

The Island Current

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One Dollar

A VIEW WITHOUT SWANS?

By MAURA MANDRANO



Photos by MAURA MANDRANO

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed that the species of mute swans, like those above that inhabit the coves and inlets around City Island, be completely eradicated from New York State by the year 2025.

Many Islanders enjoy few sights more than that of a pure white swan gliding silently over the waters of Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound. In late summer, they thrill to see a swan family out for an afternoon glide, perfectly spaced like a military flotilla: mama, babies (cygnets) following, and proud papa bringing up the rear. Swans mate for life, and their young stay with the parents for well over a year before sailing off on their own.

Unfortunately for swan fans, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes that the wild population of mute swans be completely eradicated in New York State by the year 2025. They say that mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), indigenous to Europe and Asia, are a "non-native" invasive species brought here during the late 1800s to adorn the lakes and ponds and that their numbers have increased substantially in recent years to pose an environmental hazard. Similar bills have also been enacted in Michigan, Virginia, Maryland and other states where the population of wild mute swans has grown out of control.

According to the New York State Invasive Species website, "Mute swans are non-migratory waterfowl. They were first introduced in the United States as a decorative captive waterfowl in the 1870s because of their impressive appearance. In the early 1900s, some of the swans escaped captivity in New Jersey (1916) and in New York (1919). Mute swans are now found throughout the Atlantic Flyway."

The DEC's Bureau of Wildlife (BOW)

notes that "Mute swans can cause a variety of problems, including exhibiting aggressive behavior towards people, destruction of submerged aquatic vegetation, displacement of native wildlife species, degradation of water quality and potential hazards to aviation."

How would DEC accomplish this eradication? According to the New York Times, "the birds would either be shot or captured and gassed; eggs on nests would be oiled, which keeps them from hatching."

DEC has, however, been protective of mute swans in the past. According to the Invasive Species website, "In many states, egg addling, culling and euthanasia have been performed to control mute swan populations. However, mute swans are protected by the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. Do not handle or harm the swans, their nests, or any eggs without DEC authorization. If you have a problem with controlling mute swans, contact the DEC for more information."

The population of mute swans in New York State is estimated at 2,200 birds, but this is the only swan species that is seen around City Island, so it has become an issue among animal-rights activists and swan lovers, who claim that the DEC wishes to kill a species in the Long Island Sound area that seems to have co-existed successfully with humans and other species for over a century.

Wildlife Watch, Inc., a nonprofit wildlife advocacy group, agrees that the mute swan "is not native but neither is the Ring-necked Pheasant, Brown Trout or, in

the Great Lakes, Coho and other salmon species, all of which the DEC is happy to have in spite of the ecological damage that the Salmonids create by directly competing with or eliminating native species; in fact NY taxpayers subsidize these fisheries. While governments claim to abide by the concept of 'sustainable use,' they don't practice it, and these Salmonids (salmon) are constantly replenished (as are other native and non-native species) through mechanistic, anthropogenic means."

However, the mute swan eradication plan is likely to have the support of the Audubon Society. According to the Times, "the director of conservation and science for Audubon New York said the statewide group would soon have a conference call with the 27 chapter heads. An official position will follow, but an endorsement seems likely."

Many City Islanders have stories of friendly interactions with mute swans and are surprised to hear about the DEC plan to eradicate them. During the spring and summer of 2013, for example, a pair of mute swans made a nest on a broken dock in the ruins of the Sailmaker Marina on east Schofield Street. Soon there were four eggs in the nest, but one rolled off into the murky water and was lost.

The property owner saw that the swans' nest was too shallow, composed of discarded candy wrappers and fishing line, and he decided to help. He gathered natural nesting materials, such as reeds, straw and seaweed, and presented them to the pair. For several days he watched the swans carefully sift through the material and rebuild their nest. He never fed them but sometimes offered fresh water from a hose. The swans allowed him to sit next to them on the dock, inches away from their precious eggs. They were neither aggressive nor fearful.

Others contend that the swans can be aggressive, especially when protecting their young. "I myself have seen a swan attack and kill a Canada goose right on my own beach, attack and drive off egrets and try to drown a dog. I love seeing the baby swans in the spring, but the adults are not sweet natured," said Islander Barbara Dolensek.

Wildlife Watch agrees that "swans, in general, due to their larger size, will keep other waterfowl from nesting near them," but points out that "one way to keep Canada geese and ducks from nesting in a particular area is to allow mute swans to nest there." Canada goose populations have

Continued on page 3

SNOW, SNOW EVERYWHERE!



Photos by KAREN NANI, RICK DeWITT and JANE PROTZMAN

The winter of 2014 kept the snow shovels busy on City Island with storms dumping over eight inches each on Jan. 3 and Feb. 3. While the Department of Sanitation plows cleared the avenue, Islanders grew weary of digging their cars out and finding parking on snow-piled side streets. But, as many acknowledged, the snow was picturesque on the trees and fun for P.S. 175 students, who enjoyed a rare snow day on Feb. 3.

BRIEFLY...

ANNUAL WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

on City Island will take place on Sunday, March 23, at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your story to share, or that of a favorite woman. Also bring healthy finger foods that are easy to eat; coffee and tea are donated by Cheryl Berent. Call Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or Toby Liederman at 718-885-3423 for more information.

FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK FUND-RAISER

will be held at the Pelham/Split Rock Clubhouse on Thursday, March 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. This fifth annual event will raise funds for the Sensory Garden providing accessible programming for children of all ages and abilities. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes and more. Good friends guaranteed. For information, call 718-430-4685 or email friendsofbbp@yahoo.com.

CITY ISLAND-BASED BALLET TROUPE AJKUN BT

will present a lecture and performance on the subject of women dancing throughout history on Saturday, March 8, at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Historic Site, 897 South Columbus Avenue in Mount Vernon. The presentation, part of AjkunBT's annual Museum Performance Series, is in recognition of Women's History Month. The informative lecture will be given by a historian with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and the performance will present dancers portraying three prominent women in American history: Anne Hutchinson, Abigail Adams and Eleanor Roosevelt. The event will be followed by a chance to talk with the dancers and enjoy light refreshments. The event is free, but please make reservations by calling 914-667-4116. For more about AjkunBT, visit the following websites: www.ajkunbt.org, www.YouTube.com/AjkunBT and www.facebook.com/AjkunBT.

IRISH MUSIC CONCERT:

On Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m., Grace Church will host an afternoon of Irish entertainment. Bill Bell and Devin Shepherd will sing and play traditional music on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, bodhran and other instruments. All tickets are \$25 and include an Irish buffet after the concert. Tickets may be purchased in advance on the church website www.gracecityisland.org. Cash only at the door. For more information, email music@gracecityisland.org.

SADDLE UP FOR THE PTA CARD PARTY:

This year's card party with its Wild West theme will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21, at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course on the Shore Road. Everyone is invited to come and join the fun. The PTA at P.S. 175 works hard to raise money to cover expenses and enrichment programs for the students. Donated prizes and services will be raffled off and they need every cent to maintain the kinds of programs that set the school apart. For tickets and information, call the school at 718-885-1093 and select the PTA extension.

PANCAKE SUPPER:

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street on Tuesday, March 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Bring your appetite for pancakes, bacon, sausages and hot cross buns to the annual "Fat Tuesday" event run by the men's group at Grace.

CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM REOPENS

on Saturday, April 5, at 1 p.m. with an exhibition of photographs by Islander Jane Protzman entitled "Water, Water Every Where." Jane's first show was at the museum 10 long years ago, and she has added new pictures taken on her adventures here and abroad. There will be a reception on April 15 at 2 p.m., but as of April 5, the museum, at 190 Fordham Street, will be open on its usual schedule of Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityislandmuseum.org.

A FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

will be presented by the City Island Theater Group over the first two weekends in March. The festival is a collection of 12 short plays, six of which will be presented Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and March 1, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m. The remaining six plays will be presented Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 9, at 3 p.m. All productions will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. Free valet parking is available in Sammy's lot #3, just past the Chinese restaurant on City Island Avenue. Tickets can be purchased on line by visiting our website, www.cityislandtheatergroup.com, or by calling 718-885-3066 or emailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

AUDITIONS

for Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" will be on Saturday, March 8, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, March 10, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Auditions will be held in Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON*
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY

Police provided details on the following arrests (*) and incidents for the period from Jan. 24, 2014 to Feb. 14, 2014.

1/24 - On Fordham Street at 1:10 p.m., an Island resident reported that an unknown person withdrew money from his ATM account without permission in an act of grand larceny. The incident is under investigation.

1/28 - At 8 a.m., an Island resident re-

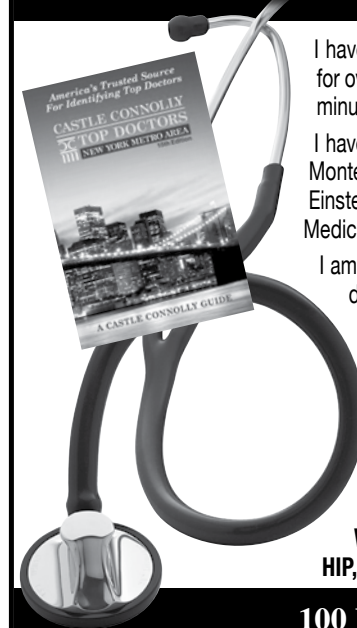
ported a burglary on Bay Street. A homeowner returned and noticed that several items were missing from the house, but there was no sign of forced entry. However, the rear door was left unlocked and there were tracks in the snow leading away from the back door.

2/4 - The owner of a vehicle left the car safely parked on Pilot Street but returned to find it damaged at 4 p.m. The owner reported the property damage, and police classified the incident as leaving the scene of an accident.

2/7 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 18, on Centre Street at 9:30 p.m. The defendant was charged with criminal possession of a weapon after he was found with a gravity knife.

2/14 - On Pilot Street at 11:30 p.m., the owner of a vehicle parked overnight returned to find it damaged with numerous dents and scratches.

Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.



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

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

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

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P.O. Box 6
City Island, N.Y. 10464



EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268
www.theislandcurrent.com

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
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BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Danegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell, Teresa Teto and Johanna Paciullo.

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SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, Jordan Most, attorney for the Italian Hospital Society, presented to the Zoning and Housing Committee of Community Board 10 a third set of plans for the housing development that the society wants to build at 222 City Island Avenue, at Schofield Street.

