacht Club during the 1940s (photo above) and today (photo below).


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In 1894 the Oak Point Yacht Club moved from Oak Point to a site on Rodman's Neck near City Island. Arrangements were made to rent the Bowne Mansion from the Parks Department for \$300 a year, later reduced to \$150 a year. The Oak Point membership began to fall off shortly after the Spanish-American War, so the yachtsmen from the old Morris Wheelmen, a popular bicycle club of the time named after Robert Morris, financier of the American Revolution. The new club was dubbed the Morris Yacht Club and on September 6, 1900, the club was incorporated under the laws of New York State.

In 1904 the Bowne Mansion was destroyed by fire. Rebuilding was done by members, setting an example for the future. In the early days, members who lived in the city had to take the train to Bartow Station (located just off Shore Road near the Hutchinson River Parkway Circle) and then a horse car to the club. During the winter, club meetings were held at 165th Street at Third Avenue, and during the season interclub regattas were held in which the Morris was regularly represented. In 1914 the first of the "Hassenpfeffer" dances were held, and these were annual events for at least twenty years.

In 1920 another fire completely gutted the clubhouse, causing damage estimated at \$25,000. The members again devoted their time to rebuilding the club, using lumber purchased at the Pelham Bay Naval Training Base, which had been located near Rodman's Neck from 1917 to 1918. The club grew steadily into the 1930s and added an extensive social program to its boating activities.

In September 1935, the Parks Department commissioner, Robert Moses, served the club with a dispossession notice, so a group of members, one of whom was Andy Blum (June Henry's father), formed a committee to scout out potential new sites for the club. After much searching, the club made arrangements with the City Island Athletic Club to sublease the property at Belden Point, and in 1936 moved from Rodman's Neck to the old mansion originally built by Stephen Decatur Horton, son of one of City Island's early settlers, and later enlarged by financier William Belden, who established a resort on the site.

In the fall of 1935, the yacht club constructed ways, hauled boats, and built locker houses. Two years later, when the City Island Athletic Club disbanded, the Morris negotiated a lease with the Society of Arts & Letters, which soon offered the property for sale. At last the club had its own big

clubhouse and beautiful grounds, along with a fat mortgage, but a bond issue to finance the purchase was entirely subscribed to by members.

In 1938 the name was changed to Morris Yacht and Beach Club. That same year, the infamous hurricane of 1938 destroyed the pier and the bathhouse on the beach. Members devoted their spare time to rebuilding the pier and new bathhouses and made improvements to the clubhouse. In 1942 a unit of the Coast Guard Auxiliary was formed by club members, who volunteered their time to patrolling various points on the Sound and on security watches on shore.

During the 1940s, new lockers were built, a new jetty was constructed to improve the beach, the seawall was repaired, and the clubhouse was redecorated. The bond issue was repaid, and in 1949 the Golden Anniversary of the club was celebrated with year-round gala affairs. Further improvements during the 1950s continued to enhance the value of the property, including a new pier, a sun deck, and a new launch and floats. Between 1959 and 1974 an easier system for moving boats in the yard was installed, and thanks to member participation in these improvements, it was possible to pay off the mortgage. In 1968, a gala Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held, with free champagne for all.

Member participation in improvements to grounds and infrastructure continued into their 100th year, and in 2004 they acquired a used travel lift, which required new launching piers and dockage. But on March 18, 2006, the clubhouse caught fire and burned beyond repair. Members brought out everything they could salvage, and as stark testament to their heroic efforts, some scorched mementos survive in the trophy case as you enter the club (and two are on exhibit in the Nautical Museum). Nevertheless, the travel-lift project was completed, which helped attract new members, even though they were operating out of temporary trailers and a tent. Indeed, during the time between the loss of the old building and the construction of the new one, membership more than doubled. On June 20, 2009, ground was broken for the new clubhouse, which was completed in the fall of 2010.

The club weathered Hurricane Sandy in marvelous shape, losing a little of the sea wall and a bit of the fishing pier. But permits were quickly filed, and the pier was restored in June of this year.

Compiled by Past Commodore Joseph M. Hanley with thanks to Frank Lindner Sr., Jerry Stolk, June Henry, and Steve Lott.

