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One Dollar

TEMPLE WELCOMES NEW RABBI IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

By KAREN NANI



Rabbi David Levy

Temple Beth-El on City Island Avenue has a new spiritual leader, and his name is Rabbi David Levy. As the only Jewish congregation on City Island nears its 90th anniversary, the new leader is facing a number of challenges, including concerns for the safety of friends and family members in Israel since war broke out in early October 2023.

Rabbi Levy was a stranger to City Island before his appointment in August as interim rabbi of Temple Beth-El, succeeding Rabbi David Markus, who became rabbi of Congregation Shir Ami in Greenwich, CT. "I had no previous connection to City Island, but I already like this little enclave and the many smiles of Island residents," he told *The Current*.

The new rabbi did not take a typical path to Jewish leadership, but he has strong connections to Israel. "I grew up in the small town of Canton, Connecticut. My father, Avi Levy, was a refugee from Iraq who emigrated to Israel. My mom is from Connecticut, but they met on a kibbutz in Israel." He explained that his father had served in the Israeli military in two previous periods of war, 1967 and 1969.

After his parents married and moved to Connecticut, his mother was active in a local synagogue, and David was raised in Jewish traditions, including becoming a bar mitzvah as a teenager. "However, I felt disconnected from Jewish life in my teens," he explained.

This changed during college. David attended Drexel University in Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems. "I met my future wife, Kate Stambler, at a Passover Seder of some friends at Drexel. My interest in religion was rekindling, and I found a Jewish community that I became connected to," he explained.

He went on Birthright Israel, a heritage trip to Jerusalem and the Golan Heights for young adults of Jewish heritage between the ages of 18 and 26. "I found religion powerful through experiences of watching the sunrise over the Dead Sea and other explorations during the trip."

David enrolled in the Hebrew Union

College, which has branches in Jerusalem and New York. He earned a master of arts in religious education in 2010 and a master of arts in Hebrew letters in 2011. He received his rabbinical ordination in May 2012. Along the way, he married Kate in 2007. They have three sons, Benjamin, 11, Micah, 8, and Ezra 4.

Prior to his appointment at Temple Beth-El, he served as associate rabbi at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale and then as interim rabbi at the Congregation of Shir Ami in Greenwich, which Rabbi David Markus now leads. Rabbi Levy is also passionate about Hebrew education and has been a project manager for the Generate Fellowship at the Jewish Education Project in New York City.

He and his wife are getting to know the congregation of "Your Shul by the Sea," as the Temple is known. Temple Beth-El has been a part of the City Island community for 89 years. It started with a small group of 17 men in 1934 who met for prayers in a private home on Hawkins Street (then Orchard Street). As the group began to grow, they rented space on City Island Avenue. In 1942, the first Jewish school classes were held at Trinity Methodist Church, which opened their doors to them. Later that year, the expanding City Island Jewish community began fundraising toward a permanent home.

In 1947, the group purchased a small parcel of land, and the organization became known officially as Temple Beth-El. Then in 1956, a dream became reality and construction began on the building at 480 City Island Avenue. Temple Beth-El was officially dedicated in 1957 as a home for Jewish worship and education and has been the congregation's home ever since.

"Currently, Temple Beth-El has about 50 passionate members, some who live on the Island and others who come from further away," he learned. "My role is to guide them as they figure out their next stage."

So far, members of Temple Beth-El have embraced him. "Rabbi David Levy is a kind, humble man who genuinely wants to get to know the Temple Beth-El congregation and the City Island community. I am aware of his ongoing communication with the religious leaders of Grace Episcopal, Trinity Methodist and St. Mary's. We all look forward to upcoming interfaith events," board member Stuart Sorell told *The Current*.

As violence in Israel and Gaza erupted on October 7, 2023, support for Jewish congregations like Temple Beth-El has come from many Islanders and others across New York City. "The congregation is processing a lot of pain," Rabbi Levy explained. "I have aunts, uncles and cousins from my father's family living in Israel, as many others do throughout New York. Some have been evacuated from their cities, but most we know are safe so far."

Rabbi Levy is especially grateful for the partnership with the New York City

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THE LAST SAILMAKER LEAVES CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photos by JIMMY ITALIANO and KAREN NANI

The last sailmaker, Doyle-Hild, on City Island left for Westchester County in October 2023, leaving the Fordham Place location where it had been located for nearly 60 years. Sailmaker Jimmy Italiano (below) retired when Doyle-Hild left, after having been in the business since he was a teenager in the 1960s.

Much to the dismay of many Islanders, Doyle-Hild moved from City Island to Mamaroneck, NY, during the week of Oct. 9, 2023. A very different business may be moving into the space on Fordham Place.

Hild Sails was founded in 1962 by clam digger Herbert Hild (1928–2016), who opened a small loft with three employees at the United Shipyard at the east end of Carroll Street (now the Boatyard Condominium). An avid sailor, he had worked for 16 years for Charles Ulmer's sail loft (now UK Sailmakers, which left City Island in 2018 for Port Chester, NY).

In 1966 Herb Hild purchased the lot at 225 Fordham Street, the former site of Airways, a sea plane facility and restaurant, and the sail loft dramatically increased its production. By 1973, when the New York Times published a profile of Herb Hild, the business had grown substantially with a staff of 33 and a 12,000 square-foot loft, although he remained an active sailor and member of various yacht clubs.

In the fall of 1998, Herb Hild sold the business to Mark Ploch of Doyle Clearwater who had previously worked on City Island, and in 2000, the ownership of the property was transferred to Hild Holdings. The name of the company was then changed to Doyle-Hild, which remains in business but no longer on City Island.

In 2005, the property on which the loft was located was sold by Hild Holdings to JRP Industries, which was owned by John R. Philip of Scarsdale, NY. Mr. Philip then sold the property in 2020 for \$3,880,000 to a firm named 233 Fordham Industrial LLC, which is owned by real estate developer Shibber Khan, a principal of the NY Criterion Group, which has purchased several properties in Queens and elsewhere. According to Mark Ploch, owner of Doyle-Hild, the sail loft left because of the poor condition of the building. The property owner is reportedly leasing the space to Magna Canna Ltd., a cannabis microbusiness, if permits are granted. This means that a world-class sail maker will likely be



replaced by a firm cultivating, processing, distributing, selling, and delivering marijuana (see story on page 5).

End of an Era

Clam digger Jimmy Italiano, like his father, Tony Italiano, worked for several of the major sailmakers. He began when he was a teenager in the 1960s and finally retired from Doyle-Hild sailmakers in September 2023 when the loft moved. "I started in Ratsey's, now the site of the Sailmaker condominium, when I was in high school. Then my father told me to get a job at Ulmer Sails during college, where I was majoring in engineering," he told *The Current*. "The only one I didn't work for was Valentine's at the corner of Reynolds Street."

"When Butch [Ulmer] retired for the first time, I worked in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and ran the UK Sails loft up there for a few years." When Butch retired for the second time, Jimmy joined Hild Sails, which eventually became Doyle-Hild, and he ran the loft for 10 years.

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

THE MANOR CLUB OF PELHAM is holding its 2023 Annual Holiday Boutique, three great days of holiday shopping, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jewelry, clothing, unique gift items, wine accessories, new vendors and much more. The club is located at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham. Admission is \$5, good for all three days of shopping. Free parking. Don't miss it!

ELECTION DAY SALE will be held at P.S. 175 by the P.T.A. on Tuesday, Nov. 7, with baked goods, raffles and all kind of good things!

ARTIST CHOICE exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery, 320 City Island Avenue, will open on Nov. 11 and run through Nov. 26, with an opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. The deadline to enter work is Nov. 5., and all kinds of art will be accepted. For further information, call 718-885-1403.

THANKSGIVING DINNER will be served this year at Trinity Methodist Church on Thursday, Nov. 23, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help serve; if you want to help, get to the church by 11 a.m. Although there is no charge for dinner, the church will bear the cost of catering, and donations are welcome. Checks should be made out to Trinity United Methodist Church, with a note indicating it is a donation for the Thanksgiving dinner, and mailed to 113 Bay Street or left in the mailbox there.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING will take place this year in Hawkins Park on Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. The lighting of the menorah will be on Dec. 7.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 3 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – ANIMAL ABANDONMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Sept. 19 to Oct. 23, 2023.

9/21 – On Minneford Avenue at 12:30 a.m., an Island female reported an incident of petit larceny. The complainant states that she parked her vehicle in her driveway, and when she woke up, she noticed the car was messy inside and items were missing.

9/21 – An Island male told police that an unknown male walked up to his car and removed his cell phone through the front passenger door on Fordham Street at 6 a.m.

9/24 – At 12 p.m. on Ditmars Street an Island male reported a grand larceny. The victim told police that he parked his vehicle on Sunday and returned to the vehicle on Tuesday and noticed a vehicle part (catalytic converter) had been removed without permission.

9/26 – Another incident of petit larceny occurred on City Island Avenue at 4 a.m. Victim states his neighbor told him that an unknown perpetrator might have stolen something from his vehicle. Upon arrival of police from the 45th Precinct, the victim turned on the vehicle and confirmed that the catalytic converter had been stolen. A neighbor had seen an unknown male emerge from underneath the vehicle.

10/6 – An off-Island male reported being harassed on City Island Avenue at 9 a.m. Complainant stated he was driving on City Island Avenue when he saw some-

one leaving a store and crossing the street. When he stopped to let him cross the street first, another off-Island male got mad and threw his Gatorade bottles at the complainant's truck, causing annoyance and alarm.

10/8 – On Minneford Avenue at 12 midnight, an Island landlord noticed a location had been abandoned and a dog was inside. Landlord states that the tenant had been evicted and had left dog in the house without food or water in an act of animal abandonment.

10/12 – At 9:30 a.m. on Marine Street, an Island female told police that she was harassed by her landlord's brother, who is known in the neighborhood for abusing drugs. He knocked on her door saying that he needed to talk to his mother and asked if she could call his mother. He then asked the victim if she could call his sister and victim agreed. As she walked away, her dog started barking, and she saw him tampering with the chain latch. He never gained entry.