This plan has been submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), which will hold a public hearing on Feb. 25, to consider the society's application for a variance that would allow the construction of a residential building in a manufacturing zone. The previous application proposed a single large building that would include assisted-living for more than 200 market-rate residents. The new plan includes four smaller buildings with apartments for 54 and parking at ground level.

Although members of the committee agreed that the apartment complex was much reduced in size, they asked a number of questions that were not answered

to their satisfaction. First of all, it was not clear why the society is so determined to build housing for seniors in a flood zone where evacuation during serious storms will be necessary. Second, Mr. Most could not guarantee that the BSA could restrict the development to seniors.

These issues were also considered by the City Island Civic Association, which, on the advice of elected officials and its own attorney, submitted to the BSA a response to the revised plan that did not support the latest revision of the plans.

After reading the Civic response and reviewing the plans in greater detail, the Zoning and Housing Committee voted unanimously to reject a resolution that would support the variance application.

Several Island residents, along with Community Board district manager Kenneth Kearns, plan to attend the hearing on Feb. 25 in order to present testimony arguing against the project.

Swans

Continued from page 1

multiplied greatly in recent years, posing a nuisance for many homeowners and a hazard to airplanes; for the latter reason, they are now being "controlled" near New York airports. However, as *wildwatch.org* points out, "That is unlikely to gain the approval of BOW as its goal is to keep waterfowl numbers up (including those of Canada geese) for hunters' guns in the fall."

Island resident Jack Rothman, an avid birdwatcher, however, is in agreement with the plan. "Scientifically and logically, I support the thinning of wild mute swan populations. Most birders that I know believe that getting rid of them is a good idea. The birds

foul the water with their waste; they attack some other nesting bird species; they devour and destroy food sources that our native species need and change the ecological systems in the water, upsetting the balance."

Jack agrees that mute swans are beautiful and recognizes that people have sentimental reasons for liking them. He hates the idea of killing any living thing this way. "But the survival of our native bird populations is important. These swans belong in Europe, not here."

This may surprise many Island sailors who enjoy having swans come over to their boats and docks during the summer months. These boaters have fed the swans for decades with no evident harm to Long Island Sound.

If concerned swan lovers are upset by the proposal to eradicate the wild mute swans, they have an ally in State Senator Tony Avella of Queens, who has written the bill S.6589 to postpone the plan for two years, so that DEC can come up with more evidence to justify killing the mute swans. If you support this moratorium, contact state legislators and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors and urge passage of Senate Bill # S.6589. You can read the text of the bill at <http://bit.ly/lfdEgVR>.



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Bridge Preconstruction Begins and ULURP Begins Again

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

When the construction stay was lifted at the end of December, DOT's contractors went to work removing trees from the park side of the bridge on the west and testing for water main locations by digging up part of Catherine Scott Promenade. The DOT community liaison claimed that this was all part of the preconstruction process in preparation for a temporary water main.

ning had failed to note that part of Pelham Bay Park is, in fact, in Community Board 12, which would have to participate in the application process. Revised ULURP applications have subsequently been submitted, and the two community boards will hold a hearing on Feb. 25 and are scheduled to vote in March.

In the meantime, work has been taking place near the bridge, and many Islanders have expressed concern that construction was beginning in earnest. However, the Civic Association attorney advised residents that the installation of signs and the cutting of trees on parkland along the west side of the bridge did not affect the specific areas in the ULURP application.

When a couple of trees were taken down on the Catherine Scott Promenade and a backhoe started digging near the southwest end of the bridge, concerns were raised again, as the promenade is covered by the ULURP application. However, DOT representatives claim that this work is merely part of the process of testing for water main pipes, in preparation for new temporary pipes, and that the promenade would be restored to its original appearance.

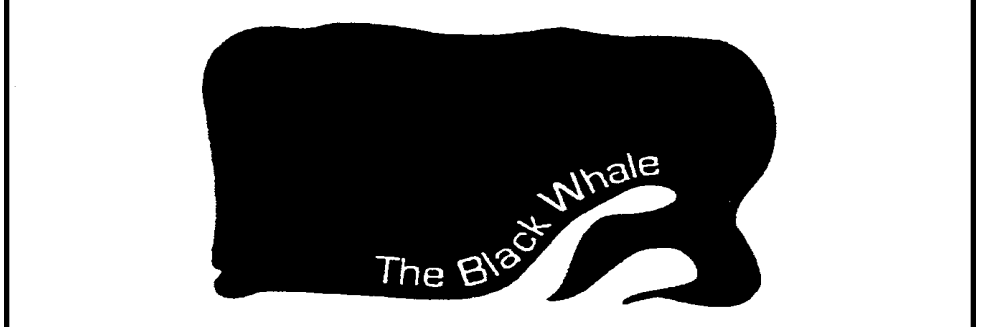
Should DOT and the contractor proceed with work on the promenade that does not appear to relate to the water-main project, the judge has reserved the right to reinstate the restraining order if DOT seems to have prejudged the outcome of the ULURP and has moved ahead with the bridge construction. Islanders should therefore remain alert to activity near the bridge and alert the Civic Association to any questionable activity by taking photographs and emailing city.island.civic@mac.com.

Island residents have become alarmed during the past month by the presence of bridge contractors taking down trees and digging up Catherine Scott Promenade. According to the Department of Transportation (DOT), this is "preconstruction work" and consists primarily of tests and preparation for the new temporary water main that must be installed before the temporary bridge is put in place.

On Dec. 26, 2013, Judge Mark Friedlander lifted the temporary restraining order on the bridge reconstruction that he had put in place in response to a lawsuit brought by the City Island Civic Association against DOT. Although the DOT had obtained numerous permits, the agency had not filed necessary applications for the granting of easements through a ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), a process that could take several months.

As reported in the last issue of *The Current*, the Zoning and Housing Committee of Community Board 10 held a public hearing on City Island on Jan. 15 as part of the ULURP process and voted to reject the ULURP applications, after much heartfelt testimony from members of the City Island community. The application was then to be voted on by the full board before going to the Borough President and ultimately to the City Council and the Mayor.

The following day, before the board could vote on the matter, the ULURP applications were withdrawn because City Plan-



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Having Each Other's Back

To the Editor,

On Dec. 25, Christmas morning, my car was broken into and my wallet and some presents were stolen. All of my credit cards and my Police ID card were taken. The next morning at 3 a.m. the perpetrators returned and tried to steal my car! I awoke and chased them with my car to Pelham Bay, where I lost them on the highway. I recorded the plate number of the car and told the story to my friends at the American Legion. A few days later John Tomsen saw the car again on my block and called me. The 45th Precinct was notified and on Thursday, Jan. 30, they made an arrest!

The reason I am writing this letter is to thank John and also to let you know that on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, Anthony, our mailman, called me to the Post Office to tell me that someone on City Island had dropped off a package addressed to me. Inside that package was my wallet and all of my pictures and my Police ID card!

That is why City Island is such a great place to live: We all have each other's back! Thank you again to the person who found my property and returned it to me.

Jim Livingston

Thanks for Clearing Snow

To the Editor,

It is Thursday afternoon on Feb. 13, 2014, and we are in the middle of a nor'easter called Pax (who came up with that name?). Snow, ice and rain are blowing from the east, and snow is piled up high.

Out on the north and south sidewalks on Buckley Street, on the southern part of City Island, two of our neighbors, John Novelli and Walter Ziobro, Buckley Street residents, are clearing the sidewalks with their snow blowers along the full length of the street for everyone to have safe passage and to comply with the law.

These are the real heroes in everyday life! Thank you, John and Walter!

Thomas Buehler

Islanders Pitch in to Help

To the Editor,

We are members of Grace Church City Island. Last month, we asked our fellow parishioners to help friends of ours who were having trouble making ends meet. The mom had been put on unpaid leave from her job at the beginning of December. Her partner's salary alone could not cover the expenses. They even had to borrow money for her daughter's commute to college in Queens. By the time we heard of their plight, they were already struggling and not making ends meet. Grace Church parishioners donated bags of food as well

ISLANDER ANITA LA SCALA INTERVIEWED ON NBC AT THE SOCHI OLYMPICS AND HAS ROLE IN OPENING CEREMONY SPECTACULAR.

ISLANDERS ALARMED & DISMAYED BY TREE CUTTING NEAR BRIDGE

ISLANDERS WEARY & RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO PUT SNOW

as money two Sundays in a row.

When Brenda Prohaska heard of the situation our friends Frances and Peter were in, she sent an email blast to her contacts on City Island. Her porch was set up to receive donations of food. Within a week, bags of non-perishable food had collected on Brenda's porch. Brenda was also given two large checks and some cash for Frances and her family. She said congregants of Temple Beth-El had made donations. The next week Brenda sent us an email saying that food had been collected at Trinity United Methodist Church.

For the past couple of weeks, we have been bringing the cash and food that have been collected at Grace Episcopal Church, at Trinity United Methodist, and by Brenda Prohaska to Frances and Peter. They have used the cash to pay some bills. And they have been overcome with emotion and just can't believe that strangers would help them. We told them that when the call goes out to help, the people of Grace and of City Island come through.

Although many of us cannot imagine being in this situation, it does happen. Families can go from "getting by" to not. The loss of a job, an illness, fire or flood are all it takes to push some over the financial edge.

At this writing, Frances has started back to work today. She and Peter are absolutely ecstatic and are already talking about what they can do to thank everyone. We're sure it will take some months to get back on track, but they are heading in the right direction. We're thankful for all the help given by the people of City Island to Peter, Frances and her two daughters. Blessings and thanks.

Sandra Cardinali and Margaret O'Connell

Bridge Reconstruction Newsletter Office of Community Affairs

A copy of the following announcement was received by The Current:

What is Going On?

The New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) has begun the reconstruction of the City Island Bridge. This crossing was built in 1901; at 113 years old, weather and travel from as many as 16,000 vehicles each day have taken a toll on the structure. NYCDOT will build a new bridge that is in compliance with current standards and that will last for generations.

Here is some additional information about the project, including safety precautions and what we are doing to keep you informed.

Ahead of Construction: The Project Team is currently in the first stage of the project. These are some of the pre-construction activities under way:

1. Control point surveys - Surveys of reference points that will guide future construction.

2. Tree trimming - Trees are trimmed or removed under a permit from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the guidance of a certified arborist.