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FAIR PLAY



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Islanders and visitors had fun at the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair on June 1 and 2, 2013, especially Meghan McConaghy and Caeleigh Patterson (middle photo). The fair featured over 50 artists and craftspeople showing and selling paintings, photography, jewelry, stained glass, native crafts, bath and body products and clothing. The fair was sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving Time)

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

JULY 2013

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0126	0.26	0727	7.10	1344	0.51	1953	7.82	Mon 01
02 Tue	0225	0.26	0824	7.06	1440	0.65	2048	7.87	Tue 02
03 Wed	0319	0.23	0918	7.10	1532	0.72	2139	7.94	Wed 03
04 Thu	0410	0.18	1008	7.18	1620	0.76	2226	7.98	Thu 04
05 Fri	0457	0.14	1054	7.27	1704	0.79	2310	7.99	Fri 05
06 Sat	0539	0.15	1138	7.34	1744	0.82	2350	7.95	Sat 06
07 Sun	0618	0.20	1218	7.37	1818	0.85			Sun 07
08 Mon	0024	7.88	0652	0.28	1252	7.37	1840	0.86	Mon 08
09 Tue	0043	7.79	0716	0.35	1313	7.37	1853	0.80	Tue 09
10 Wed	0052	7.79	0724	0.36	1321	7.46	1921	0.70	Wed 10
11 Thu	0120	7.82	0746	0.30	1347	7.63	1957	0.61	Thu 11
12 Fri	0156	7.83	0820	0.24	1423	7.79	2039	0.55	Fri 12
13 Sat	0237	7.77	0859	0.24	1504	7.92	2124	0.55	Sat 13
14 Sun	0323	7.64	0943	0.29	1549	7.99	2213	0.59	Sun 14
15 Mon	0412	7.45	1031	0.39	1640	8.02	2307	0.64	Mon 15
16 Tue	0507	7.23	1123	0.52	1735	8.02			Tue 16
17 Wed	0008	0.67	0607	7.05	1221	0.62	1835	8.03	Wed 17
18 Thu	0120	0.61	0714	6.98	1325	0.64	1940	8.10	Thu 18
19 Fri	0253	0.36	0827	7.08	1439	0.53	2048	8.25	Fri 19
20 Sat	0410	-0.08	0943	7.34	1603	0.26	2158	8.45	Sat 20
21 Sun	0510	-0.52	1050	7.69	1714	-0.11	2304	8.63	Sun 21
22 Mon	0605	-0.87	1149	8.02	1815	-0.44			Mon 22
23 Tue	0003	8.73	0656	-1.08	1243	8.26	1911	-0.64	Tue 23
24 Wed	0059	8.68	0746	-1.10	1336	8.37	2005	-0.68	Wed 24
25 Thu	0154	8.49	0836	-0.94	1428	8.34	2100	-0.56	Thu 25
26 Fri	0250	8.18	0926	-0.63	1522	8.21	2155	-0.31	Fri 26
27 Sat	0347	7.80	1017	-0.21	1619	8.00	2253	0.01	Sat 27
28 Sun	0448	7.41	1111	0.23	1719	7.79	2353	0.34	Sun 28
29 Mon	0551	7.10	1208	0.64	1820	7.63			Mon 29
30 Tue	0053	0.59	0653	6.92	1307	0.96	1920	7.56	Tue 30
31 Wed	0152	0.72	0752	6.88	1405	1.14	2017	7.58	Wed 31