10/17 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 38, and charged him with robbery on City Island Avenue at 6:30 p.m. The victim, an off-Island male, states that, while he was on his boat, the perpetrator approached him and had a verbal dispute about fishing territory, at which point he held a machete to complainant's neck and forcibly removed his phone from his hand and threw it in the water. Then the perpetrator hit the victim with the back of the machete, causing minor laceration and bleeding to the left side of the complainant's face. The perpetrator fled on his boat. A canvass was done with positive results, and the perpetrator was arrested.

10/22 – An Island male reported an incident of criminal mischief on Minneford Avenue at 3:15 p.m. Complainant states that he was inside the location when he heard a loud sound coming from the front door. He observed a known male breaking the window with an unknown object. Complainant states he went outside to confront the perpetrator, who then ran off.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

In October several Island youths were quick to commit acts of vandalism by scratching their names in the fresh concrete at several corners on City Island Avenue while it was still wet.



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Photo courtesy of COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ

Council Member Marjorie Velázquez (third from right) chose the City Island firehouse to announce more than \$1 million in capital funding for the Fire Departments in her district on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, to support the FDNY in her district. Engine 70 on City Island, will use \$125,000 for a new overhead door; Pelham Garden's Engine 97 station will receive \$1.2 million for a new firehouse generator, and Morris Park's EMS Station 20 will receive \$68,300 for a new door.

Chamber Dinner Honorees

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Nov. 4, 2023, the City Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its 113th annual Awards Celebration at the Harlem Yacht Club. Here are biographies for each of the awardees.

Peter Gennari

Sam Bierman Award for Business and Community Service

Peter Gennari is the owner of Clipper Coffee, which opened in 2017 and quickly became a meeting place for Islanders interested in conversation, art, books, community meetings and, of course, good coffee.

In March 2017 Peter was diagnosed with cancer. As he puts it, "It wasn't deadly, but it was a wake-up call that I needed to start living and follow my dreams. Luckily my dreams were highly caffeinated."

Peter grew up on Long Island. He attended Iona College for his undergraduate degree and earned a Master's degree in finance at Fordham University by attending classes at night. He worked on Wall Street for nearly 20 years but decided to look for a better quality of life, so he moved to City Island in 2016 to be with family.

While living in Manhattan, Peter liked to walk around and try different coffee shops in the city. When he decided that life was too short not to follow his dreams, he opened Clipper Coffee, first in a moveable van and now at 275 City Island Avenue, where he offers books for sale at minimal prices, exhibition space for local artists, comfortable seating for casual conversation and meetings, Counter Culture coffee from a downtown supplier and fabulous pastries from Balthazar and other bakeries.

Harlan Sexton on behalf of Quilts of Valor Project

Special Community Service Award

In 2017, a group of City Island women met for the first time to make a red, white and blue quilt for a local Korean War veteran. Some knew how to sew, some did not, and the group's organizer was herself a patchwork newbie. Six years later, Quilters by the Sea QOV is an official group within the national Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The group has more than 20 members from City Island, Long Island and Connecticut, and they have created and awarded more than 25 Quilts of Valor to City Island veterans. It is the only downstate group in New York, so they have also awarded more than 35 quilts (made by other Foundation members) to veterans on Long Island, other NYC boroughs and Westchester County.

The group's mission is to wrap veterans and active service personnel with patriotic quilts made entirely by volunteers. City Island's Legion family has

been crucial to the success of the mission, and the group leader, longtime Island resident Harlan Sexton, is deeply honored to accept the 2023 Special Community Service Award on behalf of the members of Quilters by the Sea QOV.

Calliope Rigos

Tom Ceretta Business Award

Calliope's life began on a 45-foot wooden sailboat *Aegean Sea*, which was docked at the Minneford Yacht Yard, where her father worked as a captain and also in the yard. As a child living on a boat, it was easy for Calliope to keep herself busy. She enjoyed swimming, exploring, sailing and painting.

At an early age, Calliope worked with her father, learning to steer a course and handle a boat, either sailing or motoring. She went on to pump gas, sell ice and dock boats at Minneford and served as a mate on an old Trumpy yacht that cruised around Manhattan. She painted and varnished part-time on transient boats, as well as on the Trumpy and some of Gerald Ford's sailing vessels. She delivered boats with her father and was a dockmaster at Champlin's Marina in Block Island.

Calliope's life changed course when she became a first mate on a yacht tender for the New York Yacht Club Cruise. While the tender was docked in Newport, RI, waiting for the crew, the hired chef didn't show up, and in desperation Calliope found a caterer who could provide meals for the charter guests and the racing crew on the trip to Maine and back. The caterer set up recipes and a shopping list for Calliope, who made her first meal for the charter. To her surprise, the meal was successful. Enjoying that challenge, Calliope discovered that she had acquired a new interest. She had intended to attend the Coast Guard Academy, but her experience as a cook changed things immediately.

Over the years Calliope has worked as a chef, caterer and food service director, as well as a steward for various yacht clubs. On City Island, she has owned a coffee shop (Island Cafe) and had a vintage shop.

Calliope was always intrigued by the Black Whale and loved both the building and the way it was decorated.

She had always considered the possibility of owning a restaurant like the Whale, and it was Richie DePierro who made her dream come true. Although it is difficult without him, Calliope plans to continue his legacy and preserve the Whale. He would not have wanted anything else, she believes. She also feels that she and the Whale are a perfect fit. She enjoys serving great food while preserving the building and nautical treasures from the past and, of course, City Island. "We are fortunate to be able to show newcomers pictures or old items, guide them on

Continued on page 14



Photos by KURSTAL CLANCY

Like nearly all events planned for a Saturday this fall, the tradition of window painting before Halloween was rained out, but all the artists showed up on Sunday at 9 a.m. to add beautiful colors to City Island Avenue.



This once busy sail loft at Doyle-Hild is no longer in operation now that the company has left City Island.

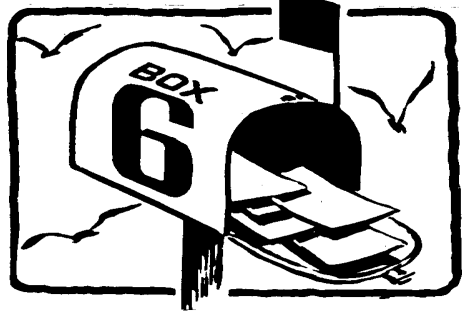
Last Sailmaker Leaves CI

Continued from page 1

He remarked how sail making had changed over the decades. "When I was in high school, all sails were cut by hand. You would chalk out the triangle and cut the shape of the sail off the cut sheet. Then computers began being used to cut the sheets and eventually machines cut the panels." Jimmy would go on to run some of the lofts he worked at, directing what

to sew and helping out with the cutting. He eventually learned how to program the machines that now cut the sails.

As this important chapter in City Island's nautical history closes, Jimmy says he is retiring from sailmaking. It was a bittersweet moment for him when he saw the sewing machines being taken out of the loft on Fordham Place. But he hedged a bit saying that he might help out Mark Ploch, the owner of Hild-Doyle sails, if he calls. Sailmakers never retire they just slow down!!



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.

Claims for Recent Flood Damage

To the City Island Community:

The recent heavy rainfall and flash floods in our area have posed a significant threat to our lives, safety, infrastructure, homes and belongings, causing disruptions to our daily routines, including school and work. While I am actively engaged in collaborating with various city and state offices to implement flood preventing measures in our vulnerable neighborhoods, advocate for the legalization and regulation of basement apartments to ensure safe living conditions and push for climate crisis solutions in Albany, I wanted to provide you with some resources to aid in your recovery from these recent incidents.

You can also submit your claim by calling New York City Housing Recovery Operations at 212-615-8329. Should you require further assistance, please feel free

to reach out to our office at 718-457-0384.
Nathalia Fernandez
 New York State Senator, District 34



Dana Caton adopted Freddy Staudt's dog, April.

Farewell, Freddy

To the City Island Community:

Last month, mussel sucker Freddy

Staudt tragically passed away from a heart attack in front of my home. A reserved yet kind man, Freddy was known for his daily swims in the bay with his beloved dog, April. In his earlier years, he was a skilled carpenter who generously assisted many Islanders in building and maintaining their homes. Rest in peace, Freddy.

April, Freddy's faithful dog, was deeply affected by his sudden absence. Fortunately, the caring community of mussel suckers and clam diggers rallied to support her. Jennifer Fall took charge of April, seeking a temporary home. She approached me and fellow mussel sucker Rose Appese, and together we provided her with a safe space in my home. Over three weeks, April began to adjust and even enjoyed a spa day courtesy of the "For Pet's Sake" pet shop in

New Rochelle.

Several Islanders came together with their support, concern and prayers, including Ron Turner, Sandra Torres, Liz Alderman, Joe Cozzi, Rose Appese and, notably, Dana Caton. When Freddy passed, Dana selflessly offered to adopt April.

For those who may not be familiar with Dana Caton, she is a vibrant, auburn-haired woman resembling the actress Jodie Foster. Dana, a former zoologist turned painter, splits her time between the Avenue and Tennessee. Unbeknownst to me, Dana had been working quietly behind the scenes for years, in collaboration with Freddy's sister, Loretta, to care for April during times when Freddy was unable to do so. Thank you all for your support and kindness.

Lora Lindsey

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Photos by RON TERNER

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, was a very rainy day, like the four previous Saturdays, but the City Island Oyster Reef's environmental festival, Viva la Sound, set itself up inside P.S. 175 rather than Ambrosini Field and drew a very enthusiastic crowd. Murals created by several local schools, as well as a mural painted on the spot, and lessons in knot tying and other skills, accompanied many environmental groups that displayed information about their activities, including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla (top photo).

AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED!



Photos by PAUL NANI

It was another successful annual Legion Pumpkin Sale from Oct. 6 through 8, 2023. Volunteers made sure that everyone left with pleasing pumpkins, beautiful flowers and some sweet treats. Shown above are the dedicated Legion volunteers.

Marijuana Microbusiness Aiming for City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Thanks to information given to Community Board 10 members during the past month, it has become known that a company called Magna Canna Ltd. is applying to the State of New York Office of Cannabis Management for a permit to install a cannabis microbusiness at 233 Fordham Street. If the state approves their application, the company would cultivate, process, distribute, sell and deliver marijuana, although that would not include sales to the general public, at least not in the near future.