3. Property inspections - Properties located up to 200 feet from construction activities at the cofferdam are being inspected to record pre-construction conditions.

4. Test pits - Tests are conducted to locate water mains and other utilities underground.

Safety

During the winter season, inclement

weather can create hazardous conditions. The Project Team has removed snow from the bridge's sidewalks, approaches and pedestrian and bike paths in order to provide safe access for City Islanders and visitors.

Why a New Bridge?

Over the last 113 years, weather and traffic volume have taken a toll on the bridge. A major rehabilitation of the bridge piers was completed in 1979. DOT welders, masons, carpenters and other trades have helped maintain the centenary crossing, however, reconstruction of the entire bridge is now required. Here are some of the features of the new City Island Bridge: two 12-foot travel lanes; one 12-foot emergency lane; two 6-foot sidewalks and bicycle lanes; vertical clearance of 15 feet for maritime navigation.

Step by Step

The new bridge is expected to be built in three consecutive stages:

Stage 1: Construct a temporary bridge south of the existing structure and shift traffic onto the temporary bridge. 12 months approximately.

Stage 2: Demolish the existing bridge and construct the new structure in the same footprint. 18 months approximately.

Stage 3: Shift traffic onto the new City Island Bridge and remove the temporary bridge.

Additional work, including the restoration of the Catherine Scott Promenade and seawall and reconstruction of the Legion Triangle will also be scheduled during this

phase. 19 months approximately.

NYCDOT is committed to keeping you informed during all stages of this important project and has assigned a community liaison to answer any construction related inquiries you may have. Please contact Huáscar Robles of Zetlin Strategic Communications at 917-626-8391 or via email at cityislandbridgebx1164@gmail.com. You may also visit our Facebook page for up-to-date information, travel advisories and last-minute notices: [Facebook.com/CityIslandBridge](https://www.facebook.com/CityIslandBridge).

The Project Team:

Owner: New York City Department of Transportation Division of Bridges
Contractor: Tutor Perini Corporation
Resident Engineering Consultant: PB Americas, Inc.
Community Outreach: Zetlin Strategic Communications, Inc.

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Hart Island in the News

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

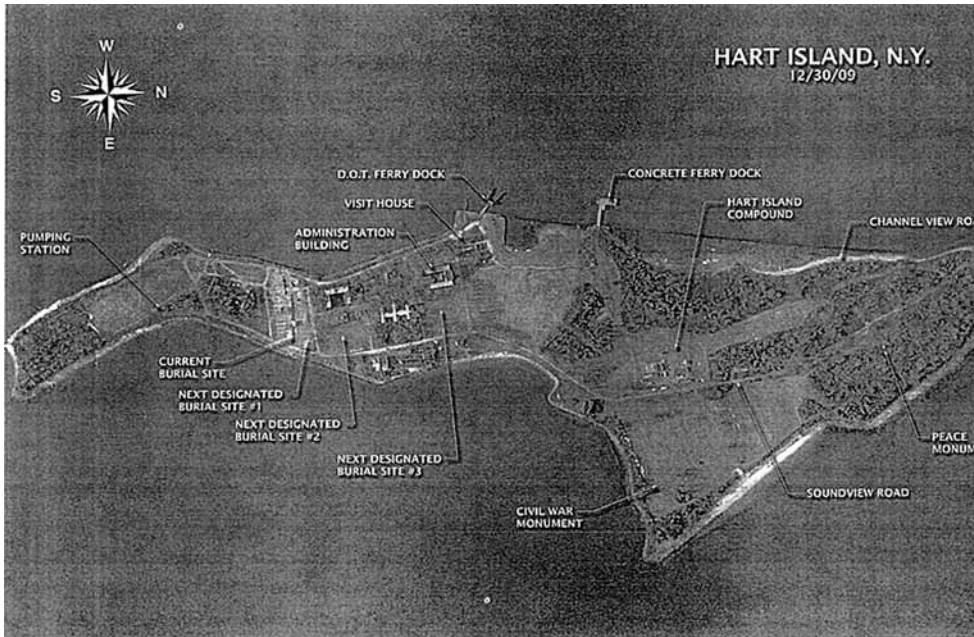


Photo: NYC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION COURTESY OF THE HART ISLAND PROJECT

Until recently, burials on Hart Island were all north of the ferry dock, and there are no remaining Civil War-era buildings, which were up the hill to the north. Buildings south of the ferry dock are now being torn down to provide more space for burials, as indicated by this aerial photograph.

In recent weeks, Hart Island has been the subject of numerous news stories, most of them focused on a bill about to be introduced to the New York City Council that calls for the transfer of jurisdiction for the island from the Department of Correction (DOC) to the Department of Parks & Recreation. The DOC would continue to administer the burials, but it would not be in charge of visitor and landscape services.

As most City Islanders know, Hart Island is the location of New York City's current potter's field, where the unclaimed and unidentified are buried in mass graves by prisoners from Riker's Island. The

island has a long and intriguing history as a Civil War training camp "for colored troops" and POW prison, a yellow fever quarantine station, an insane asylum for women, a boy's reformatory, a Nike missile base and a drug rehabilitation center, but it is also the largest tax-funded cemetery in the world, where nearly a million burials have taken place since 1869.

Although Hart Island was once a village with over 2,000 residents, including prison wardens and their families, the 101-acre island and the pier on Fordham Street used by the Department of Transportation to transfer prisoners to Hart Island are now restricted to the public. Since 1976 no one has been allowed to visit the island without permission from the prison system. The island has seen a steady stream of vandals.



Photo ©2008 IAN FERENEC/THE HART ISLAND PROJECT

This is one of several rooms on Hart Island where historic records have been kept; this room contains prison records and was damaged over the years by storms, negligence and vandals.

DOC now schedules what they call "closure visits" to a gazebo near the dock, but families cannot visit the gravesites and are subjected to prison procedures. Cameras and phones are confiscated on City Island and returned to visitors when they return to the dock on Fordham Street. Visitors to the gazebo, who are always accompanied by correction officers, must schedule visits in advance and present identification. Private commemoration is forbidden.

The gazebo was built in 2006 for the Bronx-based nonprofit organization Picture the Homeless, which arranged for interfaith religious services held on Hart Island, until recently, every other month. Prior to these services and now, family members were sometimes taken to unmarked graves on a case-by-case basis. Melinda Hunt, a visual artist who published a book on Hart Island in 1998, helped many of these families to gain access, and in 2008 she released a film, "Hart Island: An American Cemetery," about four families with loved ones buried there.

As access to Hart Island became restricted to the gazebo, Ms. Hunt formed a public charity, the Hart Island Project, to assist family members in locating gravesites and burial information through a network of volunteer attorneys organized by Westchester Pro Bono, which includes some former City Island residents. A mission statement on the website *hartisland.net* states that organization is determined to make the largest public cemetery in the United States visible and accessible so that no one is omitted from history. Two databases were set up on-line and will soon include GPS location information for mobile devices carried by visitors.

To that end, City Councilmember Elizabeth Crowley will soon reintroduce a bill to the Council that would transfer responsibility for Hart Island to the Parks Department, which is the only city agency whose mission includes the restoration and maintenance of historic properties. As City Islanders who visited Hart Island before it was closed to the public are aware, there are many historic buildings that are now derelict and some that have been destroyed by the Department of Correction.

Although the Hart Island cemetery is used by the city as a whole, it is located within Community Board 10, and Ms. Hunt has made several presentations in order to gain community support for the Council bill, two at the City Island Library, one at the Community Board 10 Parks Committee, and another at the City Island Civic Association. Nearly everyone who has heard her description of the situation at the island is sympathetic to the plight of relatives of those who have been interred there, although the Parks Committee expressed concern that the Parks Department does not have the funds to take on such a major new project. The Civic Association voted nearly unanimously at its January meeting to support Ms. Crowley's bill when it is

introduced to the Council in March.

Ms. Hunt believes that the transfer of jurisdiction is necessary before the city or a conservancy appropriates the necessary funds to restore public access. As chair of the Oversight Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice, Councilwoman Crowley has assisted City Island in the past, specifically with the protests mounted here against the removal of Ladder Company 53. The committee first looked into Hart Island operations at the request of James Oddo, a Councilman from Staten Island, who became aware that veterans were being buried in mass graves on Hart Island. A Veterans Memorial service was held on Nov. 16, 2012, with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, because the ferry docks had been damaged by storms, including Hurricane Sandy. Councilman Jimmy Vacca has been following the progress of the legislation and advising the committee as a co-sponsor. The bill did not make it out of committee before the end of the last legislative session and must now be reintroduced.

Contrary to public hearsay, Ms. Hunt points out that those interred on Hart Island are not necessarily homeless or indigent, but are people who could either not afford the expenses of private funerals or who were unclaimed by relatives, who are often not notified of a death within a one-week period. Roughly a third of the burials are newborn or stillborn infants who died in New York City hospitals, whose mothers are unaware of what it means to sign papers authorizing a "City Burial." Many others have families who live abroad or out of state and whose search is made more difficult because burial records are currently kept within the prison system.

Several Island residents have expressed concern not only for relatives of those buried on Hart Island but also for the loss of historic sites on the Island, which was made part of New York City in 1868 when it was purchased by the city (some 40 years before City Island became part of the city). As the buildings deteriorate and are lost and as the landscape is damaged by storms and lack of maintenance, the intriguing history of Hart Island and its people is likely to be lost forever.

Another issue that concerns Islanders is that the Department of Correction has tried several times in the past to use the island for purposes unrelated to the potter's field. Many City Islanders remember mounting protests during the late 1980s against the construction of a 400-unit prison, the installation of a prison barge and the establishment of a homeless shelter. These plans were never realized, but the possibility always exists that such projects might be proposed in the future, so long as the island remains in the control of a city agency that is not invested in its importance to the neighboring community or to the relatives of the people buried there.

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The City Island Theater Group presents its Festival of One Act Plays over the weekends of Feb. 28 and March 7 (see *BRIEFLY*). There will be six different productions each weekend, with 12 plays, 11 directors, 25 actors (age 10 through 60+) playing 36 roles—a theater experience not to be missed. Here are two actors, Victoria Hernandez and Tera Meesawan with director Nick Sala.

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Ali Whitcombe at the counter of Trellis Fine Florals.