AUGUST 2013

01 Thu	0248	0.75	0847	6.96	1459	1.20	2110	7.67	Thu 01
02 Fri	0339	0.71	0939	7.11	1549	1.16	2159	7.77	Fri 02
03 Sat	0426	0.62	1026	7.28	1635	1.08	2244	7.86	Sat 03
04 Sun	0509	0.53	1110	7.43	1715	0.97	2324	7.90	Sun 04
05 Mon	0547	0.46	1149	7.53	1749	0.86	2358	7.89	Mon 05
06 Tue	0619	0.42	1220	7.59	1814	0.73			Tue 06
07 Wed	0016	7.87	0640	0.38	1234	7.66	1832	0.56	Wed 07
08 Thu	0027	7.91	0652	0.28	1247	7.82	1859	0.38	Thu 08
09 Fri	0055	7.97	0717	0.16	1316	8.03	1935	0.25	Fri 09
10 Sat	0131	7.99	0752	0.08	1353	8.20	2016	0.20	Sat 10
11 Sun	0213	7.93	0832	0.10	1435	8.29	2100	0.24	Sun 11
12 Mon	0258	7.76	0916	0.21	1521	8.29	2149	0.38	Mon 12
13 Tue	0348	7.52	1004	0.41	1612	8.18	2244	0.57	Tue 13
14 Wed	0444	7.24	1058	0.65	1709	8.03	2348	0.75	Wed 14
15 Thu	0546	7.01	1200	0.86	1813	7.88			Thu 15
16 Fri	0116	0.79	0659	6.93	1314	0.94	1926	7.85	Fri 16
17 Sat	0256	0.49	0829	7.11	1457	0.73	2052	7.99	Sat 17
18 Sun	0402	0.04	0948	7.50	1614	0.26	2208	8.27	Sun 18
19 Mon	0459	-0.40	1048	7.94	1714	-0.23	2308	8.51	Mon 19
20 Tue	0550	-0.74	1141	8.30	1809	-0.61			Tue 20
21 Wed	0002	8.63	0639	-0.91	1229	8.52	1859	-0.82	Wed 21
22 Thu	0052	8.59	0726	-0.90	1317	8.58	1949	-0.83	Thu 22
23 Fri	0140	8.40	0811	-0.69	1403	8.50	2038	-0.63	Fri 23
24 Sat	0228	8.09	0855	-0.34	1450	8.28	2128	-0.28	Sat 24
25 Sun	0319	7.71	0940	0.12	1540	7.99	2219	0.16	Sun 25
26 Mon	0412	7.33	1027	0.61	1635	7.67	2315	0.61	Mon 26
27 Tue	0512	7.00	1120	1.07	1737	7.41			Tue 27
28 Wed	0014	0.98	0615	6.81	1221	1.43	1841	7.27	Wed 28
29 Thu	0113	1.21	0716	6.79	1324	1.63	1941	7.27	Thu 29
30 Fri	0210	1.29	0813	6.90	1422	1.65	2037	7.37	Fri 30
31 Sat	0302	1.22	0906	7.11	1514	1.52	2128	7.52	Sat 31

SEPTEMBER 2013

01 Sun	0350	1.08	0954	7.34	1601	1.31	2213	7.67	Sun 01
02 Mon	0432	0.90	1036	7.54	1641	1.06	2252	7.78	Mon 02
03 Tue	0509	0.73	1113	7.70	1716	0.79	2324	7.84	Tue 03
04 Wed	0538	0.56	1138	7.83	1743	0.52	2341	7.90	Wed 04



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

THE HART IN HART ISLAND

We may have been witness to the mother of all sights last month. It was a quiet morning and the bay was still like glass. We were watching nothing in particular when something came into view offshore that was unlike anything we had ever seen before. Even from a distance we could see that it was big. It was moving in the water and had the shape of a bird with its wings pulled up, as if it were trying to keep them from touching water. Initially, we thought it was an osprey struggling with its catch. A couple of great black-backed gulls swooped down upon it, as if they had every intention of stealing a meal. But the shape didn't change. It didn't duck, flinch, or turn. Nothing. And then we noticed the wake.

Whatever it was, it was moving farther offshore at a fast enough rate to cause a small turbulence in the water. That's when we got the binoculars. And wouldn't you know, it was a deer. What we mistook for wings were antlers. For the next 20 minutes we watched in amazement as this young buck swam out to the edge of the fleet off Hawkins Street then over to Rodman's Neck. It didn't stop there, either. It hit the

dry land running and didn't stop running until it disappeared into the woods near the pistol range. We have since learned that deer have hollow hair, which helps to explain their swimming prowess. In this case, fear may have had a little do with it as well.

Here is what we have surmised from this experience: this young buck took the opportunity of a quiet, still morning to swim to City Island from the mainland, probably in search of his own stomping ground. Food was not the issue, not at this time of year. At about three-quarters of the way through his sojourn, he was harassed by the black backs and turned back. Such drama.

While we're on the subject of our surmises, here's another. The origin of the name for Hart Island has always been something of a mystery. The historian John McNamara tells us that Hart Island first appeared on a map as such in 1777. Before that, in 1775, it was mapped as Heart Island. And before that it was mapped as Spectacle Island and even Little Minneford. The Hart name, though, is the only one for which the origin is not quite settled. McNamara suggests that it was named for the game preserve it was said to have been used for, hart being a rarely used word meaning deer. We would suggest that this is exactly why Hart Island is called what it is. After what we witnessed, it is easy to imagine a time long ago, quieter, closer to nature, when white-tailed deer regularly made the passage from the mainland to City Island and then Hart Island. A white-tailed deer making its way across the Sound would not have been out of the question, either.