The NY Criterion Group, a real estate developer, owns the property, which was until a month ago the location of Doyle-Hild Sails, now in Mamaroneck (see story page 1). The property has a long history, having been owned for many years by sailmaker

Herbert Hild, who bought the property in 1966. It had been the location of the Airways Seaplane Base and Flying School, later a popular lounge called the Airways, which was replaced in 1973 by John Mini Indoor Landscapes. Mini moved in 2004 and is now located in Congers, NY, but the structures in which the plants were grown still exist, presumably a desirable location for the cultivation of cannabis.

Although the Community Board has no role to play in the licensing of this business, residents who are either in favor or against the location of Magna Canna on City Island are advised to contact State Senator Nathalia Fernandez or Assemblyman Michael Benedetto to express their opinions.

New Rabbi

Continued from page 1

Police Department and its commitment to keep houses of worship safe. As Island residents have noticed, there has been increased NYPD presence in front of Temple Beth-El since the violence flared on Oct. 7. "Mayor Adams has been a stalwart of support for the Jewish community, and we thank him," said the newest City Island spiritual leader.

To address the concerns of members dealing with the violence, Rabbi David has shared resources and held special classes in addition to the weekly services. "We also plan to work with United Hatzalah, a non-profit group focused on helping meet the medical needs of those caught in the war in

Israel." Donations can be made via <https://israelrescue.org/mymitzvah/shul-by-the-seal>.

He encourages his congregation and other Islanders to visit or contact him at Temple Beth-El, which offers services in person and online, via Zoom. You can reach him by e-mail at rabbidavidelevy@gmail.com, or check the Temple's website, www.yourshulbythesea.org (see *Organization News* this issue).

Rabbi Levy and his wife, who is a vice president of graphic design at the White Plains Veterinary Emergency Group, look forward to getting to know City Islanders and our unique section of the Bronx. "Growing up, I spent many summers on Cape Cod, and City Island reminds me of that ocean community."

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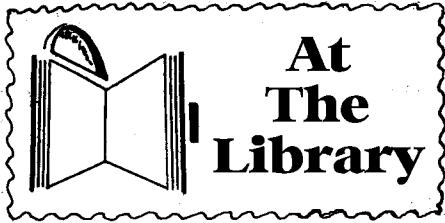
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The New York Public Library's City Island branch will be closed for approximately four weeks to facilitate necessary repairs owing to the extensive rainstorm that occurred recently.

During this temporary closure, patrons are encouraged to use the following nearby branches, which are all fully accessible:

Pelham Bay, 3060 Middletown Road Baychester, 2049 Asch Loop North Eastchester, 1385 East Gun Hill Road All hold items currently on the hold shelf or in transit to City Island Library will remain on-site. To request items while the branch is closed, please place a new request using our website, https://www.nypl.org/, and select another branch for pickup.

Rickey Collado, Library Manager



Bartow-Pell Events

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present and cultivate appre-

ciation for the area's historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or reservations, call 718-885-1461.

Movie Night with the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, will feature the classic film "Casablanca," starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the mansion. Watch the movie, enjoy some popcorn, a signature cocktail and try your luck with some trivia to win some fun swag. Proceeds will benefit the good work of the Friends of Pelham Bay Park. Cost \$25.

First Friday, Nov. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., come listen to Skip Giacco and the Lickety Split Band and enjoy light refreshments. Cost: Bartow-Pell Heritage Members and Above: Free; Bartow-Pell Friend Members: \$5; Seniors/Students: \$10; Adults: \$15.

Kokedama Workshop. On Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Bartow-Pell Museum Educator Margaret Holmes will show you how to create your own kokedama, or Japanese "moss ball," an indoor plant design using soil, two types of moss and a pothos plant. Students will create a unique and artistic hanging or tabletop design that will enliven any shady spot in your home. Limited to 15 people; cost: \$55 (includes materials fee).

A Dramatic Adaptations Workshop will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in which Writer in Resident Amy Frey will work with students on what makes a successful dramatic adaptation, including text-to-scene writing, finding a voice and character development. Students will have the opportunity to workshop their own dramatic adaptations and receive feedback from the group. Cost: Free.

Bartow-Pell Tree ID Walk will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Join Connecticut licensed arborist and NYC Corridor Keeper Super Steward Marc Brodsky as we celebrate Native

American Heritage Month with a tree identification walk on the mansion grounds and learn about the significance of trees used in the everyday lives of indigenous people who lived on this land. Cost free.

Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop with Tracee Neumann of The Garden Room will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn to craft a spectacular holiday wreath for your front door or to give as a gift. Bring your favorite pair of clippers or we will provide one for you. Cost: \$200 (includes materials fee).



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 following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. The Current is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

The following information was collected for The Current by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price
One-Family Houses		
328 King Avenue	7/21/23	\$400,000
74 Hawkins Street	7/28/23	\$350,000
401 King Avenue	8/18/23	\$1,100,000
66 Tier Street	8/24/23	\$455,000
153 Ditmars Street	9/18/23	\$594,000
191 Terrace Street	9/26/23	\$130,000
Multi-Family House		
106 Ditmars Street	7/31/23	\$615,000
110 Marine Street	9/06/23	\$850,000
Condominiums		
5 Deepwater Way	7/27/23	\$675,000
67 Island Pointe	7/31/23	\$780,000
190 Fordham St PH11	8/22/23	\$540,000
Commercial		
105 City Island Avenue	7/07/23	\$750,000

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Cecilia Norbert Notary Public



Alexander B.



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Walter Henning



Debra



Alex Hodges



Kelvin



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WORLD WAR I: The Home Front on City Island

By BERNARD WITLIEB



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Late in World War I, the U.S. Navy established a Naval Training Station in Pelham Bay Park just on the other side of the City Island Bridge, bringing the war effort close to the Island. The map at right, on view at the Nautical Museum, was drawn by the architects who created the Training Station. Note the bridge to City Island at the upper right.

On Sept. 25, 1918, just after the breakfast hour, a 3-inch, 15-pound nonexplosive warning shell overshoot an unidentified eastbound schooner and smashed into the foundation of the home of William Seymour at 20 Centre Street on City Island. Fortunately, no one was injured by the projectile, which had been fired by gunners from Fort Totten in Queens, near Bayside across the Sound.

The fort's artillery had been asked by the War Department to defend the coast by compelling vessels up and down the Sound to display the required signal flags. They were forbidden to use blank shells but had missed their mark several times in the past five months, landing in the Telephone Building yard and near the Chateau Laurier restaurant on Belden Point, where the Morris Yacht Club is now located, and sinking a yacht tender in Throggs Neck. After hearing Fort Totten commandant Lt. Col. Paul Loesar's statement that his mandate would continue, alarmed Islanders petitioned the War Department for cessation of the shelling. These incidents were just two of the ways in which World War I came to City Island and neighboring areas.

The United States had entered the war on April 6, 1917, but exactly two months earlier, the government had confiscated a few German merchant and pleasure ships that were being repaired in City Island shipyards, resulting in an angry note to the State Department from the German ambassador. One consequence of the increasingly strained relations between the two countries, according to the Evening World in February 1917, was that the U.S. "Neutrality Squad of a hundred or more men was quickly increased by all available custom inspectors and clerks."

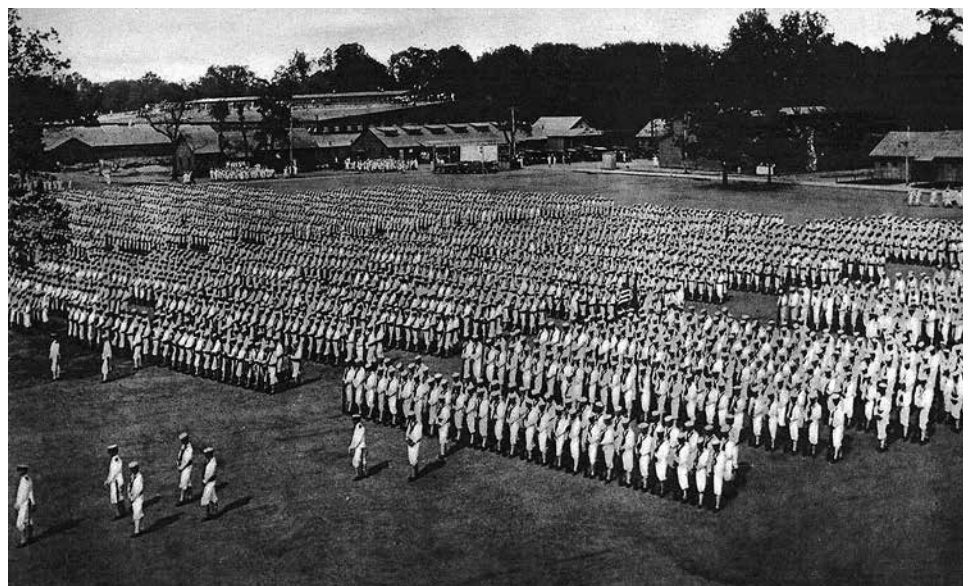
The threat of war and war itself require the mobilization of personnel and materiel. Taking notice of the Germans' increased reliance on submarines, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D.

Roosevelt in 1916 decided on a nationwide policy to shore up the Navy. As part of the effort, the City Island shipyards answered the call. For example, Kyle & Purdy built ten wooden submarine chasers and seven patrol boats; Robert Jacob built five chasers, four seaplane barges, and five harbor tugboats, and B. F. Wood built six seaplane barges. Some of these vessels were sold to France and Italy, which were already engaged in the war against Germany.

Besides the manufacturing of war ships, the yards also repaired damaged vessels. After being crippled by a torpedo from a German submarine, the American tanker Saranac was towed by two naval tugs to City Island.

Early in 1917 Rodman's Neck was an uninhabited tract of land that was part woods and part sandy beach. Named for Samuel Rodman, who purchased the land from the Pell family in the mid-18th century and worked it as farmland, the neck became part of New York City in 1888 as part of Pelham Bay Park, where it was used mainly as a campsite for weekend fishermen and picnic grounds for schoolchildren.