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

In celebration of National Women's History Month, the **Women's Book Club**, which began way back at the 1999 Women's History Month Celebration, invites friends to the Botanical Garden on Thursday, March 13. Meet at the main gate between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. Book Club member Mary Colby, writer of *The Island Current's* monthly garden column and artist/owner of Fe Fi Faux Gallery, will lead a garden tour, followed by lunch at the Café. There will be a discussion on women in politics. Please call Mary at the gallery, 718-885-2024, or member Toby Liederman, 718-885-3423, to let them know you are coming or to ask for further details.

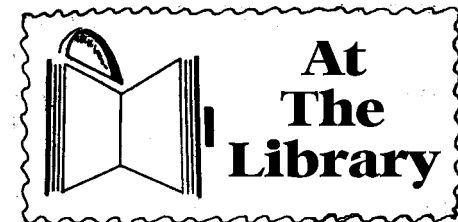
City Island Physical Therapy has settled into the new location at 464 City Island Avenue (which now includes a medical gym.) and is now in-network with HIP and the FDNY. They take all major health plans, Worker's Compensation and no-fault Insurance. For more information, about whether or not your plan is in network, call the office at 718-885-1079. A 30-minute therapeutic massage is available by appointment. There will be an open house every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. so that everyone can see the new space and speak with some of the professionals: Gina Piri (licensed nurse practitioner and trigger-point therapist) providing trigger-point injections every Thursday; John Barry (personal trainer) offering circuit training and personal training sessions every Monday and Thursday; Jackie Fretwell (licensed aesthetician) performing microdermabrasion, peel treatments and facials; Amy Castelluzzo providing iridology evaluations and wellness plans. Call the office at 718-885-1079 for more information about any of these services.

Turtle Cove Golf Center will host a PGA Junior Golf Camp during the summer of 2014, with weekly sessions from June 30 to Aug. 22. Enroll by March 15 and receive a 20 percent discount. To sign up, call 718-885-1129 or email toni@turtlecovegolfcenter.com or visit the camp link at www.turtlecovegolfcenter.com/pg-golf-camp. Come to the Turtle Cove Golf Center Golf Camp open house on May 3 and 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit Turtle Cove and meet the golf instructors and management, who will give a tour of the facility, explain the curriculum and answer any questions.

Fontana Couture, a bridal and evening wear shop owned by Cory Fontana of City Island, moved from Scarsdale to Greenwich, Connecticut, a year ago and was recently the subject of an article cel-

ebating its history and current success: http://www.vovsmagazine.com/images/retail_standout/retail_standout.pdf.

When Islander Alexandra (Ali) Whitcombe, whose professional name is Alix Astir, moved her business, **Trellis Fine Florals**, from City Island to Manhattan (51 West 28th Street, New York), many were sorry to see her go. Happily, however, she is doing very well in her new location. Most of her business is a "subscription service" catering to restaurants, hotels, events and an occasional wedding or one-time delivery. In addition to flowers and plants, Trellis offers luxury gifts such as French macarons, fine candies and chocolate covered strawberries. Working with a fleet of designers, Ali creates floral pieces that inspire awe and prides herself on her unparalleled customer service. For more information on Ali's floral creations and other fine products, check out the Trellis website at www.trellisfineflorals.com or call 212-335-0426.



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Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March Children's Programs

Read-a-Loud: The first Friday of every month will have a read-a-loud in the early afternoon. Listen to the librarian's choices and feel free to bring your family's favorite to share. Friday, March 7, 11 a.m. to noon.

March St. Patrick's Day Arts & Crafts: We will supply the scissors, glue and construction paper; please bring your own imagination and artistic flair as we make arts and crafts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. March 21 from 11 a.m. to noon for pre-schoolers, and again from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

March Teen Programs

After-School Lounge: Students can play Wii, bring a book, do their homework and sneak in a snack. Monday through Friday afternoons when school is in session from 3 to 5 in our Community Room.

March Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the Inter-

net before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL website. Every Tuesday morning from 10 to noon.

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

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Every Saturday that we are open, we will present a movie or a lecture/discussion. Please check the flyers in the library or call for Saturday movies or lecture pro-

grams. All Saturday events begin at 1 in the afternoon.

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

Island Writers: This is a creative writing workshop that meets in our community room once a week. "When we write, we find ourselves writing answers to questions we didn't know we had." Presented by Ms. Gail Hitt every Tuesday afternoon at 1.

You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

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Bartow-Pell Events

A new exhibition, “Grandes Dames and Grand Plans: 100 Years of History at Bartow-Pell,” celebrating the museum’s centennial, opens on March 1 and will remain on view through November. From its founding by the International Garden Club in 1914 to reopening as a museum in 1946, to becoming the Bartow-Pell Conservancy in 2008, the Bartow-Pell has a great story to tell.

The Winter Lecture Series will focus on “Ambitious Design: Architecture, Preservation, and the Garden in the Early 20th Century,” with three fascinating illustrated talks followed by a reception in the Orangerie.

On Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m., Amy Freitag will speak on “Extraordinary Women: Power, Influence, and the Conservation of the American Landscape.” Ms. Freitag lectures nationally on the history of women in conservation and is the Executive Director of the New York Restoration Project. With master’s degrees in both landscape architecture and historic preservation, she has been instrumental in parks administration, conservation and historic preservation in New York City and Philadelphia. Registration requested; Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker will speak on “The Architecture of Delano and Aldrich” on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. The firm of Delano and Aldrich played a central role in the first half of the 20th century, substantially shaping the architectural climate of the period. The International Garden Club hired the firm in 1914 to restore the dilapidated Bartow mansion. Award-winning architect and author Peter

Pennoyer has an international practice in classical architecture and wrote the seminal work on Delano and Aldrich together with architectural historian Anne Walker. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

On Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m., Mac Griswold will give a talk on “Cornelia Horsford: Early Preservationist in America’s Golden Age of Gardens.” Ms. Griswold, a cultural landscape historian, will discuss the life and work of an early house and garden preservationist and the history of her family’s centuries-old home on Shelter Island, Sylvester Manor. Ms. Griswold is the author most recently of “The Manor: Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island” as well as “The Golden Age of American Gardens.” She is the Director of Archival Research for the Sylvester Manor Project. Book signing after the talk. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day will take place on Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Roll up your sleeves and don your gardening gloves to help make the grounds of BPMM look beautiful again after winter’s weather! Light breakfast will be available. Please bring gloves and wear boots. Registration requested. Free.

Saturday, March 29, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., come to a Pysanky Workshop and learn the time-honored art of creating intricately patterned Ukrainian Easter eggs and create your own, using a wax-resist technique at this hands-on workshop. Hot wax and permanent dyes are used, so please dress accordingly. Age 14 and up. Bring a bag lunch; only light refreshments will be offered. Space is limited, so registration is required. Cost \$15; members \$10.

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road. To make reservations or for information, call 718-885-0461 or email info@bpmm.org.

CAR PART ART

By JANE PROTZMAN



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN

The lobby and office of Islander Steve Lischinsky at his Ultra Automotive Center on Webster Avenue are brightened up with his works of car part art: the sofa was once a 1960 Cadillac, and his desk is made with part of a 1959 Chevy Impala.

If my car’s side-view mirror had not been hit by a passing car, I would never have discovered the treasures in Islander Steve Lischinsky’s Ultra Automotive Center on Webster Avenue. I went there to make sure the mirror was working properly and found a fabulous trove of automobile memorabilia in his office. Not only did I learn that Steve is a true collision repair professional, but I discovered that he is also an artist.

Steve grew up in the Pelham Parkway neighborhood and loved cars from an early age. He apprenticed at a local gas station and body shop at the age of 16, and soon after he commented to a family friend that he would love to work there after school, his “formidable” grandmother approached the owner and told him that “her grandson would be working there.” And so he began to learn the trade there at the same time as he was pumping gas.

After graduating from high school, Steve worked at a “real” body shop and learned the profession the old-fashioned way, by observing and listening to the experts. He opened his first shop near Coop City in December 1981 while attending Bronx Community College at night. In the early 1990s, he was able to purchase his current location and establish a shop specializing in collision repairs in the now booming Montefiore Hospital area.

“Having an accident is a traumatic and upsetting experience so I want to make a visit to my shop a positive experience. I want to make people comfortable,” he told *The Current*. He installed a juke box to play music, and to keep kids occupied, he gives them play money for the slot machine. (He has a Federal permit for this machine. Once a customer reported that gambling was going in the shop and the police came and quickly realized this was not what they were looking for.) Steve

says: “The kids can learn a lesson from this. I ask them if they made any money, but they always say the machine made more.”

Steve has always loved to create things, and he never forgot a Robb Report he read in the late ‘80s about a desk made out of car parts. “It all started with a grille from a 1939 LaSalle, which became a sculpture.” When he redecorated his office in 2000, he chose his favorite theme, vintage automobiles.

He describes his creative process this way: “If I can fix cars, I can create these sculptures. I visualize what an object will be, just as I do when repairing a car. And I have to be satisfied with my products, cars or sculptures.” He has chosen not to show in galleries; he creates for his own pleasure. Rather than send his employees home if business is slow, they can stay in the shop and help him build the sculptures.

Steve’s current project is the sculpture of a woman created from car parts. Her face will be a clock from a 1930s Cadillac; her legs are muffler pipes and breasts are 1954 bumper guards; the arms are car horns, and her skirt a section of a saw.

Stop by Steve’s shop at 3551 Webster Avenue, and enjoy the artistic atmosphere that Steve has created. And while you’re at it, tell him you read this article and he might give you a \$5 discount on collision repairs, should you need them.

In the meantime, watch the progress being made at 105 City Island Avenue, just south of the Lido, where Fran’s Trattoria was once located. Steve and his wife, Sheila, who live on the Island, have purchased the building and are refurbishing it for their boating business, which was originally located on Fordham Street until a fire damaged the site. With any luck, some of his artistic creations will end up right here on City Island!

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MARCH

Sat., March 1, **City Island Little League Registration**, Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thurs., March 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Preston High School, 2870 Schurz Avenue.

Fri., March 21, **P.S. 175's Wild West Card Party**, Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course, 6:30 p.m. Call 718-885-1093 for tickets.

Tues., March 25, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., March 27, **Friends of Pelham Bay Park fund-raiser**, 6 to 8 p.m., Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course.

Sat., March 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken with peppers, onions and potatoes.

