

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Periodicals
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.
USPS 114-590

Volume 50 Number 6 July-August 2021

One Dollar

FRESH AIR GRADUATION!

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

It was another unique eighth-grade graduation at P.S. 175 on June 21, 2021. Due to continuing Covid-19 safety guidelines, the ceremony was held outdoors in the schoolyard under a tent for the first time in school history.

Principal Julie Porras, in her second year as head of City Island's only elementary-middle school, spoke of the importance of being able to gather in person. The 2020 graduation took place in the middle of the pandemic and had to be remote, with distanced parades organized by middle-school teachers. "It is so special that we are able to come together today. This past year was like no other. There were so many questions. Will we wear masks all day? Will we be remote every day? How safe are we and when will we reopen?"

In her opening remarks to parents and graduates gathered under the tent, Ms. Porras praised the eighth-graders. "You all dealt with so many unknowns every day, but you overcame them and I am in awe of you. I know you will go on to great things."

A pleasant breeze welcomed the teenagers as they marched into the schoolyard to "Pomp and Circumstance." Three representatives from the class, Paul Lachman, Isabel Quiles and Sarah Goonan, gave heartfelt, and often humorous, speeches. They spoke of the pandemic's effect on their seventh- and eighth-grade years, such as missing some longtime school traditions like Mars Week and the Spring Festival, as well as field trips to Philadelphia and other places. However, they also expressed the belief that these challenges made them more resilient and ready to face the demands of high school.

Referring to the hardships placed on families and students because of Covid-19, Sarah Goonan said, "We can see the light at the end of the long dark tunnel. We will come out stronger." Isabel Quiles summed up their perseverance over the last year: "We are graduated!" A musical performance of "This is Me" by Janala Perry and Joshua Soto also captured the class's optimism.

Then Ms. Porras and the eighth-grade teachers, Karen Heil and Giuliana Adesso, awarded the diplomas and made the following presentations: The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for Highest Average was awarded to Paul Lachman, who also received the Principal's Award for Academic Excellence. The Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was given to Mia Goldberg; the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement went to Erin Crowe; and the Vice Principal's Award for School Spirit and Moral Conviction was presented to Sarah Goonan.

The Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* was given to Mae Caruso; the Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award went to Mia Goldberg; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was presented to Mikayla Murphy.

The NYC Public Advocate Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement was awarded to Santino Esposito and Michael Sgobbo; the City Council Speaker's Achievement Award for Academic Excellence and Community Service went to Gabriella Gierum; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Perseverance Award was given to Bella Gonzales; the NY

EDGucator Role Model Award went to Delilah Burgess; the NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement was given to Matthew Desantis; and the recipient of the Technology Award for Computer Science was Sarah Goonan.

The Alice Persteins Award for Community Involvement was presented to Joselyn Sanchez; the Lucretia Fusco Award for Perseverance went to Mia Goldberg; the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort was given to Madison Seward; the City of NY Commission on Women's Issues Award for Leadership went to Isabel Quiles.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: Science Regents Award, Paul Lachman; Science Award, Violet Chadwick;

Social Studies Award, Nicholas Cuomo and Audrey Veltman; Italian Award, Gabriella Gierum; Math Regents Award, Lila Malejko; Math Award, Santino Esposito; Math Superintendent Award, Ronan Daly; ELA Superintendent Award, Lila Malejko; ELA Award, Dana Moynihan and Joshua Soto.

Regents Math certificates were given

Continued on page 5

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (September 2021) will be published and on sale at the end of August.

BRIEFLY...

KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY, 280 City Island Avenue, will exhibit from early July through August a selection of paintings by Harold Vandervoort Walsh, a well-known architect and artist who lived on Pilot Street for many years. These paintings of local scenes, including Pelham Bay Park, have been in storage for many years at the City Island Nautical Museum, where the library is named in Mr. Walsh's honor, and the museum has decided to share them with a larger audience by offering them for viewing and for sale.

CITY ISLAND ART COLLECTIVE: A group of artists is currently forming an art collective here, and they want to meet with everyone who paints, sings, writes, makes films, plays music, does anything creative. The goal is to showcase what City Island has to offer and to connect artists with each other. No politics, just art. If this interests you, come to Clipper Coffee on Wednesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. and introduce yourself.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from May 20 to June 21, 2021.