By June 1917, however, a small city appeared on Rodman's Neck—the Naval Reserve Training Station of the United States Navy, designed by the architectural firm Ewing and Allen. More than 5,000 young men, most of them from colleges and universities, were trained to serve on submarine chasers. The regimen was as follows: at least three weeks of probationary training; one month in a training regiment, either radio, quartermaster, gunnery or boatswain's mate, then petty officer; two months of officer training on the USS *Idalis* at sea, upon the conclusion of which the recruits took examinations to determine ranks of ensigns and chief petty officers. Noteworthy among the trainees were Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson (who then went by the name



of Emanuel Goldenberg). The program proved so successful that if the war had been prolonged, the station was to be expanded to accommodate 15,000 men.

An unforeseen setback was that from September to October 1918, and again in December that year, the Spanish flu epidemic afflicted nearly 2,400 sailors, killing 145. A large plan, drawn by Ewing and Allen, is on view in the City Island Nautical Museum, indicating that a large number of wards were constructed to hospitalize sailors who were taken ill.

For diversion, the recruits organized a Naval Reserve football team from "the City Island Basin" that traveled to Governors Island to trounce the Fort Jay team 24 to 0, as the Evening Word reported on Nov. 14, 1917. The baseball team scheduled games against similar military-related squads, such as the City College Radio School, and theatrical troupes regularly entertained. On one occasion an afternoon storm blew down the main tent and wiped out the electrical system. And The Sun reported that in a filled-to-capacity smaller tent, the actors performed a "comedietta" entitled "Some Boston Beans," the fantasy "The Plight of Pierrot and Pierrette," and "Too Many Crooks: A Metropolitan Episode."

The armed services liked their liquid refreshments, perhaps excessively so for some. After Marshal Thomas D. McCarthy's raid on places selling liquor to soldiers, New Rochelle's city administration seriously considered establishing a dry zone from City Island to the Larchmont line.

Patriotic fervor was omnipresent. Ten thousand women took part in a parade in Manhattan on April 26, 1918. Riding in

an open car and designated as a "mother of honor" was Mrs. Arline Burke of 37 Schofield Street "whose five sons were fighting for Uncle Sam," according to April 27 issue of The Sun. The Naval Reserve Band played at St. Mary, Star of the Sea for a fund-raising drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. And on Sunday, May 19, 1918, at the end of a three-day NYC vacation, President Woodrow Wilson made an impromptu request to be driven to the naval station. After a Secret Service agent secured permission, the President rode through the base, being cheered by 4,000 recruits and meeting the hastily summoned commander William B. Franklin. There were no speeches, reported New York Times on the following day. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited the base that same month.

A granite monument with a bronze plaque in Hawkins Park honors USS *Delaware* seaman Leonard Hillson Hawkins, who died from cerebrospinal fever in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 26, 1918, and is buried in Pelham Cemetery. The plaque also commemorates the service of the 104 City Islanders who volunteered for combat in World War I. The American Legion Post at Cross Street is named for Leonard Hawkins, and the women's auxiliary there was responsible for constructing the monument, which was installed a few years after the Parks Department took possession of the property in 1933.

Many of us who celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 may not be aware that City Island was so close to the naval training station in Pelham Bay Park, a map of which is in the City Island Nautical Museum.



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Organization News

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

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are having sales, with half prices on outerwear and bric-a-brac and \$5 bag sales.

We will be closed from Nov. 18 to Dec. 2. The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in both the Thrift Shop and the school gym.

Arlene Byrne

Temple Beth-El

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

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

The following events are scheduled for November 2023:

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

Nov. 3: Erev Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Levy and band (TBE and Zoom)

Nov. 10: Erev Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Levy and band (TBE and Zoom)

Nov. 17: Erev Shabbat Service with Stu and Leslie (Zoom only)

Nov. 24: Erev Shabbat Service with Stu and Shari (and surprises, Zoom only)

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

Continuing classes with Rabbi Levy (all sessions on Zoom only; visit our website for registration information)

Soul Cycle: We will look at Jewish holidays and American holy days, and how we might find deeper meaning in them. Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

Big Questions with Rabbi Levy: Join Rabbi Levy on Nov. 5, at 9:30 a.m. with your Sunday morning coffee and croissant as we delve into the Big Questions facing all of us: How do we disagree constructively? How does love inspire us and challenge us? What is our responsibility to each other, our community, our world?

Special Events

Essential Klezmer: Join author Seth Rogovoy (*Bob Dylan: Prophet, Mystic, Poet; The Essential Klezmer: A Music Lover's Guide to Jewish Roots and Soul Music*) for a Zoom presentation looking at the history of Klezmer from Old World Yiddish weddings to the jazz scene of today. Visit our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org, for registration; \$18. Nov 5. At 7 p.m.

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

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

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal

prayer group to hold members, friends and family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

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

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

Rachel Stark, President;
Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

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

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

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

Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Our Sunday School has reopened in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and young people: Won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and young people, and we do so with love, joy and peace.

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

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 5, at 12 noon. Dues for the 2024 year are \$55; please mail a check as soon as possible or drop it off at the Post. Make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next event. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the Post's flagpole.

Please visit the Leonardhawkinspost156.com website to find the latest community information and downloadable flyers of veteran events.

Thank you for supporting yet another successful Pumpkin Sale and Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale. The community support is much needed and gratefully appreciated. The following are dates and upcoming events:

Nov. 5: Regular Post Meeting at noon (Daylight Savings ends.)

Nov. 7: Election Day Get-Out-The-Vote!

Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919), U.S. Marines Birthday

Nov. 11: Pelham Grove (Winged Victory Monument) Veterans Day Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at Pelham Bay Park. Please arrive promptly at 10:30 as the ceremony will start on time.



Photo by HEATHER BOYLE

Sofia Aponte, Naomi Boyle and Maggie Moroney (l. to r.) received confirmation by Bishop Mary Glasspool on October 1, 2023, at Grace Episcopal Church.

Nov. 11: NYC Veterans Day Parade forms at 26th Street and Fifth Avenue at 1 p.m. Uniform: blue jacket, gray pants, shirt and tie, and Legion cap.

Nov. 12: Bronx Veterans Day Parade forms at East Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Avenue at 12 noon. We will step off under the Bronx County banner.

Nov. 23: Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

American Legion Auxiliary

The November meeting will be on the 7th at 7 p.m. Our annual bake sale was an amazing success! Thank you to all volunteers and donors and to those who came by to grab a little sweetness. We truly are grateful.

If you would like to join our group or obtain information on supporting the American Legion Family's commitment to serving our community veterans and all military personnel and their families, please e-mail us at Ala156correspondence@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Service, not self.

Michelle Del Pozzo

Sons of the American Legion

This month our meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. We encourage anybody who is interested in joining to come out before the meeting and inquire about membership to the Sons.

I would like to thank all who came out to help during the Post 156 Pumpkin Sale and the Auxiliary's bake sale. I would especially like to thank the young ladies and men from Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as other sons and daughters of the Legion family. I also thank all those who came out to buy flowers, pumpkins and baked goods, despite the rainy weekend, to make the sale such a huge success.

On Oct. 14, the SAL held our annual Pig Roast, which was well attended. I would, again, like to thank those SAL members who prepared, cooked and served the food,

and set up before and cleaned up after. On a personal note, I thank my family and my Legion family members who were in attendance for my swearing in as SAL commander that evening, and also my SAL brothers, who have made my transition into the position smooth and easy.

Coming up on Nov. 11, we will join with the rest of the Legion family at the Winged Victory Monument in Pelham Bay Park for the Veterans Day Ceremony. We will gather there at 10:30 a.m.; the ceremony will begin at 10:45. Veterans and attendees of the service are invited back to Post 156 for a lunch hosted by the SAL.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, the Bronx Veterans Day Parade will take place. Step off is at 12 noon at Lafayette and Tremont Avenues, and the parade will finish at the Veterans Memorial Park outside of Edgewater, with a ceremony to follow.

Come out for our Football Sundays at the Legion and cheer for your favorite team.

Dues are now payable for 2024 (\$30 payable to SAL Squadron #156). If possible, we ask that dues be paid by the end of 2023. Payment can be mailed or dropped off at the Post. Please make sure your name is on the envelope. New members are always welcome.

I would like to correct a mistake I made in last month's posting. Our N.Y. Detachment Commander's name is Peter De Angelis.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who have served and are serving in our armed forces. As we all sit down at our Thanksgiving tables with our families around us, may we all share that gratitude.

Here's wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving!

Peter Chadwick

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Our priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services since last August and is also very active in the Island community. Please join us for

Continued on page 12

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

Fall greetings! Quick update: Sadly, the Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 4, has been cancelled. We did not realize that it conflicted with another big event here on City Island and have decided not to go ahead. We look forward to bringing this seasonal event back next year.

This is a reminder that rentals have returned to the Community Center for approved special celebrations and events. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 if you are interested in any upcoming dates.

Our fall schedule of offerings is below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Melissa Cebollero

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla

Now that the boats are out of the water, our members refocus their attention to member training and personal advancement. Being in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, although volunteer, is a career and, just like the Coast Guard, there are many different paths to choose from. It is never too early to prepare and train our members for the 2024 boating season.

This month alone we welcomed four members to our unit, bringing our membership up to 50 members, a 25 percent increase since January. Of the four, one member is brand new to the organization, one has returned after a few years away, and two are transfers from the nearby Bronx Flotilla in Throggs Neck. In order to learn about the community they will be serving, they all visited the City Island Nautical Museum to learn about the rich nautical history of City Island.

Our next Flotilla meetings will take place



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on Tuesday, Nov. 14, and Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our Command staff and officers are available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests. Our Boating Safety Courses will resume in February of 2024 and will be offered monthly throughout the year. If you are interested in joining our Unit or taking a boating class, send us an e-mail at uscgaux0140504@gmail.com.

David P. Mooney

Quilters by the Sea QOV

Our final Sew Day of 2023 was a great success. We made two Quilt of Valor tops, and a member taught our first-ever Patchwork 101 lesson. The series will resume on our first 2024 Sew Day, Feb. 4. In October, QBTS awarded Quilts of Valor to two Suffolk County Vietnam War veterans. Several QOV award ceremonies for City Island veterans are in the planning phase now.

Harlan Sexton

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

We begin the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts: the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) and the Commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2).