If you have a suggestion of your own you would like to share, we invite you to do so at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

A TRIP TO GIVERNY AND MONSIEUR MONET

Morning of Mother's Day: the clouds are the color of slate and rolling fast across the horizon. My daughter and I leave Paris from the Gare St. Lazare train station bound for Giverny, Claude Monet's home and garden, a ride of only 45 minutes out to Vernon in upper Normandy.

My last visit here was in 1981, shortly after its renovation, when we were accompanied only by a cat and a woman in a straw bonnet. Today one must arrive early to get ahead of the tour buses. The town has grown up around the garden: there is an Impressionist museum, restaurants and artists' ateliers, all with charming gardens attached. Still, the population remains at 500, similar to what it was in Monet's time.

It is wonderful to see how one man has made such a difference in the world and given so much pleasure to countless people. At work here is nature and art enlivening the spirit.

The sun kisses the world as we disembark, lucky skies of blue and white. It is tulip time—reds, oranges, gold and black. Any gaps between are filled with wallflowers and dainty forget-me-nots. Anemones, purple aubrieta, blue centaurea, and hesperis make up a delirium of color. Although

colors clash and blaze, all is made harmonious by Monet's pink house with white trim shuttered in emerald green. The garden, looking like a painting, dazzles the eye. This is an iconic place of pilgrimage. As we wind our way out toward the lily pond and wait in line to take our turn on the Japanese bridge, I suck a little air between my teeth, seeing the wisteria just come into bloom. Zooming in with my camera and giving it a shake creates a good facsimile of a water lily painting.

Now in his studio, I imagine him, brush in hand, pacing before his easel or dawdling by the window, thinking up new combinations of poppy, iris and rose. I watch him scrub out a painting and start again or add layer upon layer of paint to produce his luscious surfaces; his bedroom overlooking the garden, a chair holding his coat, the yellow dining room and blue kitchen just as it was. Monsieur Monet has never left.

So here I am back in New York, my mind filled with Parisian architecture and flowers, my palette drenched in wine, bread and cheese that is beyond even Anthony Bourdain's description. I am back, inspired, brandishing brush and shovel anew.

Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.

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Former longtime Islander Bob Simons (center with hat in hand) placed second in the Tampa Bay division of the Bone Island Regatta Race to Key West, Florida. Mr. Simons, captain of *Proteus*, now resides in Hernando Beach, Florida, but obviously has not lost his City Island sailing skills.

It's Time to Learn About How Our Brains Work

By JOHN SCARDINA

There is a valuable book—"Brain Rules" by John Medina—that suggests that many of us do not really know how our brains actually work for us on a daily basis. This is problematic, to be sure, especially when we have children and we need to learn how their brains work best as well. In a culture that turns to quick fixes—a pill, an energy drink, an expensive new program to follow—there are simple alternatives to improve our well-being and grow our brains, too!

I want to focus on two of the topics covered in this book: exercise and sleep. These activities seem to be part of our daily conversation and can easily be discussed with adults and children alike.

Exercise: Brains work better when we exercise. The extra oxygen flow is essential to enhanced brain functioning. In addition, we do our best thinking after a period of extended physical activity. So:

- Take a break, take a walk (even for 20 minutes) instead of a coffee, and then get back to that pile of work sitting on your desk.
- Use your favorite exercise routine in your office or in the classroom. Play some music, dance (even Zumba!), stretch, and run in place. Do some cooling breaths to slow back down. Watch your brain function increase as activity is added to a project, and watch children do much better in their seatwork.
- Give kids more recess time, especially when there is going to be extended time-testing in school. **At least twice a day** children should be exercising in the midst of their school day. And no more than one hour of screen time at any one sitting—for you and your children!
- Establish a routine: are you a morning person who likes to walk at dawn, or someone who does best exercising after work? (More on this concept below.) Each day, do your children see your example of physical activity? Can they join in? Make this a priority in your family's day, and watch your brain function improve. What

improves? Attention, memory, and stress management, for starters!

Sleep: The research is clear: many of us are sleep-deprived. In addition, there is convincing evidence that many children who have been diagnosed with an attention deficit disorder are in fact sleep-deprived, and once their sleep is improved (in one study by removing tonsils and adenoids to treat childhood apnea) their attention is better, their impulse control is better, and they are less hyperactive. Sleep improves attention, memory, and stress management—just like exercise—and is as important a component of our well-being as a good diet. So:

- Make peace with your sleep style: are you a **lark** (morning person) or an **owl** (night person)? Plan your day accordingly, and be aware of your children's styles as you look at family schedules. I am a lark, and my daughter is an owl: when she was growing up I often went to bed before she did, yet I also never planned activities for the early morning!
- Make a commitment to get more sleep—9 to 10 hours for children, 7 to 8 hours for adults. Try to avoid using the weekends for "catch up" but stick to a regular schedule.
- Naps are good—especially if they are short (under 30 minutes). Learn how to "power nap" so that you can go into a refreshing "fugue state" through deep breathing and a quiet visualization (like your favorite place to be).
- Be clear about your sleep space: it should be comfortable, uncluttered, filled with things you love, and conducive to positive thoughts and feelings. Help your children set up their room to be most conducive to rest.