5/20 – An Island male reported that his house was broken into via the rear basement door on Minneford Avenue. Unknown

person(s) removed jewelry from his home.

5/25 – An off-Island male reported using an ATM on City Island Avenue and placing cash on top of it with the intention of withdrawing more. The victim stated that an unknown female took the money and fled from the location.

6/4 – An Island male teenager was assaulted on City Island Avenue by two unknown suspects.

6/10 – On Minneford Avenue, an Island female reported that her rear driver's side window was broken overnight by an unknown suspect in an act of criminal mischief.

6/15 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island 26-year-old male at 11 p.m. for breaking the basement glass door of a building on Centre Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt and Matt Panza
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Stephanie Ribaudo, Lorraine Nicoletti, Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika. Cartoon format originated by Russell Schaller Sr.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571
Printed by Stellar Printing Inc., 3838 9th St., Long Island City, NY 11101
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0760. Copyright 2021 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

**City Island
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Sat. & Sun. September 11th & 12th
Clam chowder contest Sunday Sept.12 in Hawkins Park
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Firing Range Sound Baffling Promised—Again

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

According to representatives of the New York Police Department, temporary sound abatement at the Rodman's Neck Firing Range is scheduled to be in place by summer 2022. At a meeting of Community Board 10's Municipal Services Committee on June 9, 2021, members of the NYPD described the current status of the decades-long renovation of the range and reported that although the range renovation will not be completed until at least 2026, temporary baffling will be installed in the interim.

As *The Island Current* celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, it is interesting to note that the firing range at Rodman's Neck is the only subject that has received more than 100 articles, many of them documenting the community's efforts to reduce the sound, which has increased dramatically over the years. Indeed, other communities in the east Bronx have joined City Island residents in the effort to persuade the NYPD to reduce the noise, which to date has achieved nothing except promises.

During the 1970s, most of the complaints were about noise caused by the NYPD Bomb Squad, which is located at Rodman's Neck but is not part of the firing range. The explosion of illegal fireworks was the cause of many complaints, especially around July 4 each year, but during the 1980s, concerns about contamination and pollution caused by the lead that had been discharged at the firing range since the 1960s became a frequent topic of discussion.

The NYPD had established the firing range at Rodman's Neck in 1959 with five-year permits issued by the New York Department of Parks & Recreation. Parks refused to issue a new permit in 1989 because of public complaints about noise and lead pollution, when the NYC Department of Environmental Protection confirmed that there were elevated levels of lead on the site. The following year the NYPD addressed the Civic Association and promised to address complaints about excessive noise and lead contamination. Nothing changed, however, and in 1991 two lawsuits were filed against NYC. These were settled two years later, when the NYPD agreed to remove the lead, but the department refused to close the range. In fact, the NYS Supreme Court ruled that the state legislature must grant approval to the use of Rodman's Neck by the NYPD without any further need for permit renewals from the Parks Department.

In 1993 State Senator Guy Velella and Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman agreed to work out a compromise that would allow the police to stay but that would satisfy community complaints. However, the NYPD was required to erect sound barriers within one year of passage of the law, limit the hours of training and remove the lead. The NYPD did undertake lead removal and has informed the community that removal takes place on a regular basis, but by 1995, no sound barriers had been constructed and Assemblyman Kaufman prepared a lawsuit to be filed by the City Island Civic Association against the NYPD. The department engaged Cerami Associates to test for sound, and when the firm concluded that the noise was higher than that allowed by law, the police agreed to erect sound barriers, and the lawsuit was withdrawn.

In 1998, \$1.5 million was put in the NYC capital budget for the construction of sound barriers, but the prototype barrier was not effective and the project was abandoned. After more community complaints were raised, a meeting was scheduled to be held at Rodman's Neck on Sept. 11, 2001, but needless to say it was canceled, and the subject of sound abatement was set aside. In 2005, the issue was raised again because the number of officers using the range had increased and the types of firearms were louder and more powerful; even the loudspeaker became a problem because the

police officers were required to wear ear protectors. Sound abatement barriers were promised for the spring of 2006, but Mayor Bloomberg canceled the project because his Olympic bid for 2012 called for Rodman's Neck to be used as a "state-of-the-art" indoor firing range.