Our monthly holy hour will resume on the First Friday, Nov. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Let us give thanks together as a community of faith for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods, which will be distributed to those less fortunate. All are invited to attend. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Dec. 3, is the First Sunday of Advent. It is the beginning of the preparation for the coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ. The advent candle will be placed in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of His coming. Let us pray for world peace as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the School Gym and the Thrift Shop. Come take a look; you will be sure to find great gifts.

Rosette Dietz

City Island Oyster Reef

Despite the inclement weather CIOR's third annual Viva la Sound Environmental Festival took place in the warm and dry confines of P.S. 175. We are very grateful to our school for allowing this to happen. More than 30 nonprofits were present, sharing information about their environmental work in Long Island Sound while face painting, touch tanks and children's book readings kept the young people entertained. More than 20 City Island restaurants and businesses donated sumptuous food. City Island resident, Eric Sanderson, gave an engaging lecture about the Living Shoreline, including a history of the geology of City Island, which, we learned, was created by glacial deposits at the end of the last ice age.

The Viva workshops took place a couple of weeks later, and participants had an opportunity to delve into topics such as water-quality monitoring from the CIOR skiff, oyster measuring, and looking closely at biodiversity, such as boring sponges. One workshop covered microplastics and other sources of pollution in Long Island Sound, and the beauty of indigenous wetlands plants was explored through watercolor painting by Jason Smith of the New York Restoration Project.

P.S. 175 students are actively studying and protecting Long Island Sound. CIOR has been lending a hand as the students measure oysters and identify biodiversity, do beach clean-ups and study microplas-

tics with the National Wildlife Federation on the *Riptide III*. Karen Heil, a science teacher at P.S. 175, received the prestigious Big Apple Award for her innovative work teaching young people about the marine environment.

Our seasonal shell collection is complete, and we recycled more than 10,000 pounds of hard clam and oyster shells, which will be donated to support environmental efforts in Long Island Sound. The shells will be seeded with spat by the Cornell Cooperative Extension's hatchery and returned to CIOR's oyster cages, which are hanging from moorings and docks around City Island.

This fall, we need your help loading and transporting the cured shells to Cornell's Cooperative Extension's Marine Center in Southold, Long Island. The dates for loading and bagging shells are Saturday, Nov. 4 and 18, and Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Pelham Bay Landfill. If you are interested, please reach out to Luna Placchi, Community Outreach and Educational Coordinator, at luna.placchi@cioystreef.org.

Sally Connolly

PSS City Island Center

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

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the Center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning. He is offering a series of classes on android phones and tablets at 11 a.m. and iPhones at 1 p.m. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the Center at 718-885-0727.

November Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. Non-certification hands-on CPR training, FDNY CPR Training Unit.

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 12:30 p.m. Ask Dr. Dick Chernaik. Topic to be announced.

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 1:15 p.m. Inspiring Walt Disney: The Animation of French Decorative Arts.

Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 12:30 p.m. Angelfish with Horst Gerber, President of Greater City Aquarium Society—New York.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. Older Workers Rock: Tips to Stay Resilient, Happy & Fulfilled in Work and Life After 50+ (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University by Career Counselor Renee Rosenberg).

Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 3 p.m. Bones for Life for Balance, Function and Posture (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! by Cynthia Allen).

Thursday, Nov. 30, at 12:30 p.m. Birthday Party with Entertainment by Mark Doyle.

The Current Schedule

Monday
9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
9 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
11 a.m. to 12 noon Android Smartphone

and Tablets

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 to 2 p.m. iPhone classes

Tuesday

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

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

12 noon In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1 p.m. Walking at Orchard Beach

Wednesday

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

11 a.m. Gardening Club

1:15 p.m. In The News

Thursday

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

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

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

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

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Board Games (Bingo at 1:15 on Friday, Nov. 17)

\$20 Haircuts with Tammy on select Fridays in November.)

Extra Events:

Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. Medicare Discussion Group with Tree O'Donnell

Thursdays: Coffee Talk featuring a different coffee every week, all day

We will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving.

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

Please stop by the Center when you have a chance!

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

At our October general meeting, member Hailey Clancy gave a wonderful and informative presentation on why we should be installing plants native to the Northeast. Hailey's interest in gardening began with her love of birds. She learned that birds, insects and plants in particular locations have evolved to support each other in ways that non-native plants do not. As she began converting her lawn to a native plant garden, she was thrilled to find that she attracted many more birds, who in turn supported her plants. Her presentation included beautiful photographs of her garden and the birds that visit it. We are looking forward to having Hailey present at future meetings.

In November, in keeping with our efforts to support City Island's related projects, Barbara Dolensek will give us an update on the City Island Oyster Reef. The presentations will start around 10:15 and run for 20 to 45 minutes. All are welcome!

Members continue to tend the Post Office garden and our containers. The summer plants are beginning to fade, and we plan to remove them before Thanksgiving with the help of Scout Troop 211. We will then fill the containers with winter greenery that should last until we plant in the spring. Please bear with us while the containers are under construction. Plans are also in the works for our annual distribution of wreaths to City Island's public spaces on Thanksgiving weekend.

These projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson



There's No Place Like Home

There are so many films about houses, it was difficult to select those to discuss this month. We begin with the classic film **Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House** (1948), which stars Cary Grant in the title role as advertising executive Jim Blandings. He and his wife, Muriel (Myrna Loy), are fed up with crowded big-city living, so much to the consternation of his lawyer/business manager Bill Cole (Melvyn Douglas), the Blandings buy a house in the country, where they encounter every conceivable homeowner's nightmare. This theme is repeated 40 years later in the **The Money Pit** (1986), which stars Tom Hanks and Shelley Long and shows how little has changed in all that time—except, of course, the cost of things.

Another classic Cary Grant comedy is **Houseboat** (1958). This time he stars as Tom Winston, a widower trying to raise three precocious children alone while living on a houseboat. When the children meet Cinzia (Sophia Loren), they decide that she should be their new maid. In reality, she is an Italian socialite who is trying to get away from her overprotective father, Arturo Zaccardi (Eduardo Ciannelli).

A favorite film from my childhood is the Disney classic **Swiss Family Robinson** (1960). After being shipwrecked, the Robinson family is marooned on an island, where they make a clever home for themselves, and life is idyllic until they have to defend themselves from pirates. The cast includes Dorothy McGuire and John Mills as the parents; James MacArthur, Tommy Kirk and Kevin Corcoran as the brothers Fritz, Ernst and Francis; Janet Munro as a stowaway; and Sessue Hayakawa as the pirate chief.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) is a classic sci-fi adventure starring Henry Thomas as Elliott, a young boy living with his single mother (Dee Wallace), his older brother, Michael (Robert MacNaughton), and his younger sister, Gertie (Drew Barrymore). When Elliott finds an alien whose scientific spaceship accidentally left him behind on Earth, he names him E.T. and wants to help him figure out a way to get home. E.T. rigs up a communication device from junk he finds around the house, but will he be rescued before a group of government scientists gets hold of him?

In **Home for the Holidays** (1995), when her teenage daughter opts out of Thanksgiving, single mother Claudia Larson (Holly Hunter) travels alone to her childhood home for an explosive holiday dinner with her dysfunctional family. Claudia quickly tires of her parents (Anne Bancroft and Charles Durning), her long-suffering sister (Cynthia Stevenson), her snobby brother-in-law (Steve Guttenberg) and her nutty aunt (Geraldine Chaplin). But the evening gets interesting when sparks fly between Claudia and Leo (Dylan McDermott), the handsome friend of her brother Tommy (Robert Downey Jr.).

In **Mother** (1996), science fiction writer John Henderson (Albert Brooks) moves back home with his mother after his second divorce, hoping to determine why all his relationships with women have been unsuccessful. He believes that the key to solving his many troubles with the opposite sex can be found by retracing the steps of his youth and spending time with his mother, Beatrice (Debbie Reynolds). John means well, and he seems to genuinely believe that a better understanding of his mother will lead to dating success. But when they begin to bicker, both start rethinking the arrangement.

Get out your handkerchiefs for the wonderful weeper **Life as a House** (2001), starring Kevin Kline as George Monroe,

an embittered architect who lives in a shack overlooking the Pacific. George is estranged from his ex-wife, Robin (Kristin Scott Thomas), who is remarried to Peter (Jamey Sheridan), a cold wealthy businessman. Robin and Peter have two sons together, but the focus of the film is on Robin and George's troubled teen-age son, Sam (Hayden Christensen). George insists that Sam help him build a house on that property, as they build their own relationship.

Panic Room (2002) is a Manhattan luxury real estate thriller. Jodie Foster plays the newly divorced Meg Altman, who moves into an enormous Upper West Side brownstone with her daughter, Sarah (Kristin Stewart). The house is equipped with a high-tech, fortified hiding place—a panic room—just in case something bad should happen. Of course it does, on their very first night in the house, when three bad guys, Burnham (Forest Whitaker), Raoul (Dwight Yoakam) and Junior (Jared Leto), arrive in search of hidden treasure.

The most unusual and quirkiest entry is **I Capture the Castle** (2003). The story is told by Cassandra Mortmain (Romola Garai), the middle child in an eccentric, artistic English family. Her father, James (Bill Nighy), a frustrated novelist, has moved them to a crumbling, dank, ruined castle in the countryside. When Simon (Henry Thomas) and Neil (Marc Blucas), a pair of American brothers, appear, it turns out they are the castle's new owners, who cause emotional turmoil in the lives of Cassandra and her sister, Rose (Rose Byrne).

My House in Umbria (2003) stars the always excellent Dame Maggie Smith as Mrs. Emily Delahunty, a British romance novelist living in Italy. While returning from a shopping excursion to Milan, Emily barely survives a terrorist train bombing. She invites three fellow survivors to recuperate at her lavish Italian estate: Werner, a German journalist (Benno Fürmann), a British general (Ronnie Barker) and Aimee, a traumatized orphan (Emily Clarke). This odd "family" gets along famously until the arrival of Aimee's disapproving American uncle, entomologist Tom Riversmith (Chris Cooper), whom Mrs. Delahunty must convince that Umbria is Aimee's rightful home.

A richly realized and disturbing melodrama is the **House of Sand and Fog** (2003), starring Jennifer Connelly as Cathy Nicolo, a recovering addict whose modest house on the California coast is seized by the county. The house is sold at auction to Massoud Behrani (Ben Kingsley), a former Iranian military officer who is living a dismal existence in exile with his family. Cathy's attempt to get back the house and Behrani's obdurate refusal to let go of it escalate toward catastrophe. Ron Eldard is on hand as Deputy Sheriff Lester Burdon, whose attempts to help Cathy reclaim her home accelerate the inevitable disaster.