APRIL

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., April 17, 18 and 19, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue, offers a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. The spirited congregation is led by our innovative rabbi, Shohama Wiener, our joyful musical associate spiritual leader, Reb David Evan Markus, and our multi-talented rabbinic intern, Reb Eva Sax-Bolder. For almost 80 years, Temple Beth-El, at 480 City Island Avenue, has welcomed all who come to celebrate and pray here, as our services embrace diversity. We extend an invitation to the City Island Community and beyond to join us.

Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please come at 7:15 to enjoy the welcoming music and an opportunity to meet and greet before services begin. We use a prayer book written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew, transliterated allowing all words to be easily sung and read. Your Shul by the Sea Band provides a delightful quality to our services, inspiring some of us to dance as we welcome the Sabbath. After services an oneg consisting of wine, challah and delicious refreshments are generously provided by one of our members or the Temple board of directors to celebrate our coming together.

Every Friday evening, Temple Beth El of City Island opens its doors for Shabbat services, and when the clergy is not present, services are led by congregants. Our own Bob Berent and his wonderful accordion often grace our celebration. Another congregant Michael Eiron has recently taken the lead. We are hoping that other congregants will lead services as well. Clergy will lead services on March 14 and 28.

Purim Celebration will be held on March 16 at 3 p.m. Join clergy, Your Band by the Sea and special guests for a playful and deeply spiritual Purim event. Last year it was the Beatles and Linda Richman; who will it be this year? Come in costume and ready to laugh. Reception will follow.

The 80th anniversary gala dinner dance will take place on March 22 at 7 p.m. at Pelham-Split Rock Golf Course. At this highlight of the TBE year, we will honor the array of civic associations that enrich

City Island and help make our unique and vibrant community all that it is. We will have a silent auction at this event to raise funds for our synagogue accessibility project. These are some of the offerings: outdoor aluminum sculpture by Linda Howard; a 9 x 7 Turkish rug; full-length mink coat; 17th-century etching of the fountains of Rome; a 19th-century hand-colored engraving, several porcelain and bone china pieces, a crystal fruit bowl, plus two one-hour healing massage/acupressure/reflexology sessions, two Polarity/Cranio Sacral or Huna Mua sessions, an afternoon sailboat outing for four, a horseback riding lesson, and more.

Nationally recognized Rabbi, poet and blogger Rabbi Rachel will hold a special Shabbaton weekend at TBE on May 30-June 1. This amazing and profound weekend will include co-leading music-filled services, special teachings and public readings/symposia of Rabbi Rachel's works. Accomplished author of numerous books of spiritual poetry, Rabbi Rachel has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the Internet's 25 top bloggers. She is especially known for spiritual writing and reimagining the lives of Jews, families and especially women for the 21st century. Mark your calendars: you won't want to miss this very special weekend.

Ellen Ruth Topol, chair of the oneg committee, solicits all members and friends of TBE to sponsor a Friday night oneg. Special events (e.g. birthdays, anniversaries, family visits, births, weddings and other celebrations) are terrific opportunities to host an oneg to honor these special times. Please contact Ellen at ertopol@aol.com. Thank you for your generosity!

TBE deeply appreciates gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a special event. The person you designate will receive a card acknowledging the gift, which is fully tax deductible. Engraved leaves for our lobby Tree of Life sculpture are available, as are plaques for our memorial boards.

TBE seeks to become 100 percent accessible for the mobility impaired, an important project that will require both funds and creativity. To join this committee or offer support, please contact Paul Klein at paul.klein@att.net.

Our outreach commitment is expanding with a committee for bikkur cholim (visiting the sick). Sponsored by Reb Eva, this committee will receive training in the Jewish pastoral tradition of visiting ill and mobility-restricted community members. To join this committee, please contact Sue Fleishaker at 1dblbass@gmail.com or Reb Eva, lbolder164@aol.com.

The TBE website is growing to include weekly Torah teachings by our Rabbi Shohama and our associate spiritual director Reb David, event listings, our calendar and more. Follow our weekly blog and share our web presence with friends on Facebook and beyond! www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Ellen Ruth Topol

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:30. We need all hands on deck for our Cancer Bingo, which is planned for May 15.

We hope everyone has a happy St. Patrick's Day. We are looking forward to the first day of spring and all good things.

Please contact The Legion Hall for any upcoming events re: St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Maryann Occhicone



Photo by RICK DeWITT

In the seventh year of their participation in the SouperBowl of Caring, the children of Trinity United Methodist Church hosted a delicious lunch and collected \$404 and 57 food items to benefit City Harvest (l. to r.): Ben Chadwick, Anthony Zeppieri, Laci Howard, Lydia Jung, Nicholas Zeppieri, Alice Jung, Miles Jung, Violet Chadwick, Olivia Chadwick and Lily Chadwick.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop opens on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. During March we will be open on March 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15. Look for "end of winter" specials (half-price specials and big bag sales), while enjoying complimentary coffee and camaraderie with friends and neighbors.

The shop will close from March 20 to 29. We will reopen with our new spring collection on Thursday, April 3. Mark your calendars!

Arlene Byrne

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 156

We would like to remind all members that 2014 dues (\$30) are now due. The money can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

Thank you to Gene Valesio for installing our new audio system. We won't miss a beat now since we can hear Past SAL Commander Jimmy Livingston's speeches throughout the Post.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the fact that Legion Post members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals. Come and dance on the new floor!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The regular worship schedule is Holy Communion Rite II every Sunday at 10 a.m. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5. Beginning Sunday, March 9, Holy Communion Rite I will be celebrated for the duration of Lent.

On March 4, Grace Church will hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper starting at 5:30 and ending at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person, for which you will get pancakes, bacon, sausage, hot cross buns and juice. No reservations are needed.

On Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m., Grace Church will host an afternoon of Irish entertainment. Bill Bell and Devin Shepherd will sing and play traditional music on guitar,

mandolin, fiddle, bodhran, and other instruments. All tickets are \$25 and include an Irish buffet after the concert. Tickets may be purchased in advance on the church website, www.gracecityisland.org. Cash only at the door. For more information, email music@gracecityisland.org.

Hearts and Hands will continue knitting comfort items for Calvary Hospital on March 10 at 7 p.m.

Friday Night Fellowship continues on March 14, when we will celebrate all things Irish. Come at 7 p.m. and learn how to make Irish soda bread, listen to some music and see a funny travel video. Refreshments will be served and there is no admission fee.

Eileen Marcus

AARP Chapter 318

AARP 318 meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. We will have our first March meeting on Wednesday, March 5, at 1 p.m., after a very cold, snowy January and February.

Our second meeting in March will be on the 19th, when we will celebrate St. Patrick's / St. Joseph's feasts with a corned beef luncheon (corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, rye bread, Irish soda bread, coffee, soda and St. Joseph's pastries). The luncheon will begin at 12:30 and is for members only.

Future plans include a trip to West Point on May 8, which will cost \$89 per person. Come and bring a friend. All are welcome.

Rosetta Woods

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

Want to get involved in your community? Want to share your talents to make a difference? The City Island Community Center is seeking individuals of all ages to volunteer to help expand and build a center worthy of our dynamic community. Do you have talents or skills in graphic design, grant writing, fund-raising? If so, we want to hear from you!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weekly Weight Watchers Meetings: Thursday evenings at 5:30 with Debbie. Join us and get ready for bathing suit weather. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Monthly Teen Dances: Dances for teens in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Come join your friends for a night of fun. The next dance is March 15. There is no charge for the dances, but donations are welcome.

Monthly Parenting Discussions with John Scardina. We laugh, we cry, and we learn from one another: join us as we each share our experience, strength, and hope on this journey of parenthood!

Family Bingo Nights return: Come join us for a great night filled with laughter, joy and great prizes for the family. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5.00 and Community Center members get one free card. Our next Bingo night will be March 28 at 7 p.m.

Celebrate Women with the following events: March 2: Women's Health Day, March 23: Herstory Girls Performance. For more information, call Toby at 718-885-3423.

NEW PROGRAMS

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

Yoga with Jo Ann. Saturdays from 12 to 1:15 p.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, email Jo Ann at joannngny@aol.com.

Scrapbooking Classes and Paper-Crafting Events with Desiree coming to City Island Community Center soon! Feel free to check out our website at www.demalihanhandcrafts.com or call 914-562-5857 for details.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

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

Arts and Crafts Classes with Eileen: Starting Monday, March 10, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Four classes \$90. These classes feature painting, collage, paper sculpture, printmaking and many other projects that will ignite the imagination! Call Eileen Stoudt at 914-633-1695 to register or for more information. Leave a message.

Introduction to Acting with Eileen Stoudt, from Monday, March 10 through April 14, for grades 3-6 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Six classes for \$125. These classes are designed for children to express themselves in a fun and warm environment with theater, songs and dance. There will be a final performance for family and friends. Call Eileen at 914-633-1695 to register or for more information. Leave a message.

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat brought on by the holidays? Well here is your chance to zumba with Julia, a high-energy hour-long workout. Saturday mornings from 10 to 11. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

Zumba with Letti: Letti is a fantastic zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Classes are \$10; a five-class card is \$40.

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These Yoga Stretch poses help remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10 per class. Call 718-885-0535 for more information.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat geared for age 50 and up. Classes are \$3. Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Sarah Persteins

American Legion Post 156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be held on Monday, March 17.

The VA accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed. The Post is not accepting book donations at this time.

It's party time! The hall is available for rent, and dates are filling up. Members receive a discounted rate. We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Past Commander Bob Mennona reports that the Post now has a Keurig machine. There is plenty of good coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cider.

Vice Commander Mike Treats reports that membership dues (\$50) are now due. They can be mailed or dropped off at the Post.

Thank you to Dianne O'Sullivan for arranging our recent fund-raisers. The last one helped us buy a new public address system with six different zones.

Thanks to Bobby Salerno for all of the wonderful food he made for the Italian fest.

The Post St. Patrick's Day party is on Sunday, March 16. Details to follow.

We are now on the web. Our new website is Post156.com.

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

Historian Thomas Lynch died at his Minneford Avenue home about two weeks ago.

Auxiliary member Ellen Cribben recently passed away.

Peter Del-Debbie is back at the Post after several surgeries. He hopes to discard his cane very soon.

The Post would like to thank everyone for their continuous support throughout the year!