The Olympic bid failed, but the following year, the mayor announced that a new police academy would be built in Queens starting in 2009, including a firing range, so any sound-abatement efforts at Rodman's Neck were canceled. However, nothing changed over the next seven years, and in October 2014, Commissioner Bill Bratton conceded at a Bronx Borough Command meeting that he had decided not to move the firing range to Queens. Nothing was said about sound abatement.

In July 2016, this reporter spoke with Mayor Di Blasio on the Brian Lehrer show on WNYC and complained about the noise at Rodman's Neck. The mayor claimed he had never heard of this issue, but Councilmember James Vacca followed up with the mayor's office, and by the following month, the mayor announced at a town meeting at Throggs Neck that funding for sound abatement would be put into the city's capital budget. In January 2017, the sum of \$275 million was in the budget to cover complete renovation of the firing range, and the design phase began.

Unfortunately, the design that the capital construction unit commissioned called for far more funding than was in the capital budget, so the design had to be revised. In the meantime, Councilmember Vacca pushed hard for special funding to cover the cost of temporary baffling, and at a meeting with the NYPD and the 45th Precinct Community Council in February 2020, the community was assured that a design for temporary baffling was ready to be sent out for bid.

Because of the pandemic, no meetings were held to report on progress with the Rodman's Neck range, until the meeting held in June of this year. NYPD Deputy Inspector Joseph Notaro, Commanding Officer of the Facilities Management Division, announced that funding had been approved for temporary baffling to reduce the noise produced by the firing range. The design phase will take place over the next three to six months, with construction scheduled to start in January 2022, for completion in April.

The long-term plan for a permanent renovation of the range, which had originally included the construction of indoor ranges, was cut back, eliminating a new tactical village and reducing the number of indoor ranges. The NYPD is taking a phased approach, using existing funds, and anticipates that construction will begin in 2023 and be completed by 2026.

Members of the community who attended the virtual Community Board meeting raised a number of questions, asking for notifications when high-caliber weapons were going to be used and expressing concern about the environment. DI Notaro agreed to look into these issues but conceded that there was no way to eliminate the sound except through the construction of indoor ranges. However, he reassured the group that temporary baffling will certainly reduce the sound until indoor ranges are built.

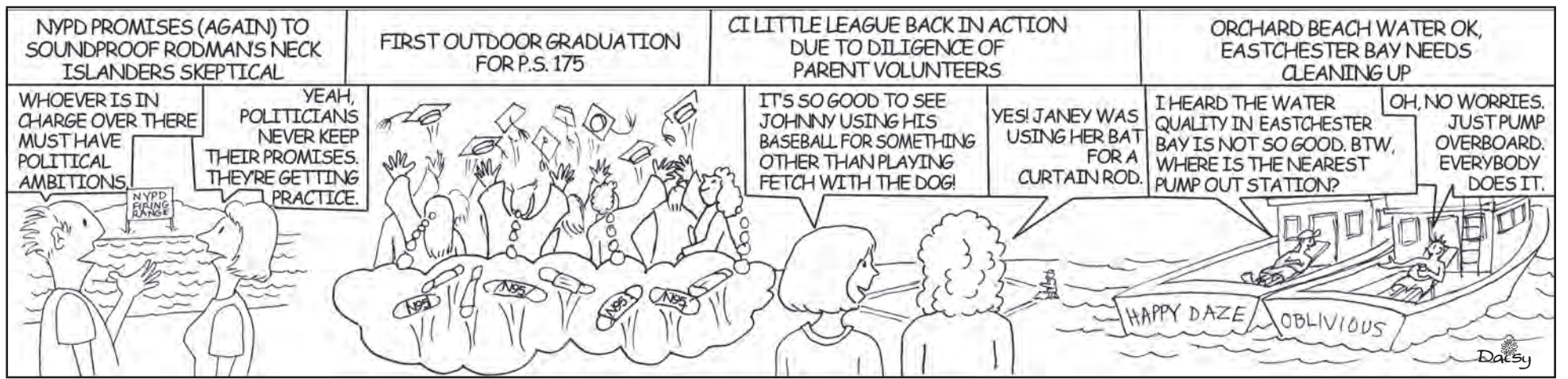
So here we are again with reassuring promises from the NYPD about sound abatement after five decades of complaints raised by City Island residents and those from neighboring communities. Let's hope they get it right this time and that the sound will be dramatically reduced a year from now. In the meantime, be prepared for the bomb squad on or about July 4 to add their own noise to the chaos that has become a fact of life for City Island.