In **Under the Tuscan Sun** (2003), Frances Mayes (Diane Lane) learns that her husband is cheating on her, which turns her life upside down. Trying to bring Frances out of her depression, her best friend, Patti (Sandra Oh), encourages Frances to take a tour of Italy. During the trip, the new divorcée impulsively decides to purchase a rural Tuscan villa and struggles to start her life anew amid colorful local characters, including the handsome Marcello (Raoul Bova).

One of my favorite films in this category is **The Lake House** (2006), a fantastical time-travel romance that reunites Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock, who together survived a harrowing bus ride 12 years previously in **Speed** (1994). When the film begins, Bullock's character, Kate, a stressed-out physician, moves out of the architectural curiosity that gives the picture its title, leaving a note in the mailbox for the next tenant. Reeves's Alex is a real estate developer who turns out to be the previous tenant. An unexplained wrinkle in the space-time continuum has made it possible for Kate in 2006 to correspond with Alex in 2004, by means of handwritten letters placed in that mailbox. Of course, they fall deeply and achingly in love.

In the delightful comedy **The Holiday** (2006), Los Angeles resident Amanda (Cameron Diaz) and Londoner Iris (Kate

Winslet) are each suffering from a broken relationship with men who have cheated. They decide to swap homes, and their trade paves the way for new, more satisfying romances. Amanda falls for Iris's brother, Graham (Jude Law), while Iris is captivated by movie score composer Miles (Jack Black). A poignant subplot concerns the lovely friendship that develops between Iris and neighbor Arthur (Eli Wallach), an aging Hollywood screenwriter.

In **The Visitor** (2007) Richard Jenkins has his first starring role (for which he received a Best Actor Oscar nomination) as Walter Vale, a widowed college economics professor whose life has become passionless and mundane. While attending a conference in Manhattan, he is surprised to discover that a young couple has made a home out of his seldom-used apartment in the city. Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend, Zainab (Danai Gurira), have fallen victim to an elaborate real-estate scam. Walter reluctantly allows the couple to remain. To repay this kindness, talented musician Tarek insists on teaching Walter to play the African drum, which starts to rekindle Walter's spirit. When Tarek's life takes an unexpected negative turn, and his beautiful mother, Mouna (Hiam Abbass), arrives in search of her son, Walter is stunned to find himself smitten.

It's Complicated (2009) is an adult romantic comedy set in Santa Barbara CA starring Meryl Streep as Jane Adler, a divorced successful bakery shop owner. She has three adult children, Luke (Hunter Parrish), Gabby (Zoe Kazan) and Lauren (Caitlin Fitzgerald), who is engaged to Harley (John Krasinski). In late middle age and after years of being on her own, Jane hires architect Adam Schaffer (Steve Martin) to add a new dream kitchen onto her home, and he becomes a romantic interest. Meanwhile, complicating her life is her former husband, Jake (Alec Baldwin), who though remarried finds dormant feelings being rekindled in both Jane and himself.

One of my all-time favorite animated films is the touching Pixar production of **Up** (2009). Carl Fredericksen, at the age of

78, has spent a lifetime in his home with his late beloved wife, Ellie. When the house is destined for destruction by developers, widowed Carl ties thousands of balloons to his home and sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America. His trip is complicated by an inadvertent stowaway, 8-year-old Russell, a wilderness explorer.

Sandra Bullock won a very well deserved Best Actress Academy Award for her performance in **The Blind Side** (2009). She stars as the exceedingly kind Leigh Anne Tuohy, a white Memphis decorator who takes pity on homeless black high school student Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) and welcomes him into her home. This is with the support of her husband, Sean (Tim McGraw); their daughter, Collins (Lily Collins); and scene-stealing son, S J (Jae Head). They hire a tutor, Miss Sue (Kathy Bates), and put Michael on a path to football stardom. Seeing a TV interview with the real Tuohy family confirms what a spectacular job Bullock does with this role.

Nominated for her first Best Actress Academy Award for this role, Jennifer Lawrence stars as Ree Dolly in the 2010 drama **Winter's Bone**. Living in the Ozark Mountains, Ree is faced with an unresponsive mother and a criminal father. She does what she can to manage the household and take care of her two younger siblings. Informed by the sheriff (Garret Dillahunt) that their father put their home up for bond and then disappeared, Ree sets out on a dangerous quest to find him while trying to keep her family together and save their home.

Still Mine (Canadian, 2012) stars James Cromwell as Craig Morrison, a farmer in rural St. Martins, New Brunswick, who battles a government bureaucrat (Jonathan Potts) for the right to build a new house for his ailing wife, Irene (Geneviève Bujold), when their existing home no longer suits her health needs. The film was nominated for seven Canadian Academy Awards with Cromwell winning Best Actor.

And until next time, happy viewing...



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WELL-BEHAVED BEASTS



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and EYVONNE BAKER

The traditional Blessing of the Animals was held in St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard on Oct. 1, 2023. Deacon Bill Mueller blessed four-legged friends, celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessing at Grace Episcopal Church took place a week later, led by Fr. Kevin Moroney.

Finding Comfort with Our Children in the Midst of Conflict Around the World

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

I grew up watching disturbing history unfold on television: the Cuban Missile Crisis (age 12), JFK's assassination (age 13), the Watts Uprising (age 14), MLK's assassination (age 17), and RFK's assassination (age 17, two months later!). Now we have children growing up hearing about the invasion of Ukraine, unrest in Israel/Palestine, escalating climate crises and a general lack of faith in our political system.

Parenting is hard enough when the outside world is seemingly at peace—or at least relatively so. How do we 1) address the “bad news” that floods our media and 2) maintain a sense of gratitude and hope? Here are some tips (adapted from an article from the American Psychological Association):

1) Talk with your child every day. When children have questions, answer them honestly but simply and with reassurance. Ask them what they think is happening, and listen to their answers. Don't discount their feelings.

2) Make your home a safe place emotionally for your child. Spend lots of family time with your child, especially during a time of unrest. Spend more time with your child playing games, walking outside, reading or just snuggling.

3) Limit the amount of news your child watches during a time of unrest. You don't need to hide what's happening in the world from your children, but neither do you have to expose them to constant stories about disturbing events. Monitor your child's Internet usage to make sure that they aren't going to sites that will give gory or sensationalized accounts of war.

4) Realize that the stresses of global unrest may heighten daily stresses. Your children might normally be able to handle a failed test or teasing, but be understanding that they may respond with anger or bad behavior to stress that wouldn't usually rattle them. Reassure them that you just expect them to do their best.

5) During a time of unrest, map out a routine and stick to it. Children are reassured by regular schedules. If homework is completed at a certain time, make sure you keep that time for homework. Your children may be less able to handle change at home when the world situation is unstable.

6) Make sure you take care of yourself. If you don't, you may have less patience and less creativity at a time when

your children need both to be reassured about their own safety. Take care of yourself so that you can take care of your child. Many people find that turning to a spiritual practice is quite helpful.

7) Tell children that they will be all right. Reassure them that they will be protected. Have an emergency plan for the family and share whatever parts of it you think your child can understand. Share with children the emergency plans their schools have and prepare them—some schools shut down in an emergency with the children inside, and your children need to know they will be protected at school even if they are not with their parents.

8) Watch your child for signs of fear and anxiety they may not be able to put into words. Has your child become extra clingy, needing more hugs and kisses than usual? Have your child's grades suddenly dropped? They may be feeling the pressure of what is going on in the world around them. Encourage them to write stories or draw pictures that show how they feel if they can't put their feelings into words.

9) Enlist your child's help. Just because your children are young does not mean they cannot do age-appropriate chores, such as setting the table or cleaning their room. Make sure your children know how their actions contribute to the entire family's well-being. If your children know that they have a role to play and that they can help, they will feel more in control and more confident.

10) Put things into a positive perspective for your child. Neither you nor your child may have been through global unrest before, but you should tell your child that disasters end. Point out times when your child has faced up to and conquered something that may have frightened him, whether it was fear of the dark or of entering a new classroom for the first time. When you talk about bad times, make sure you talk about the good times in the future as well.

Practicing gratitude—a daily reminder of our blessings—will help to keep things in perspective. Keep a gratitude list with your child. Recite the list at least once a day, and revise the list at least once a week. It works.

As we look toward Thanksgiving this month, a time for family gatherings and shared blessings, we can also understand that our celebration of Thanksgiving, which is based on a colonist version of history, is also a day of mourning for indigenous peoples who experienced great losses caused by European colonization. There is always more than one story—humans are rich and complex beings—and we do our children and ourselves a great service by embracing a fuller picture of what has happened in our collective culture. We learn from our past injustices toward others and thus can better strive to avoid repeating them in the future.

I will end with a land acknowledgment for City Island, the ancestral home of the Lenape people. To your ancestors alive today: we honor your commitment to the natural beauty of this place and accept our colonial responsibility for your loss.

Blessings to you and yours...

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Obituaries

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



Photo by RON TERNER

Francis J. Hoffman

Francis J. Hoffman, a lifelong City Island resident, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at the age of 91.

He was born to Kathleen and John Hoffman in their home on Winters Street. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and graduated from Evander Childs High School. He spent a year working at Wheelers Shipyard in Clauson Point but then went to work as a draftsman at Consolidated Edison. He spent three years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and later went to City College on the GI Bill and studied engineering at Cooper Union. He returned to Con Ed, where he worked for more than 40 years, retiring as division manager of engineering.

In 1960 Frank married Sally Loftus, and they raised three children. While they were growing up, Frank volunteered with the boys' basketball team at St. Mary's School and as a Webelo scout leader. After Sally's death in 1983, he married Barbara Healy, who shared his love of boating and introduced him to international travel.

In his 50s, Frank learned to sail and became a member of the City Island Yacht Club, where he later became Commodore. He was a vibrant, active part of many organizations, most notably the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Bronx Democratic Club and the American Legion. He was an active parishioner at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church for over 80 years and a memorable participant in City Island's annual Memorial Day Parade. Always with a smile on his face, Frank greeted everyone on his walks, with a soft spot for dogs.