Edwin Shipp

Garden Club of City Island

Although the weather forced us, again, to cancel our meeting, the Garden Club will be back strong on Monday, March 3, at 10 a.m. Our guest speakers will tackle those beautiful flowers so many of us seem to have trouble growing and keeping in our homes—orchids. Elena Nuesslein and Cheryl Brinker join us to give a lively presentation on raising orchids at home, which ones to buy, where to keep them and how to care for them for the long haul after they finish blooming. We thank The Harlem Yacht Club for hosting this event for us as our City Island Yacht Club home continues their spring clean-up.

The Garden Club members begin plans for the annual Beautification Fund drive, which supports our efforts throughout the year. We are so grateful to all the residents and businesses who contributed to a successful campaign last year and hope they will be as generous in 2014. Plans also are in the works for redoing the flower boxes on City Island Avenue and buying a few more to enhance our main thoroughfare. Lest we forget, we are working on the annual Garden Club Spring Luncheon, "In a Freesia State of Mind," which will be held on Thursday, May 22. Be sure to save the date.

We plan to have a speaker at the Club's April meeting, and in May or June, a group of us will visit the Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden for a special guided tour.

As always, we welcome prospective new members to attend a meeting, learn what we do and how they can participate, and perhaps join us in our City Island beautification efforts.

Barbara Harrison

City Island Republicans

The annual Bronx GOP Lincoln Brunch was a huge success.

Every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. is the Republican County meeting, which is open to the public.

Congressional petitions will begin on March 5. Please sign the petition, which will allow us to have a Republican candidate on the ballot.

The City Island Republicans will meet again in April.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 and 8 a.m. 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

On March 7, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

Also on March 7, we will hold the Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Stations will be held each Friday evening during Lent.

All are welcome to join us at our monthly Hospitality Hour on Sunday, March 9. It will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m.

Mass.

On Tuesday, March 11, there will be an important meeting of parents and sponsors of all our students who are preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation, which will be held in St. Mary's gym at 7 p.m.

Our Thrift Shop will be closed on March 22, 27 and 29. It will reopen on April 3 with the spring collection. Come and see all the spring bargains!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

City Island Theater Group

We are pleased to present our fifth one-act festival on the first two weekends of March. It has been a challenge to bring together 11 directors to direct 12 plays with 25 actors in 36 different roles. Costumes, props, set changes, rehearsal schedules and rehearsal venues have all presented a challenge to the group, but we have managed to meet them (see *BRIEFLY* for more information).

CITG is holding auditions for Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" on Saturday, March 8, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, March 10, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

"And Then There Were None" is a mystery novel first published by Agatha Christie in England in 1939. It is the story of 10 people who have been complicit in the deaths of 10 other people and either escaped notice or were never legally tried for the murders. They are all lured to an island from which there is no escape and the tale unfolds from there.

The CITG board of directors is very excited about the productions scheduled for this year, our 15th year of bringing excellent theater to City Island.

Mary McIntyre

PSS Healthy Seniors

Despite the winter snow and cold temperatures, Island seniors turned out for a special Valentine's Day party on Feb. 14. The festivities included Valentine games, a special song and the movie "Something's Gotta Give" with Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. The second-graders from Mrs. Carter-Spencer's class at P.S. 175 crafted Valentine flowers with lollipops along with a little note to be distributed to everyone. Prizes were given out and a delicious lunch of shrimp scampi was enjoyed by all.

Some upcoming events you won't want to miss include St. Patrick's Day Party (March 17) and a Senior Health Fair (April 9). Of course, every last Friday of each month is the birthday bash extravaganza including live music and dancing.

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families through information, services and support. Our goal is to promote the independence of the elderly by helping them remain healthy, engaged and connected. To receive more information regarding any of our activities stop by at 116 City Island Avenue or call 718-885-0727.

Program Services

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 or better. Morning features our fitness program listed below. Afternoon activities include individualized computer class, acrylic painting, movies and more. Blood pressure screening, health and nutrition talks are also available on a monthly basis. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events, and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. Our

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Newspapers in America

The advent of electronic media has had a devastating affect on the newspaper industry in America. There are two documentaries that cover this concern: **Page One: Inside the New York Times** (2011) and **Black & White and Dead All Over** (2013). With the Internet surpassing print as our main news source and newspapers all over the country going bankrupt, both films cover attempts by newspapers nationwide to remain financially viable and the transformations that are taking place.

Going back in time to Hollywood's depiction of the print media, **The Front Page** (1931) stars Adolphe Menjou as hot-headed Chicago newspaper-editor Walter Burns and Pat O'Brien as his star reporter, Hildy Johnson. When Johnson agrees to cover one last story before leaving the tabloid, he gets sucked into a conspiracy to get an interview from convicted cop killer Earl Williams (George E. Stone), who has escaped. This same plot was revisited in 1939 as **His Girl Friday**, with the symbiotic relationship between Burns and Johnson changed to a sexual one with Hildy Johnson transformed into a woman (played by Rosalind Russell) and Cary Grant as her old flame, Walter. The story was again remade in 1974 with the original **Front Page** title, with Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, Carol Burnett and a young Susan Sarandon.

It Happened One Night (1934) is a wacky romantic comedy that won all five major Academy Awards for 1934. It stars Claudette Colbert as Ellie Andrews, a spoiled heiress who is attracted to fortune-hunting aviator King Westley (Jameson Thomas). To keep Ellie from marrying this lothario, her father (Walter Connolly) keeps her prisoner aboard his yacht. When Ellie escapes, she winds up on a Greyhound bus bound for New York with newspaper reporter Peter Warne (Clark Gable), with whom she has a series of misadventures.

Citizen Kane (1941) was Orson Welles first feature film, which he directed, produced and co-wrote, as well as played the title role. The film, loosely based on the life of William Randolph Hearst, opens as newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane (Orson Welles) dies in his sprawling Florida estate after uttering a single, enigmatic final word: "Rosebud." Reporter Jerry Thompson (William Alland) is sent to investigate the meaning behind the great man's dying thought. As Thompson interviews Kane's friends, family and associates, we learn the facts of Kane's eventful and ultimately tragic life as he rose from a scandal sheet publisher to become the owner of America's largest and most influential newspaper chain.

Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn costarred for the first time in **Woman of the Year** (1942). Tracy plays New York sportswriter Sam Craig, who has a love/hate relationship with foreign correspondent Tess Harding (Hepburn). Their feuding eventually leads to marriage, but their happiness is threatened by their wildly divergent lifestyles.

Teacher's Pet (1958), stars Clark Gable as Jim Gannon, a big city newspaper editor who thinks education in a classroom is a complete waste of time and says so in a letter to Erica Stone (Doris Day), a

night school journalism teacher who has invited him to speak to her class. When his boss forces him to apologize, Gannon is so taken with her that he pretends to be a student in her class. Although corny at times and dated in its chauvinism, this comedy considers the opposing views about education versus on-the-job experience.

All the President's Men (1976) is a landmark political thriller that depicts the role of newspapers in exposing government cover-ups. Its stellar cast includes Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford as Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, who uncovered the Watergate scandal. Jason Robards Jr. won an Oscar as newspaper head, Ben Bradlee, as did William Goldman for his excellent script.

An immensely entertaining pair of movies is the big-budget blockbusters **Superman: The Movie** (1978) and **Superman II** (1981). Christopher Reeve stars in the title role in both films, which recount the comic book character's origins. He was sent to earth by his father (Marlon Brando) from the Planet Krypton, and after being raised in the Midwest, he winds up disguised as a mortal, Clark Kent, a newspaper reporter at the Daily Planet. There he falls in love with co-worker Lois Lane (Margot Kidder), who is already in love with Superman. In the first film, the villainous Lex Luthor (Gene Hackman) launches a diabolical plan to conquer the world and kill Superman. In the sequel, Superman must save the world from exiled criminals from Krypton, Zod (Terence Stamp), Ursa (Sarah Douglas) and Non (Jack O'Halloran). Both films were shot at the same time.

Absence of Malice (1981) stars Paul Newman as Michael Gallagher, an honest liquor distributor whose family has mafia connections. He comes to the attention of Miami reporter, Megan Carter (Sally Field), based on false information she has received from ambitious FBI investigator Elliot Rosen (Bob Balaban). Melinda Dillon is outstanding as Michael's fragile best friend Teresa, and Wilfred Brimley stands out in a final scene as a judge trying to determine the truth.

Continental Divide (1981) is a diverting romantic comedy that stars a very subdued John Belushi as Ernie Souchak, a popular columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times who uses his column to report on the dirty dealings at Chicago City Hall. When he crosses a corrupt alderman, Ernie is sent to the Rocky Mountains to do a fluff piece on reclusive ornithologist Nell Porter (Blair Brown). Their hostile relationship turns to love, in this rather unlikely romance.

The Paper (1990) recounts a day in the life of harassed reporter Henry Hackett (Michael Keaton), metro editor for the struggling New York Sun. Pursuing a story about two minority youths who have been unjustly arrested for murder, his struggle to get to the truth is obstructed by his pregnant wife, Martha (Marisa Tomei), top editor Bernie (Robert Duvall) and tough publisher Alicia (Glenn Close).

Zodiac (2007) stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Robert Graysmith, a San Francisco cartoonist who becomes an amateur detective obsessed with tracking down the Zodiac killer. Robert Downey Jr. co-stars as Paul Avery, a showboating newspaper reporter, and Mark Ruffalo plays San Francisco police detective Dave Toschi. Chloë Sevigny is Melanie, Graysmith's wife and the mother of his three children, who loses him to his obsession with solving the case. The film is based on actual events of the 1960s and '70s.

State of Play (2009) is an intelligent thriller set in the halls of Congress and the city room of the Washington Globe newspaper. Ace investigative reporter Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe) is concerned about the growing crisis affecting newspapers. Nonetheless, he serves as mentor to Della Frye (Rachel McAdams), one of the

newspaper's bloggers. When the research assistant to McAffrey's friend Congressman Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck) winds up dead, Collins tries desperately to protect his name and career. As the journalists investigate, they uncover an intricate web

of lies that stretches to the highest levels of power. The film co-stars Helen Mirren as the Globe's editor, Robin Wright Penn as the congressman's wife, and Jason Bateman as a public relations executive.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Organization News

Continued from page 9

fitness program offers classes with various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Arthritis Workshop with Patty: Mondays at 10:15 a.m.; Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Mary: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; Zumba Gold with Dorcie, Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.; Fit for Life with Sarah: Fridays at 9 a.m. All exercises classes are \$3 each, or \$30 a month for unlimited classes. The arthritis workshop class on Mondays is free.