Remembering Island Heroes (Safely)



Photos by RON TERNER

Because of ongoing Covid-19 safety guidelines, a scaled-down Memorial Day remembrance was led by the color guard, American Legion members, Boy Scouts and the Auxiliary of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 on May 31, 2021. The tribute to City Island's fallen veterans was nevertheless inspiring and included salutes at the Hawkins Park Memorial, Pelham Cemetery and the bridge monument at the Legion triangle. It is hoped that the traditional parade, including a drum corps and guest sailors from Fleet Weekend, will be marching again next year along City Island Avenue.



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

Zoning Issues on CI

To the Editor,

With respect to Lauren Nye's article "Revisiting Land Use on City Island to Unlock Our Potential" in the May issue of *The Island Current*, we agree and disagree with some of her findings. It is true that special zoning alone did not preserve boatyards, marinas, sailmakers and other nautical businesses from political or economic forces. Preserving the nautical flavor of City Island is not an easy task, since many of these industries have gone away. Perhaps a small park with benches can be made just off the bridge where trucks are being stored across the street from Dunkin Donuts. As to filling the empty storefronts, that is a difficult task, as any business that goes into one of those locations must be able to support itself on a 12-month basis, not only during the summer months. We need to think about the kinds of businesses that can operate successfully 365 days a year.

The article raises a lot of interesting questions: Is there a need for another expensive condominium development with some affordable units included? Or more senior citizen units? Are we allowed to dictate what businesses can operate here or which artists may come to our community? Are we as a community allowed to ask building owners to charge lower rents to artists? All of these notions

are very well intentioned but not practical.

There are more than 4,000 residents on this Island and the survey posted had only 166 participants. We do not feel that this sample was large enough to contain all of the varied opinions of the residents. We are planning to create another survey that will include a larger, more diverse sample of our population.

**City Island Civic Association
Executive Committee**

Musical Thanks

To the City Island community:

Thanks for all your well wishes, which mean a lot to me. Thanks to all my family and friends who helped me in my time of need, to the ladies at my office for keeping things running and also to those who support the business.

I hope to see you all at City Island Rocks Music on Sundays at Hawkins Park. The first show is July 4 at 3 p.m. The schedule will be in my office window at 300 City Island Avenue, as well as in some other business windows. All are welcome to attend.

Have a great summer.

Bob Carmody

Complaints from an Island Resident

To the Editor:

The U.S. Crane company near Pilot Street on City Island Avenue is very noisy early in the morning, sometimes before 7 and late in the evening, at 10 and even 11 p.m., with huge trucks going in and out of their yard. The trucks often park in the fire lane and sit there or double park with their flashers going. It is hard to leave the side streets, and driving is very scary.

To make matters worse, the business on the corner of Reynolds Street is very inconsiderate to neighbors by parking a large truck in the street and unloading and unloading it, sometimes starting early

in the morning and going on until late at night, making it hard to get by the truck to go up and down the block. I just watched him pull into a neighbor's driveway without asking permission. They are not nice people!

I wish that the businesses here would realize that this is a residential community and that they need to be considerate of those who live here.

Name Withheld Upon Request

Fair Resumes!

To the Editor,

The City Island Chamber of Commerce successfully resumed our traditional Spring Arts & Crafts Fair on June 5 and 6! This was one of our most successful fairs, with 60 or more artists, craftspeople and local businesses participating. We look forward to everyone joining us again at our Fall Fair on Sept. 11 and 12.