Frank was predeceased by his first wife, his daughter Mary and his brother Joseph. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 34 years; his daughter Kate, son John and their spouses; his son-in-law Tony and six grandchildren: Eileen, Dan, Jack, Tom, Allie and Charlotte. He will be missed by

all who knew him.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, and he was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

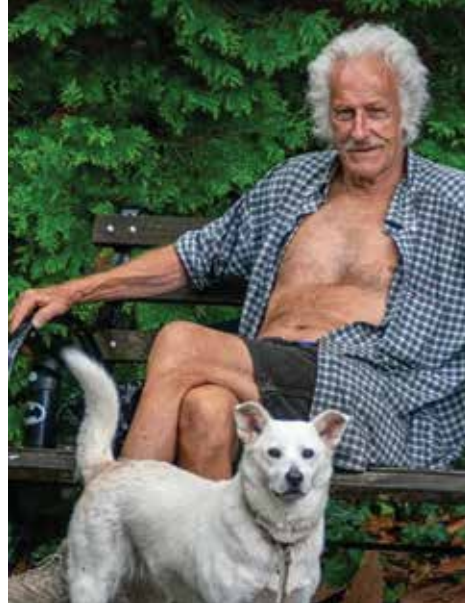


Photo by RON TERNER

Freddy Staudt

Islander Freddy Staudt passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 3, 2023.

He was born on May 8, 1937, in the Bronx to Sebastian and Estelle Staudt. From 1941 to 1946 he lived in Alaska, where he acquired his love for the outdoors, and then returned to the United States. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was honorably discharged in 1957. He worked for the Wire Lathers Union in New York City and in 1964 received a commemorative medal from the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority for his contribution to the construction of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

Freddy later moved to City Island, where he was known as the Island handyman who repaired, created and built many structures. He was a very gentle man who loved animals and respected all creatures of nature. He was a well-known figure on the Island and acquired many faithful friends here.

He is survived by his sister Loretta Manware, and his brother, John Staudt. A private memorial service in his honor was held on Oct. 28.

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Edward John Genovese

Edward J. Genovese was born on May 2, 1940 and passed away on September 13, 2023 at the age of 83.

Eddie grew up in the Westchester Square area of the Bronx where he attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and then Monroe High School until his graduation in 1960. He then worked in the New York Stock Exchange and Mercantile Exchange for many years until his retirement in 1990.

While living in the Bronx, he met and married his wife, Pat Genovese. He moved

to City Island in 1974 and bought a house on Fordham Street, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Ed loved the holidays and was an excellent cook. On Halloween Ed would decorate his house with the greatest Dracula costume and animated skeleton bride and groom. His Christmas decorations were his pride and joy. He would alternate each year with a beautiful 9' tree and then the next year with a beautiful Charles Dickens Christmas village which included lit-up shoppes from the 1800's and trains that circulated around the town.

He was always happy and ready for a good time and enjoyed his late afternoon 'Manhattan'. The greatest compliment was that he was loved by everyone and no one had a bad thing to say about him. A "Celebration of his Life" was held on the West Fordham Street Beach Club for him on October 1st and was attended by more than 100 people, which attests to the high esteem that his friends and family felt for him.

He is predeceased by his mother and father, Mary and Edward Genovese and his sister, Diane Cerullo. Ed is survived by his wife Pat of 51 years and many cousins, including Michael and Robert, Frank and Lois Genovese and other cousins, nieces and nephews.



Photo by KAREN NANI

These Island boats broke loose from their moorings and washed up on the beach just over the City Island Bridge during the northeast wind and rain from tropical storm Ophelia over the weekend of Sept. 23 and 24, 2023. The storm passed by the northeast coast well off shore but still caused swells and rough seas in Long Island Sound. Then, on Sept. 29, heavy rains caused flooding on many City Island streets and water in many resident basements.

Org News

Continued from page 8

Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Sunday School: Congratulations to Sofia Aponte, Naomi Boyle and Maggie Moroney, who received confirmation by Bishop Mary Glasspool on Oct. 1, 2023, during the 10 a.m. service. Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net. We will begin preparing for the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 24 and other special services.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service around 11 a.m. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, the next Bible reading is scheduled for Nov. 12.

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

Karen Nani

AARP Chapter 318

Our next meeting will be on Nov. 9 at 12 noon at Trinity Methodist Church hall. We

will have a sandwich bingo at this meeting; the cost is \$10. On Dec. 6 we will have our luncheon at the Lobster House at 12 noon; payment (\$60) is due at our November meeting.

Mark your calendars that we will be attending Mardi Gras on Feb. 21, 2024. Payment for this event (\$115) is also due at our November meeting. For further information about any of these events, call Catherine Kehoe at 718-824-0037.

Cathy Kehoe

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

NOVEMBER 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
01	Wed	0236	7.21	0837	0.51	1438	7.88	2135	0.07	Wed 01
02	Thu	0327	6.93	0920	0.98	1528	7.46	2227	0.59	Thu 02
03	Fri	0426	6.71	1012	1.42	1629	7.08	2323	1.03	Fri 03
04	Sat	0529	6.61	1123	1.74	1744	6.82			Sat 04
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 5										
05	Sun	0021	1.33	0531	6.65	1136	1.86	1752	6.73	Sun 05
06	Mon	0017	1.46	0628	6.81	1239	1.77	1851	6.76	Mon 06
07	Tue	0109	1.44	0720	7.02	1334	1.53	1943	6.85	Tue 07
08	Wed	0155	1.33	0806	7.23	1421	1.21	2030	6.93	Wed 08
09	Thu	0234	1.17	0846	7.41	1504	0.86	2110	6.99	Thu 09
10	Fri	0307	0.99	0918	7.55	1541	0.52	2144	7.02	Fri 10
11	Sat	0331	0.81	0939	7.70	1613	0.23	2209	7.04	Sat 11
12	Sun	0355	0.62	0959	7.89	1642	-0.02	2232	7.08	Sun 12
13	Mon	0427	0.47	1029	8.09	1713	-0.19	2304	7.14	Mon 13
14	Tue	0504	0.39	1106	8.25	1749	-0.26	2342	7.17	Tue 14
15	Wed	0546	0.41	1147	8.31	1831	-0.21			Wed 15
16	Thu	0025	7.15	0631	0.53	1233	8.23	1917	-0.05	Thu 16
17	Fri	0113	7.08	0721	0.72	1323	8.01	2009	0.19	Fri 17
18	Sat	0206	6.98	0817	0.96	1418	7.68	2109	0.45	Sat 18
19	Sun	0307	6.89	0923	1.14	1521	7.30	2225	0.62	Sun 19
20	Mon	0421	6.90	1054	1.15	1639	7.00	2351	0.61	Mon 20
21	Tue	0551	7.10	1230	0.81	1820	6.93			Tue 21
22	Wed	0100	0.42	0704	7.46	1340	0.27	1936	7.08	Wed 22
23	Thu	0201	0.16	0803	7.85	1439	-0.30	2036	7.25	Thu 23
24	Fri	0254	-0.09	0855	8.16	1533	-0.77	2129	7.37	Fri 24
25	Sat	0345	-0.26	0943	8.37	1624	-1.07	2218	7.42	Sat 25
26	Sun	0431	-0.32	1029	8.44	1713	-1.17	2305	7.38	Sun 26
27	Mon	0516	-0.24	1113	8.38	1759	-1.06	2350	7.28	Mon 27
28	Tue	0558	-0.04	1155	8.20	1843	-0.78			Tue 28
29	Wed	0034	7.14	0638	0.24	1235	7.94	1926	-0.38	Wed 29
30	Thu	0117	6.99	0714	0.58	1315	7.63	2008	0.06	Thu 30
DECEMBER 2023										
01	Fri	0202	6.83	0748	0.91	1355	7.30	2047	0.50	Fri 01
02	Sat	0248	6.71	0824	1.21	1438	6.97	2124	0.87	Sat 02
03	Sun	0338	6.62	0909	1.45	1528	6.68	2200	1.15	Sun 03
04	Mon	0431	6.58	1003	1.59	1629	6.44	2239	1.31	Mon 04



Non-Native Plants and Animals

If the spotted lanternfly manages to hang on and become a permanent part of the North American landscape, it will not be the first introduced species to take hold and thrive here. Some of our other life-long guests may surprise you. The common pigeon, for example. Technically known as a Rock Pigeon, this member of the dove family arrived on our shores with European colonists in the 17th century. In addition to being a bird native to Europe, the Rock Pigeon has as its ancestral home parts of Asia and North Africa.

Other common non-native species in America include the House Sparrow, the Mute Swan and European Starling. The House Sparrow was introduced in Brooklyn in 1851. The idea was to control the moths that were attacking New York City's basswood trees at that time. Mute Swans were introduced later in the 19th century as lawn ornaments, that is to say, they were brought over to enhance the look of the properties of wealthy Americans.

The story of how the European Starling made it to America is our favorite, though.

In 1890 a man named Eugene Schieffelin let his enthusiasm for Shakespeare get the better of him. He and a group of fellow fanatics for the immortal bard had an idea to release all the birds from the works of Shakespeare into American skies. They should have stopped with the starling because the 60 that were released in Central Park took to their new surroundings with avian vim and vigor. Today, an estimated 46 million descendants call North America home.

Not to be outdone by its non-native cousins, a very native American Bittern was spotted in the Bronx Botanical Garden last month. This uncommon visitor to our area was probably blown off course by one of those stiff autumn winds as it was migrating south with the other snowbirds. Keep your eye out for our own migrants, who will soon be arriving from way up north. Waterfowl such as buffleheads, loons and scaup are among the more familiar visitors. For a migrant snowy owl, however, it will probably be necessary to tune in to a snowy owl tracker or two online.

Plants can also be native and non-native. Some non-native vines that can be a handful if you let them include honeysuckle, wisteria and kudzu. Honeysuckle and wisteria at least have their good looks and smells to commend them. The kudzu vine, on the other hand, is irredeemable. This invader will literally smother whatever gets in its way. Whole trees that have been blanketed by kudzu take on a very different kind of shape, making it difficult to identify in many instances. As frustrating as traffic on the Hutch can be, we find it easier to ratchet down the rage when it becomes clear that the slowdown is being caused by teams of workers out tackling another kudzu vine (or two or three) on the side of the road.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana - minima aurea, with dwarf Japanese maple, azaleas and hosta.