And—by the way—do you notice that **none of these suggestions cost any money?** There is no need for fancy equipment, or specialists, or medication to improve our functioning in these simple yet powerful ways. So what are you waiting for?

City Island resident John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website www.ThinkLaughLearn.com. His parent group discussions will resume in the fall at the CI Community Center.

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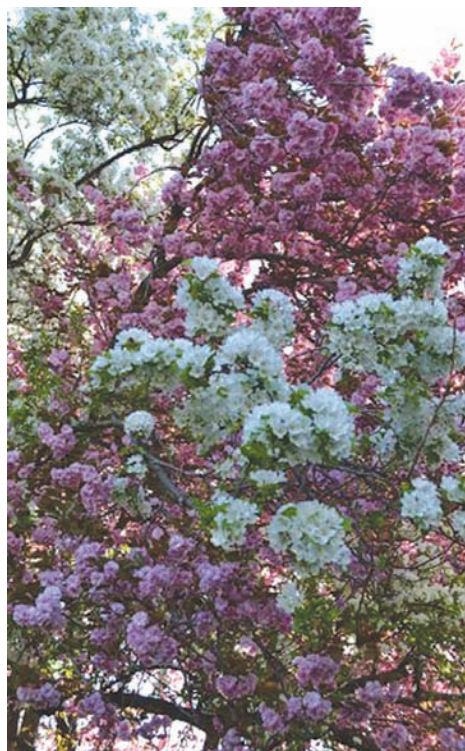
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Obituaries

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.

Edward Sorbellini

Longtime City Island resident Edward Sorbellini died on May 30, 2013, at the age of 67.

He was born and raised in the Bronx and served in the U. S. Navy for six years during the Vietnam war. He then worked as an electrician supervisor for 30 years until his retirement in 2008.

He is survived by his companion, Diana R. Gunzl, and three daughters, Carla, Daniela and Sara Sorbellini; seven granddaughters and two grandsons. He was predeceased by his son, Marcus E. Sorbellini, who passed away on April 7, 2013.

Photos by JANE PROTZMAN

Many Island trees and flowers were in full, beautiful bloom this spring, despite Hurricane Sandy's winds and floods last year. The rainy spring interspersed with some sunny, warm days during May and June, helped Islanders, who worked hard to recover and replant their gardens.

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CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO: Enjoy a week in a Grand Paradise Club Timeshare resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for \$1500 Double occupancy. Call 914-419-0962 for more info and availability.

CLASS OF 1963: Looking for St. Mary's 1963 graduates for 50th reunion on City Island in October. Please contact georgia.bagon@aol.com or 718-885-2381.

CITY ISLAND HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER: One family semi attached brick. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, deck, driveway, private yard, tool shed, whole house fan, attic ladder, attic skylight. Freshly painted. Reduced from \$425,000 to \$395,000. Call 845-216-6726.

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PHOTO RESTORATION: Take old photographs and have them restored like new. Copies made from negatives or prints. Framing available as well. Call Ron 718-885-1403.

CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

RESUMES WRITTEN, EDITED AND LAID OUT: From actors to lawyers. Concise, professional, superior. Get to the next level. Call Katie 718-885-2929.

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On May 28, 2013, retired teachers from P.S. 175 gathered at Westchester Burger in Rye Brook to celebrate another happy year of retirement. Seated (l. to r.): Adele DiChiara, Ellen Funck, Teresa Teto, Evie Carrero, Mary Nardis and Betty Carman. Standing: Ruth Eisen, Joyce deGrasse, Judy Dimaio, Ena Ellwanger, Ray Weis, Jane Valentino, Candi Tighe, Christine Bellacero, Angela Adler, Deborah McManus, Celeste Shanahan and Fran Carollo.