We would like to thank our volunteers and all of those who came out to patron-

ize the vendors and support the Chamber through our raffles. We especially want to thank those businesses that offered raffle prizes. Please continue to show your support by patronizing them: The Black Whale, Buddy's Hardware, Captain Mike's Dive Shop, City Island Diner and Snug, the Crab Shanty, the Harlem Yacht Club, the Island Current Fishing Fleet, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Lickety Split, LLG Plumbing, Seafood City, Sea Shore Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box and Sammy's Shrimp Box.

Thank you all,

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

It Takes A Village

To the Editor,

Thank you all for your kind condolences, thoughts and prayers for my husband, John Byrne, a real clam digger.

Arlene Byrne and Family

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Graduation

Continued from page 1

to Ronan Daly, Gabriella Gierum, Mia Goldberg, Paul Lachman, Lila Malejko, Isabel Quiles, Madison Seward, Michael Sgobbo, Joshua Soto and Kostadinos Vergis.

Regents Science Certificates went to Ronan Daly, Matthew Desantis, Santino Esposito, Gabriella Gierum, Paul Lachman, Lila Malejko, Isabel Quiles, Madison Seward, Joshua Soto and Kostadinos Vergis.

Students on the honor roll were: (Gold)

Ronan Daly, Santino Esposito, Bogdan Gelevan, Gabriella Gierum, Mia Goldberg, Sarah Goonan, Paul Lachman, Lila Malejko, Dana Moynihan, Isabel Quiles, Madison Seward, Joshua Soto, Kostadinos Vergis and Jenan Zezula; (Silver) Violet Chadwick, Erin Crowe, Bella Gonzales, Zaden Leonard, Mikayla Murphy and Audrey Veltman.

The presentation of diplomas was followed by a lively performance by the entire class to the music of "I Lived" culminating in the tossing of their graduation caps into the fresh air.

Congratulations to the award winners and all the 2021 graduates!


NAUTICAL TRADITION RELAUNCHES!



Photos by SANDY DUNN

Sponsored by the City Island Sail and Power Squadron, the annual Blessing of the Fleet, a City Island nautical tradition, returned on Sunday, June 27, 2021, after a hiatus in 2020 caused by the pandemic. Boats from all over Long Island Sound welcomed individual blessings given by clergy from St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Temple Beth-El and Trinity United Methodist Church. Color guard from the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post were once again on hand to salute the many vessels sailing by Barron's Boatyard dock.

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Photo by PAUL KLEIN
Anthony's restaurant at 273 City Island Avenue, featuring "authentic Italian cuisine," will finally open by the end of June. Owner Anthony DiAngelis had hoped to open during 2020 after he closed the popular pizza restaurant Filomena's across the street, but the pandemic and delays in obtaining permits prevented him from opening until now.

REAL ESTATE REVIEW

As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
401 Hunter Avenue	\$545,000	1/14/21
141 Reville Street	568,000	1/22/21
90 Ditmars Street	312,500	2/19/21
423 Minneford Avenue	489,250	2/25/21
99 Winters Street	365,000	3/23/21
66 Tier Street	225,000	3/24/21
353 Fordham Place	599,000	3/29/21
180 Terrace Street	380,000	4/6/21
23 Schofield Street	389,000	5/24/21
336 King Avenue	489,690	5/24/21
101 Buckley Street	590,000	6/18/21
Multi-Family Houses		
47 Bay Street	635,000	1/13/21
511 Minneford Avenue	875,000	2/12/21
103 Centre Street	575,000	3/9/21
122 Horton Street	760,000	3/31/21
81 Tier Street	1,188,000	4/29/21
Condominiums		
13 Deepwater Way	576,000	1/29/21
55 Island Point	747,500	2/5/21
170 Schofield St 20	235,000	4/6/21
5 Leeward Lane	500,000	5/14/21
61 Island Point	600,000	5/17/21
26 Island Point	775,000	5/19/21
Cooperative		
33 Tier Street Unit B2	499,999	1/29/21
104 Fordham Street #2	295,000	6/7/21
Commercial		
311 City Island Avenue	302,500	4/15/21
532 City Island Avenue	700,000	4/15/21
Land		
115a Rochelle Street	329,000	1/15/21

Disclaimer: The above sales include foreclosures and family transfers, which do not reflect real market or assessed value in those cases.