Volunteering

We are pleased with our many volunteers and appreciate their help in many areas, including clerical, lunch, arts and crafts, and help with parties and events, to name a few. We welcome all new volunteers in helping make this senior center the absolute best for our seaside community.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

If you would like more information

regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we would be more than happy to help out. We also provide assistance with filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Caregivers Support

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

Transportation Services

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

Patty Attis

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

Plants are hungry in March after their long winter rest, and all plants need feeding. There are three ways to feed. You can use a liquid feed; you can lay food on top of the soil in the form of compost or composted manure; and you can dig organic or chemical fertilizer into the hole before you plant.

The three basic ingredients that plants need are N-P-K (nitrogen, which promotes strong growth; phosphate, which promotes strong roots; and potassium, which ripens fruits and produces bigger blooms. If you are unsure of what N-P-K ratio you need for what you are growing, choose Plant-tone overall for perennials and Holly-tone for evergreens, azaleas and rhododendrons. Organic fertilizers feed the plants slowly, so it is best to apply your compost around plants gently and scratching it in (manure should be at least two years old so it does not burn the plants). You can also feed with a chemical all-purpose fertilizer at the same time, as this will act quickly and give the plants an extra boost. Do all this before mulching, for then the garden is dressed and ready to go.

Buy pansies if you don't have crocus or snowdrops. They kick off the season with their smiling faces, and they will hold up to the March winds. Barring a real chill, they will delight you for months until the warm weather arrives. If there is a freeze, cover them with a sheet. Pansies also look charming in pots. If you pick flowers that are delicate, like snowdrops, try making a bed of earth in a shallow vase, water it and stick the little stems in the earth; the water will settle and become clear. Not surprisingly, it will all look natural. A movie tonight? No, I'd rather stay home with my snowdrops!

Pruning is one of the big tasks this month, so sharpen your clippers and saws. Roses need light pruning to rid them of old wood and to shape them to a pleasing effect. If you have climbers, it is best to just go over them lightly. Branches of trees

and shrubs that cross one another should be pruned out. Leave your hydrangeas for July, because you would cut off the blooms if you prune them now. In July, you will be forfeiting some blooms, but this is the only way to get them under control.

Trees should be thinned out by removing unnecessary branches instead of just topping them, as topping them only produces a bushier, uglier tree or shrub. If you have forsythias, prune and bring your cuttings inside; they will open up quickly. Dividing your iris now will postpone bloom until next year, but you will have increased your supply and you will have aided the health of your crop. This is true of most perennials: they benefit from division once every three years.

March and April are the months for many chores, but fiddling is part of it all and puttering about is a solitary enjoyable exercise in doing almost nothing. You dead head, weed, stand back and peruse the garden. You prune a bit and then, with hands behind your back, you look and assess your work. Gardening so engages the eyes that without this seemingly wasteful puttering, it would be all so laborious.

Idling by the window is not to be underestimated either as a lovely pastime. Cardinals as red as apples give me pause. Still dreaming to be in the thick of it, I know that the branches are swelling their buds, sap is beginning to run and the little green noses of bulbs are winking above the soil. It is exciting to be in a happy state of apprehension once again. Be on the lookout for the skunk cabbages at the bend of the first circle by the Shore Road. They are the first to turn fat and green. If you look closely, their brownish, purple and yellow speckled tusks will be emerging. Everything quickens. There is no stopping it. It is here. Spring!

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



Nancy Lotrionte, back row, middle, presented a basketful of children's books to the teachers and students of St. Mary's Early Childhood Program in memory and honor of Mrs. Marie Livingston. Also pictured are teachers Lisa Moore (l.) and Helen McMahon (r.).



Public School 175

Although a short month, February was quite busy. Thanks to another grant from Councilman James Vacca, we were able to provide an after-school musical arts program for students in grades three through eight. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a choral performance. Rehearsals have been going very well and students will be putting on the performance for their families in the middle of March.

Our fifth-graders have also been busy working with the teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble and their classroom teachers on their March performance of "Annie." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! A portion of the grant from Councilman Vacca is also being used to subsidize this performance.

The P. S. 175 tradition of the sixth grade going to Camp Greenkill will continue this May. Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun and learning-filled trips that will be taking place in the coming months. In March they will be going to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social studies.

Our eighth-grade students are working hard to be ready for their momentous June event. This month they held a Valentine's Day bake and candygram sale, which provided an opportunity for their schoolmates to purchase Valentine's Day goodies for their family members. In addition, eighth-graders conducted a jump-a-thon to benefit victims of Typhoon Haiyan. This fund-raiser was a huge success. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Our Sports & Arts after-school program has been in full swing with students participating in art, music, athletic activities, ping pong and knock-hockey tournaments and homework help.

Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, March 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day as well.

Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2014, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten will have the opportunity to do so at school in early May. Parents/guardians should call

the school at the end of April for specific dates.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Monday, June 23, at 9:30 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place that evening, from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m.

The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

February Citizens-of-the-Month are James Ramos (kindergarten); Kostadin Vergis and Santino Esposito (first grade); Marcus Sipas (second grade); Aaron Thomas and Jake Zawel (third grade); Samantha Hernandez and Joseph Persteins (fourth grade); Cole Wiehler and Joseph Goonan (fifth grade); Brandon McLaughan and Nicholas Kola (sixth grade); Julisa Viguera and Michael Amos (seventh grade); Anita Beqiraj and Olivia Albertelli (eighth grade).

Little Stars

February was filled with many new adventures for our Little Stars. We began the month learning about Valentine's Day and friendship. The students practiced their handwriting and the letters M, N, O and P. The story of the month was "The Three Little Pigs." The children enjoyed listening to the story as well as acting out the plot with our very own hand puppets and stage.

The teachers and staff of Little Stars, along with many community members, enjoyed our February fund-raiser "Winter Luau" as we turned the gym into a summer fun day. There was dancing and limbo and many fun summer games. Winter was far from anyone's mind.

We would like to invite everyone to join us for our St. Paddy's Day dinner and dance on March 29; the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to purchase tickets, please call the school at 718-885-1527 or stop by any weekday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. We will be serving a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread. You may bring your own drinks to enjoy for the evening.

We are so excited and extremely grateful to a group of families who have donated a library full of brand new books in honor and memory of Mrs. Marie Livingston. Marie's love of St. Mary's and the children will live on in our library dedicated to her work and commitment to this school. The gift of literacy is a commitment to our future. We would like to thank the Lotrionte, Quinn, O'Donnell, Mazzella and Brick families for their very generous donation.

There is space available for both our aftercare program and our early childhood program ages 2-6. If you are interested in any of our programs, please call Lisa Moore at 718-885-1527 or stop by the school for a tour.

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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.



Marie Livingston

Marie Paladino Livingston

Marie Paladino Livingston passed away peacefully in her daughter's arms on Jan. 13, 2014, four days before her 91st birthday.

Marie Paladino was born in Harlem in 1921. Her family spent their summers renting a bungalow at the north end of City Island. When she turned 10 years old, her father surprised the family by moving them into the red brick house next to the rectory as their new permanent home.

In 1951 Marie married Mort Livingston of New Jersey, and they settled on City Island, where they lived until their deaths. Marie worked in the banking industry in Manhattan, as an admissions counselor at Fordham University, and at a real estate office in New Rochelle. She served the school and church of St. Mary's throughout her life as PTA president, librarian, substitute teacher, CCD teacher, member of the Ladies Altar Guild and Eucharistic Minister. She was a lifelong member of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post Ladies' Auxiliary, having served as its president many years ago.

Marie Livingston was honored two years ago as the oldest living alumna of St. Mary's School, having been in 1936 a member of the second graduating class. She attended the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and graduated from the College of New Rochelle, where she received a degree in education.

Mort Livingston died in 2007. Marie is survived by her children, Helen and Thomas McMahon, John and Ann Livingston, Jim and Caroline Livingston, all of City Island, and Robert and Karen Livingston of Silver Beach; her grandchildren, J. P. and Danielle Livingston of Queens, Stacy and John Anthony Livingston, Bryan and Maria Livingston, Thomas John and Denisse McMahon, Michael, Katie and Bernadette McMahon and Ashley and Patrick Livingston, all of City Island, and Amanda and Anthony Martin and Robert Livingston of Silver Beach. She also leaves behind great grandchildren Donny and Julianna Hostomsky of City Island, Olivia Livingston, of City Island, and James Michael Livingston of Queens.

Marie enjoyed music, dancing and living life to the fullest; in fact, she danced

this past year at the weddings of two of her grandchildren. She loved being with family and friends and spent most of her days chatting on the phone or sitting in front of her house visiting with anyone who happened to pass by. She and her husband were snowbirds who spent winters in their home in Florida for nearly 20 years, but she always looked forward to being home on City Island.

In 2010, after she moved into the home of her daughter and son-in-law, she said: "I am so happy and feel very blessed that I am able to move back into the house I built with my husband, Mort, and raised my own family in."

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Marie's nephew Father Brian Page, with Father Michael Challinor, Pastor of St. Mary's, as a concelebrant, on Jan. 17, 2014.



Joe Venturini

Joseph Alfred Venturini

Joseph Alfred Venturini, a longtime resident of Tier Street, died recently at the age of 76 after a long battle with emphysema and cancer.

Joe was born in Brooklyn to Helen and Joseph Venturini. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea, and graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and served on two aircraft carriers, the *USS Ranger* and the *USS Randolph*. He passed through the equator several times during his enlistment. In his younger days, he was an avid skier and chef, and he loved to travel.

He retired from the NYPD as a civilian supervisor dispatcher. He was a member of the AARP and served as an usher for St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. He will be very much missed by all who knew him.

Joe is survived by his brother, John and his wife, Joan; his niece and goddaughter, Gina Venturini Strickland, and her husband, Kevin Strickland, great niece Kayla Strickland, great nephews Cody Strickland and Kaiden Strickland; nephew Christian Venturini and his wife, Christina, and great nephew John.