Autumn Planting

I've been out in the garden, as are most gardeners at this time of year, pruning, clearing, adding nutrients to the soil and planting bulbs. It's a busy time, but as I get older, I find myself paring down the selection of plants to only a few that suppress weeds but still make a natural and beautiful picture.

I am an advocate for holly, box and yew. These are the foundation evergreens. You can clothe your house with these plants to create a timeless look, so that the building becomes a natural part of the landscape. Be sure not to put the garden too close to the building foundation, but make sure the beds are at least eight to ten feet in width. Many people make four-foot beds, and the result is that the house does not sit properly in its environment.

If the plants you choose are evergreen, your work is minimal. I love ivy because it suppresses weeds, and it's glossy and looks beautiful whether it is climbing on an old shed, pouring out of pots or scrambling through a flower bed. Of course, there are many evergreens to use besides holly, box and yew, but I shy away from spruce as they are conical and un-prunable, as is pine, because pruning destroys their natural shape. For small gardens it is best to use the three I like because their size can be contained. Varieties of yellow chamaecyparis (false cypress) and pines are also good choices and give texture to a green scheme. For shade, rhododendrons and sarcococca

(sweet box) are perfect.

Containerized plants can be put in the ground at any time of year but avoid planting them before a hard freeze. An autumn-planted specimen will produce more growth during spring than its spring-planted equivalent.

If the root ball is solid, it is very important to score the root mass with a sharp knife with four vertical one-inch cuts along the entire length of the root ball and score an X in the bottom. This will prevent girdling and encourage more root growth. Make wide saucerlike holes rather than deep narrow ones. Put a handful of super phosphate in the bottom of the hole and backfill with the same soil that you removed while digging. If you add good soil here, the roots will want to stay put. Water immediately and deeply even if rain is forecast. Water the soil for two years to a depth of 12 inches every other week during the growing season.

Plant trees with colored bark, even if you choose only one for winter interest. Stewartia, the great cinnamon bark maple and Himalayan birch are all wonderful. Red twig dogwoods, heather and small grasses can complete a lovely winter picture. Winter is nigh, and if you plan with evergreens, your garden will be for all seasons.

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

Chamber Honorees

Continued from page 3

walks, tell a clamdigger story or send them to our museum. I believe this is important for City Island," Calliope says. "I am very thankful for all the support from the community, my friends, my family and my small yet mighty team at the Black Whale."

Bill and Kurstal Clancy

Catherine Scott Community Service Award
A fourth-generation City Islander, Bill Clancy has a long history of service to his community, which was engrained in him by his father, Bill Clancy Sr., and grandfather, known as "Chief" to the Islanders. As a young boy, Bill volunteered with Pride Unlimited (PU) in its City Island garbage cleanups, was president of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Jr. Corps, worked with the original Community Center and renovated the C.I. triangle as a Troop 211 Eagle Scout. At 17, Bill was awarded a Congressional Silver Medal for community service by Representative Mario Biaggi and was the organizer of "The Bronx Cares," a countywide fundraiser for victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

He is currently the president of Pelham Cemetery and vice president of City Island Civic Association. He is a founding member and four times Past Commander of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 156. In 2017, he was elected the NY State Commander for SAL, a one-year term, and traveled state-wide to 62 counties to promote volunteerism and good citizenship.

Kurstal Clancy grew up in upstate New York channeling a true passion for sports, animals and all things outdoors. Ironically she moved to NYC after college and lived the "Manhattan life" until 16 years ago, when she met clam digger Bill Clancy and instantly fell in love with City Island (and also Bill). She quickly realized the uniqueness of this tight-knit community, where people look out for one another and make a genuine difference by giving their time.

Kurstal has been an active volunteer, most notably for orchestrating (with the help of her friend Jeannine Mazzeo) the Children's Halloween Window Painting event. She's also quick to lend a hand volunteering at the C.I. Little League snack shack, planting trees and helping at community cleanups, to name just a few.

Bill and Kurstal are the proud parents

of two sons, Geir and Stenn Clancy, good CI citizens in their own right who follow the City Island tradition of giving back.

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Photo by MATT PANZA

On Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, the annual Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea outdoor Mass was moved indoors for the first time in approximately 50 years because of Tropical Storm Ophelia. Catechists for the religious education program were commissioned at the end of the Mass, and refreshments were served afterwards in the rectory.

City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the City Island Culinary Club. September started off with our celebration of the bundt pan. Members feasted on cheesy parmesan garlic monkey bread as well as a tasty bacon cheeseburger bundt pan casserole and a delicious meatloaf in a bundt pan and mashed potatoes. We also welcomed Martha and Marie as new members. It was a great meeting.

During the next month we will prepare our side dishes for Pastor Jolly and Trinity Church. For Thanksgiving we also have our ninth annual holiday cookie exchange, as well as our second annual soup exchange, which was such a hit last year.

We truly encourage anyone who has interest to please drop in and join us at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 6, and Monday, Nov. 20, at the City Island Community Center. Happy cooking to all. Here is a recipe for a creamy portobello soup.

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 8-ounce ham steak, diced
- 4 leeks (white and light green parts only), thinly sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 5-inch portobello mushroom caps, stemmed and chopped
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons dry sherry or madeira wine (optional)
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup half-and-half
- Crusty bread, for serving (optional)

Directions

1. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in a pot over medium-high heat, and cook until lightly browned. Add the ham and cook until slightly browned, about 3 minutes. Remove the ham with a slotted spoon to a plate. Add 1/2 tablespoon butter, 1 cup leeks, and salt and pepper to taste. Cook for 4 minutes, then add to the plate; set aside.

2. Add the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons butter, leeks, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and pepper to taste to the pot; cook until wilted, about 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook 3 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Stir in 2 tablespoons of sherry, if using, scraping up any browned bits, and cook until evaporated. Add the broth and 2 cups water. Cover and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until the mushrooms are tender, 8 to 10 minutes.

3. Puree the soup in batches in a blender until smooth, cracking the lid to let steam escape. Return to the pot, whisk in the half-and-half and bring just to a boil. Stir in three-quarters of the ham-leek mixture, the remaining 1 tablespoon sherry, if using, and salt and pepper to taste. Serve topped with the remaining ham and leeks.

Note: When blending hot liquid, first let it cool for five minutes or so, then transfer it to a blender, filling only halfway. Put the lid on, leaving one corner open. Cover the lid with a kitchen towel to catch splatters, and pulse until smooth.

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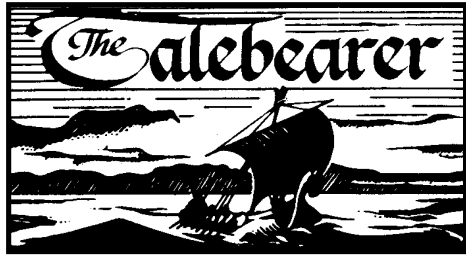
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Emma Kolb, daughter of Christopher and Thailine Kolb

Blessings to Sofia Aponte, Naomi Boyle and Maggie Moroney on their confirmation by Bishop Mary Glasspool on Oct. 1 at Grace Episcopal Church. The confirmands were presented with joy to the bishop by the Rev. Kevin Moroney, their sponsors and the Grace congregation. A reception followed in the Church Hall.

Happy Fall birthdays to City Island brothers Arlo and Pip Ford! We love you and are so excited for all the adventures you'll have this year!

Welcome to our precious baby girl, Emma Josephine Paula Kolb born Oct. 9. Proud parents are Christopher and Thailine, grandparents Don and Rose, Aunt Lily, Uncles Donny and Rob, and big cousin Parker. May God bless you and be with you always.

Birthday wishes across the miles from City Island to California to our "Coastie" Bobby Swieciki, who celebrates on Nov. 12.

Congratulations to clam digger Jimmy Italiano, who retired from Doyle Sails in September (see story p.1). Jimmy worked



Gina and Frank Strazzera will celebrate their 30th anniversary in November.

for three of the major sailmakers on City Island from the 1960s through 2023, including Ratsey's, Ulmer and Hild/Doyle Sails. Enjoy retirement!

November is a month to celebrate some Nani birthdays: Happy second birthday to Horton Street's Christopher Nani on Nov. 3, and happy (too many to list) birthday to King Avenue's Paul Nani on Nov. 15.

Jim and Donna McGowan and Jose and Reina Martinez proudly announce the marriage of their children Bridget and Osmar. They were married on Oct. 7 in Jacksonville, FL. Fun, love and happiness were had by one and all! They are honeymooning in Japan and Hawaii.

Happy belated birthday on Oct. 15 to our Tabitha. You are our one and done, our ride or die! All of our love, Mom and Dad.

Best wishes for continued happiness on Nov. 13 to Gia and Frank Strazzera, who are celebrating 30 wonderful years! With love to my favorite son and daughter-in-law, Mom.

Happy birthday on Nov. 21 to Nick Ruggiero, with love from your family and friends.

Happy Oct. 27 birthday wishes to Chris-



Happy fall birthdays to Arlo and Pip Ford.

topher Kolb and Nov. 3 birthday wishes to Lily Kolb. Enjoy your special day. All our love, Mom and Dad and baby Emma.

Ian Maniotis celebrated his first birthday on Oct. 7 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Congratulations!

Many happy returns to Ethel Lott, who will celebrate her birthday on Nov. 23.

Happy November birthday to Melissa Sotelo-Wright.

Wishing our readers, neighbors and friends a very HAPPY, HEALTHY and BLESSED Thanksgiving!

Maria Swieciki

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Congratulations to Bridget McGowan and Osmar Martinez on their October wedding.



Ian Manotis turned 1 on Oct. 7.

A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control advertisement: WE SPECIALIZE IN CONTROL OF ROACHES, BEDBUGS, FLEAS, ANTS, SPIDERS, MICE, RODENTS, TERMITES & TICKS. WILDLIFE REMOVAL. COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • APARTMENTS

Greg Manganello Nick Vrettos Pelham Collision advertisement: 75 LINCOLN AVE. PELHAM, N.Y. 10803 914-435-8188 PELHAMCOLLISIONLLC@GMAIL.COM

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