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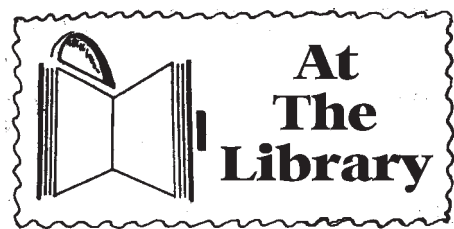
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As of May 24, the City Island Branch is offering expanded services, limited browsing and computer reservations.

Shelf Help: While browsing is limited, we offer a friendly, adventurous alternative. Tell us your reading interests and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests: www.nypl.org/shelfhelp.

JULY VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Online Family Storytime: Join us for a live, online program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that Storytime is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

JULY VIRTUAL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Writers Assemble! Get together to talk fanfic, fandom culture and writing! Bring some writing if you want a critique! Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Teen Book Club: "Raybearer" by Jordan Ifueko. Read and discuss this YA fantasy book with a rich world and powerful POC protagonist. Call the branch or stop by the branch for more information. Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

JULY VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS

WNYC Virtual Book Discussion: Let's Talk About Hard Things: Reading keeps us connected. Join us for a virtual book club! We know that New Yorkers

need to feel a sense of community and fun, even as we remain apart. And that's why the New York Public Library continues partnering with WNYC to present a virtual stay-at-home book club experience! Each month, we will read a new title leading up to a live conversation between the author and Alison Stewart, host of WNYC's All of It.

This month we are reading and discussing "Let's Talk About Hard Things" by Anna Sale. Sale's award-winning podcast, Death, Sex, and Money, was born out of a desire for open and honest conversations about the things that we "think about a lot, and need to talk about more." Thursday, July 1, at 3:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Titles and Trivia: It's National Ice Cream Month, and the City Island Library is going to meet virtually to share some book titles and brain-freezing trivia to help keep you cool. Friday, July 9, at 3:30 p.m.

One-on-One Job Support: Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you to write and format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Register for a one-on-one session through Google Meet at <https://www.nypl.org/adults/career-employment/virtual/support>. Wednesday, July 7 and 21, at 10 a.m.

Open Book Hour: What Are You Reading Now? One of the most popular activities at home is reading. Join us and share selections with other readers. Saturday, July 10 and 24, at 3:30 p.m.

Power in Print Book Discussion: This month, join us at the City Island Library for a discussion of "The Lofts of SoHo: Gentrification, Art, and Industry in New York, 1950-1980" by Aaron Shkuda. Monday, Aug. 9, at 3:30 p.m.

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

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J G LaValle

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Orchard Beach Safe and Sound, Eastchester Bay Not So Much

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Save the Sound, a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization that regularly conducts water-quality tests at more than 200 beaches on Long Island Sound, announced on June 10, 2021, that Orchard Beach had been named one of the top 10 beaches in New York in terms of water quality. According to Tracey Brown, regional director of water protection for Save the Sound, "This is the eighth consecutive season that Orchard Beach has scored an A based on low fecal bacteria levels in this waterway."

In 2015, Save the Sound was selected to design and coordinate a Sound-wide study of waterways, working in collaboration with science advisors, other monitoring groups and regulatory agencies, including the EPA, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and Interstate Environmental Commission.

Save the Sound works with small regional groups as well, including the City Island Oyster Reef, Inc. (CIOR), which also undertakes regular testing of water quality at various sites around City Island. Unfortunately, thanks largely to pollution-producing factors on the Hutchinson

River, Eastchester Bay beaches do not merit a good rating for water quality. The New York City Department of Health regularly tests beaches on both sides of the Bay, including the Morris Yacht Club and the West Fordham Street Beach Association on City Island. The Island beaches have tested clean enough in recent years to allow swimming, but several beaches across the Bay have not done so in the past and at least three of them will not open this year.

In collaboration with City Island community organizations, including the Hutchinson River Restoration Project and the City Island Oyster Reef, Save the Sound has participated in meetings with the mayor of Mount Vernon, NY, to monitor that city's progress in repairing its sewer system that has polluted the river for many years. Combined Sewer Overflow systems (CSOs) at Co-op City have also added contaminants to the river when heavy rains cause them to overflow, but the Department of Environmental Protection has a project underway to reduce pollution, scheduled for completion in 2030.