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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

MARCH 2014									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0533	-1.3	1123	8.40	1759	-1.44	2349	8.46	Sat 01
02 Sun	0623	-1.45	1213	8.32	1845	-1.35			Sun 02
03 Mon	0036	8.45	0712	-1.36	1302	8.08	1931	-1.08	Mon 03
04 Tue	0123	8.29	0803	-1.07	1351	7.73	2017	-0.65	Tue 04
05 Wed	0212	7.99	0855	-0.63	1445	7.32	2105	-0.13	Wed 05
06 Thur	0306	7.63	0950	-0.13	1544	6.93	2159	0.40	Thur 06
07 Fri	0408	7.28	1050	0.34	1649	6.64	2301	0.85	Fri 07
08 Sat	0515	7.03	1151	0.68	1753	6.53			Sat 08
All times are Eastern Daylight Time beginning Sunday, March 9									
09 Sun	0006	1.14	0720	6.94	1351	0.85	1953	6.58	Sun 09
10 Mon	0207	1.23	0819	6.99	1447	0.87	2049	6.76	Mon 10
11 Tue	0303	1.15	0913	7.13	1537	0.78	2140	7.00	Tue 11
12 Wed	0352	0.97	1002	7.29	1622	0.64	2225	7.22	Wed 12
13 Thur	0437	0.75	1046	7.41	1703	0.49	2306	7.40	Thur 13
14 Fri	0516	0.52	1125	7.48	1737	0.37	2341	7.51	Fri 14
15 Sat	0549	0.30	1155	7.49	1803	0.27			Sat 15
16 Sun	0002	7.59	0613	0.10	1208	7.50	1817	0.14	Sun 16
17 Mon	0009	7.75	0633	-0.10	1224	7.58	1838	-0.01	Mon 17
18 Tue	0034	7.97	0702	-0.26	1256	7.65	1910	-0.12	Tue 18
19 Wed	0109	8.16	0738	-0.34	1334	7.66	1948	-0.12	Wed 19
20 Thur	0149	8.26	0819	-0.30	1417	7.58	2031	-0.01	Thur 20
21 Fri	0233	8.23	0905	-0.14	1505	7.42	2118	0.20	Fri 21
22 Sat	0323	8.07	0956	0.11	1557	7.19	2211	0.47	Sat 22
23 Sun	0418	7.81	1055	0.38	1657	6.96	2312	0.73	Sun 23
24 Mon	0519	7.52	1211	0.57	1807	6.85			Mon 24
25 Tue	0028	0.86	0632	7.33	1401	0.46	1939	6.97	Tue 25
26 Wed	0222	0.64	0808	7.37	1513	0.08	2105	7.38	Wed 26
27 Thur	0337	0.09	0932	7.65	1611	-0.35	2205	7.84	Thur 27
28 Fri	0436	-0.49	1032	7.95	1704	-0.72	2257	7.84	Fri 28
29 Sat	0530	-0.98	1124	8.15	1753	-0.96	2346	8.50	Sat 29
30 Sun	0620	-1.28	1213	8.21	1839	-1.02			Sun 30
31 Mon	0031	8.59	0708	-1.35	1300	8.13	1923	-0.88	Mon 31
APRIL 2014									
01 Tue	0115	8.53	0755	-1.19	1345	7.92	2006	-0.59	Tue 01
02 Wed	0158	8.32	0841	-0.85	1430	7.63	2047	-0.17	Wed 02



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

When the telephone rings at 4:30 in the morning, it's usually not because of good news. This was the case for us a couple of months ago, when we were awakened by our neighbor who was calling to tell us about a sailboat that had broken loose from its mooring and was heading in our direction. In the dark and in the rain and high winds, we watched in helpless horror as a 35-foot sloop washed ashore. Mere feet from the walls, fences and pier at the end of Fordham Street, it ground to an abrupt halt on the jetty there. Our attempts to secure it with a line were fruitless, and so we continued to watch and to think and to hope it would hold there. What else could we do? Who do you call?

As Boat U.S. members, we made our first call to Sea Tow, one of a number of outfits in our area that offers boat-towing services on Long Island Sound. But not on this particular morning. They suggested we call the Coast Guard station at Kings Point. The seaman who took our call informed us that, because we did not know who owned the boat, we should get in touch with the NYPD's Harbor Patrol, which he said could be done by calling 911. The operator at 911 disagreed. She said that the way to get in contact with Harbor Patrol was through the 45th Precinct. In the end, neither the Har-

bor Patrol nor the Coast Guard would get involved because of the storm and the fact that lives were not in danger (property yes, human life no). To be fair, the storm had not yet passed, although it was beginning to peter out. Our next call was to Chris. It was about 6:15 a.m. at this point, and he did not hesitate. He said, "Let me make a few calls and I'll get back to you." We never did find out who he called or what he found out. All we knew and cared about, frankly, was that in about an hour, Chris and his colleague, Danny, had a line tied to the stranded sloop's bow and were hauling her off the rocks and back out into the deep water.

The risks these two took for fellow City Islanders were more here than meets the eye. There were a whole host of legal technicalities that had to be confronted before engaging in a salvage operation such as this. For example, who owns the boat, is it insured, what were the exact circumstances causing the boat to be off its mooring in the first place, who's responsible, etc., etc. You would think that there might be some kind of Good Samaritan law that applies in situations such as these but apparently there is not. If you still don't get it, take a look at Rodman's Neck and the derelict boats along its shoreline. Or the wrecks that litter the water next to the bridge. Most of them, if not all, have been there a long while and will probably remain there for another long while, all because of a technicality or two.

We're not saying that a broader application of the Good Samaritan law would solve all of City Island's thorny salvage issues overnight, but it wouldn't hurt to take a look. In the meantime, we take comfort in knowing that there is a new generation of City Island salts who are looking out for their neighbors. Keep them in mind for all your marine needs as boating season approaches.


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The Power of Song to Create a Better World: Pete Seeger (1919-2014)

By JOHN SCARDINA

Music, according to Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner in his 1984 book "Frames of Mind," is one of the multiple intelligences that allows us to use our cognitive skills to live "the good life" with others. This would hardly have been news to Pete Seeger, who passed away on Jan. 27. His life's aim—to get people "to sing good songs together"—was in keeping with the philosophy of John Dewey, who said that the aim of education is to "build a new world." And this is precisely what Pete did. Reflect a moment on these lines of Pete's songs:

"I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out warning, I'd hammer out the love between my brothers and my sisters all over this world." ("If I Had a Hammer")

"Gone to graveyards every one. When will they ever learn?" ("Where Have All The Flowers Gone?")

"A time for peace, I swear it's not too

late." ("Turn, Turn, Turn")

We can have many definitions of the "good life" to strive for, but I turn to people like Pete Seeger to remind me of what is really important: love between all of us, the absurdity of war and the necessity of peace.

Pick up a Pete Seeger CD for your kids, especially the story of Abiyoyo. Watch Bruce Springsteen play "We Shall Overcome" on YouTube ("The Seeger Sessions") and talk with your family about the daily need to overcome adversity in our lives. Get together with friends and neighbors and sing the old songs that inspired our nation to be more friendly, more loving and more tolerant. We have lost a cultural icon, but his music must live on.

City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com, and his parent discussion groups at the City Island Community Center

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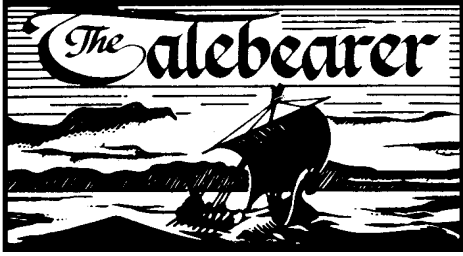
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations on a job well done to Islander Anita La Scala, who was instrumental in the design of the Olympics Opening Ceremony on Friday, Feb. 7. Anita was featured on NBC the night before the Olympics began, when she and her boss, designer George Tyspin, were interviewed about their creative concepts for the spectacular show. She deserves a gold medal!

Birthday wishes on March 31 to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, with love from your family and friends.

A warm welcome to Minneford Avenue's newest resident, Kevin Hils, who has transferred here from Ohio. Kevin will be



Anita La Scala at Medals Plaza in Sochi (left) and holding the hoof of one of the troika horses that were a feature of the opening ceremony on Feb. 7.

working at the Bronx Zoo in the Ornithology Department.

Happy birthday on March 8 to Marine Street's Chris Butterworth, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

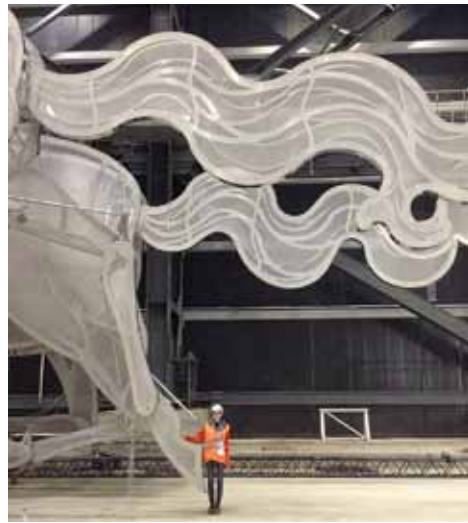
Birthday greetings to Joseph Nelson on March 10 and to his dad, Joe, on March 28, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

A fond farewell to City Island's friendliest mailman, Tommy Cleary, who recently retired. Your co-workers and the many City Island friends you've made over the years wish you much happiness and good luck.

Happy birthday wishes to Hunter Avenue's Judy McCormick on March 18.

Happy birthday to our grandchildren James, Jesse and Jenee on March 7. Happy birthday on the 15th to Eugene. Happy birthday on the 18th to Judy McCormick. Happy birthday to Philip and Dottie, with love and kisses from your family.

Wishing a lifetime of happiness to Lori Mazzella and Bob Rico, who were married on New Year's Eve. Proud parents are John and Liz Mazzella of Winters Street and Teri and Bob Rico of Berlin, NJ.



Photos by ROB BISSINGER

Congratulations to Marguerite Chadwick-Juner whose painting "Sunwashed

Sailors" will grace the cover of the sailing magazine 48° North for March.

Maria Swieciki



Lori Mazzella and Bob Rico were married on Dec. 31, 2014.



Photo by ANTHONY FRANCIONE

City Island's mail carriers bid a fond farewell to Tommy Cleary, who recently retired (l. to r.): Austin James, Roberto Diaz, Anthony Francione, Tommy Cleary and Elbio Correa.

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