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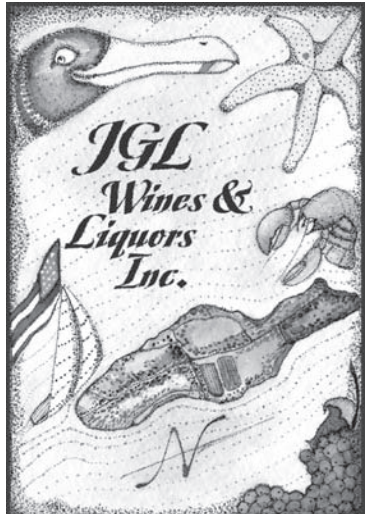
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Kate Tressel

Kate Tressel, granddaughter of Pilot Street's Joan Nilon, was Valedictorian at her graduation from St. Francis Xavier School in Burbank, California, on May 30. Having achieved the highest rank in her class, Kate received the President's Award for Educational Excellence and was named an Honor Member of the California Junior Scholarship Federation. Proud parents are Laura (the film "City Island") and Willard Tressel and an especially proud sister Ana.

Congratulations to Nicolette Lotrionte, who graduated magna cum laude from Brooklyn Law School on June 7, 2013. She will begin a career in corporate law with a firm in New York City in the fall. We wish her the best of luck in her new career. We're so proud of you and love you so much, Mom, Dad, Jillian and Briana.

Paging Dr. Nani! Congratulations to Roger Nani, who graduated with a PhD in chemistry from CalTech on June 14, 2013. In attendance at the graduation were members of his proud family: Paul, Karen and Mark Nani of King Avenue; his fiancée, Leah Mentch; and his grandfather, Horton Street's Ducky Rauhauser. Roger will be conducting research at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland, beginning July 1. His science teachers from P.S. 175 and Fordham Prep should also be very proud.

Congratulations to Jade Pecoraro, who graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea's



Roger Rauhauser Nani was awarded his PhD in chemistry from Caltech at the graduation ceremony on June 14, 2013.



Nicolette Lotrionte

last kindergarten class. We are so proud of you receiving the Student of the Month Award. We love you, the P Crew.

Keep up the good work to Grace Kretzmer, who did a great job on "The Little Mermaid, Jr.", your recitals, the Arts House Café, Kids for a Cause . . . and, of course, your lower school graduation. We are so proud of you, Mama, Daddy and Paxton.

Good luck to Grace in your first Main-stage production of "Shrek, the Musical" at the Tarrytown Music Hall. You'll be great! Love from the Mooney and Kretzmer families.

Happiest 11th birthday wishes to my sweet, sweet Grace. You are what I am most proud. All my love, Mom.

Happy July birthdays to Susan Rauh and her sister, Beth Rota. Happy anniversary to Beth and Matt Rota.

Happy 24th birthday wishes on July 1 to Jillian Lotrionte, with love from Mom, Dad, Nicolette and Briana.

Birthday greetings on July 3 to Minneford Avenue's Margie Cioffi, who turns



Eric Valesio and his fiancée, Wang Jia, received their PhDs in biophysics from Illinois Institute of Technology on May 17, 2013. Eric's proud parents are Islanders Mary and Gene Valesio.

49. You're the best mom on the whole planet! Love, Matthew, XOXOXO

Birthday wishes go out to Barbara Henreckson, our dear mom, who celebrates on July 14, with love from Deb, LZ and Ken.

Birthday greetings on July 18 to Carmellia Ramftl, with love from your family.

Happy July birthday wishes go out to Nancy Zanfrani on July 12 and Gerry McCormick, who turns 23 on July 19.

Happy July 19 birthday wishes to Hawkins Street's Lori Travers.

Happy July 23 birthday wishes to Gianna Ramftl, with love from Dad and Mom, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Fred and Great-Grandma Carmellia.

Birthday greetings to our sweet granddaughters Kayla and Alyssa Fusco. Kayla turns nine on the Fourth of July and Alyssa turns six on July 23. Lots of love from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Best wishes to Jennifer Carman, who will celebrate her birthday on July 21, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday on Aug. 16 to Nolan Quinn, with love and best wishes from your family and friends.

Happy Aug. 17 birthday to Karen Figuera, with love from your family and

friends.

Congratulations on his graduation to our son, Joseph, we wish him continued success at Iona Prep. Love from Mom, Dad, Alaura and Michael.

Birthday greetings on Aug. 30 to Bay Street's Samantha Emerick. Enjoy your special day!

All our love and best wishes to Bay Street's Maria Christina Swieciki, as she celebrates her 22nd birthday on Aug. 22.

Happy birthday on Sept. 2 to Fordham Street's Stephen Swieciki, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

Maria Swieciki

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