But in the meantime, it is welcome news that Orchard Beach has achieved high marks, and the City Island community is grateful to Save the Sound (www.savethesound.org) for the role it plays in monitoring and protecting our waterways.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Memorial Day weekend 2021 was a washout with heavy rains and strong northeast winds that took down some Island trees. FDNY and Con Ed had this fallen King Avenue tree removed from the wires by Saturday, May 29.

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FAIR RETURNS!



Photos by RON TERNER, EVAN BERENT and KEVIN BOYLE

Islanders and visitors welcomed the return of the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, on June 5 and 6, 2021. Both the spring and fall fairs were cancelled during the pandemic, so it was great to see the colorful booths once again lining City Island Avenue from Bay to Schofield Streets featuring local artists, businesses and organizations selling paintings, jewelry, photography, textiles, clothing, handicrafts, food and more. **Calendar Alert:** the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, will return on Sept. 11 and 12, 2021.

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Kitten Season 2021: The Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project

By MAURA MANDRANO



Photo courtesy of EBSCP

Thanks to the efforts of the Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project (EBSCP), over 100 cats and kittens have been captured and neutered. Many kittens like these two have been fostered and socialized for adoption. For more information, e-mail CityIsland-TNR@gmail.com.

Native-born clam digger kittens are everywhere on City Island at this time of year. Since shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project (EBSCP) has been trapping and neutering feral cats and kittens, along with a number of stray cats, here on the Island as well as in Locust Point, Throggs Neck and Pelham Bay Park. Following guidelines through the quarantine, the group never stopped its TNR efforts (Trap, Neuter, Return). As of press time, EBSCP has trapped and neutered 110 cats and kittens since February 2020 and has taken the time to foster and socialize kittens before adopting them to suitable homes.

All EBSCP volunteers are TNR certified through various programs that give training in the methods of humanely trapping community cats, having them spayed or neutered, vaccinating them against rabies and FVRCP, and then returning them to their established colonies to live out their lives.

The EBSCP group on City Island is

very grateful to the veterinarians who work with them, to the City Island community for its support, and to several well-established local rescue groups for teaching the procedures involved and helping them face challenges head on.

By September, the group expects to find more litters in backyards and boatyards, but in far fewer numbers than the dozens of kittens that they rescued last year. In the meantime, the organization has become incorporated and will soon receive official not-profit status, which means that all donations are tax-deductible.

EBSCP currently has six beautiful kittens ready for adoption and is always on the lookout for volunteers to help. Those who are interested in donating, volunteering or adopting are invited to visit the Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project's Facebook page or send an e-mail to CityIslandTNR@gmail.com. Donations may be sent online through [Paypal.me/EBSCP](https://www.paypal.com/EBSCP), or please contact the organization for other options.

Islander Dances "In the Heights"

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of ROBYN LOBE

Islander Robyn Lobe is one of the dancers in the 2021 film "In the Heights" (photo above) based on the Broadway show by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Her career spans five decades, including her work as a percussionist in the 1970s (above, right) and a Latin dancer in the 1990s in Las Vegas (bottom photo, right).

City Island resident Robyn Lobe landed a role as one of the dancers in the much-anticipated film "In the Heights" based on the Tony Award-winning Broadway show by Lin-Manuel Miranda. What makes Robyn's accomplishment even more amazing is that she is almost 70 years old and still performing as a dancer and as a Latin percussionist.

Robyn lives in the Sailmaker Condominiums on Schofield Street, but her story began in Fairfield, CT, where she was born and raised with her brother and sister. She then attended the Boston Conservatory and was trained in ballet and classical music. "Here I was a little Jewish girl from Connecticut who was classically trained, but I wound up with a career in Latin music and dance," she explained to *The Current*. Adding to the irony, her ancestors were from Hungary and Germany.

After Boston, Robyn moved to Chicago and was eventually cast in a disco television show called "Dancing with Robyn and Reggie: Step by Step." "We were the first interracial dance show, which was quite a big thing in the 1970s." The show had national sponsorship from Coca Cola and lasted on the air for 52 weeks.

Robyn then got interested in Latin music and percussion, so she moved to New York and studied with Johnny Colon at the East Harlem Music School. "There were so few women drummers or percussionists; it was a field dominated by men. Sheila E, who played with Prince, was one of the few female percussionists," she recalled. But Robyn persisted in learning how to play the congas and eventually toured with rock stars like Robert Palmer, James Brown's band Bootsy, and, most recently, Latin singer Enrique Iglesias.

For about 15 years, Robyn performed more as a Latin percussionist than as a dancer and toured all over the world, including shows in Las Vegas. But in the 1990s, a mambo specialist named Eddie Torres was looking for a new partner because his wife (and regular partner) was pregnant. So Robyn tried Latin dance and was picked to become his partner performing Palladium-style



mambo with Eddie.

The energetic Robyn was doubly busy through the 1990s and early 2000s, touring as a Latin percussionist and dancing the mambo with Eddie Torres between drumming gigs. She was renting an apartment in Queens in 1998 and "started to think about buying something." Some of her friends had moved to City Island and told her to check it out. "I had never heard of it, but really liked The Sailmaker, so I bought a condo."

She laughs at her early memories of living on City Island. "I had no furniture at first, but I met Island contractor Bogdan Wojtczak and his wife, Renata. They understood my vision and budget, so we made everything out of drums, even the sink!"

Robyn has more than settled into life at The Sailmaker. She is currently a member of the condominium board along with her friend Teresa Tramosch, and they are working with others to further improve the quality of the condominium complex.

How did the ageless Robyn Lobe wind up "In the Heights?" Eddie Torres's son knew that Lin-Manuel Miranda was looking for some older mambo dancers to complement the young Latin cast headlining the film. Robyn auditioned and was selected to dance in scenes like the carnival sequence. "The movie was filmed on location in Washington Heights right before the pandemic lockdown. It was a thrill rehearsing with members from the Broadway cast, and the dancing in the film is phenomenal," she told *The Current*.

The movie's release was delayed because of the coronavirus crisis, but it finally premiered on June 10, 2021. It can be seen in movie theaters (remember them?) and on HBO Max. Meanwhile, you can also read more about Robyn's amazing and long career on her website <https://robynlobe.com/>.

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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.

City Island Nautical Museum

At long last, after nearly a year and a half of being closed, the Nautical Museum opened to the public on Saturday, June 12. Thanks to the hours of hard work put in by Tom Nye, the four Barbaras and Jane Protzman, the place looked better than ever. Cheryl Brinker, with the help of Ron Turner, installed a handsome exhibit of Mark Whitcombe's paintings and etchings in our Gallery, and improvements were made in the other exhibit rooms as well.

The Museum will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., and we will be observing the usual precautions—mask wearing, social distancing, signing in, etc.—since many residents of New York City have still not been vaccinated. The entrance fee for visitors is \$5; members and children under 12 can visit for free.

Work on our oral history project continues, thanks to Mary McIntyre, and we hope to have videos ready for each of the rooms by mid-summer. Many thanks to Keith Michaels for his help with the installation of the television screens and other chores.

A special note of thanks to Paul Klein for offering to exhibit and sell some of our works of art by Harold Vandervoort Walsh. He will have an opening reception on July 2 at 6 p.m. Paul has also helped with sales of Museum items (including masks). The museum shop has a new t-shirt design and coloring books for children.

Although most of our visitors come from the other boroughs and Westchester County, we would be delighted to have more Island residents visit the museum this summer. It is highly likely that you will come across aspects of City Island history that you never knew!

Barbara Dolensek

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Thanks to all for your support. Have a great summer! We will return on the third Thursday in September.

Arlene Byrne

Garden Club of City Island

SAVE THE DATE: On Thursday, Sept. 30, at noon, the annual Garden Club Luncheon and Fundraiser will be held at the Harlem Yacht Club. The social hour and seated lunch will be followed by a raffle of gift certificates donated by local merchants and gift baskets created by club members.

The Garden Club is grateful for the generosity of City Island residents and businesses. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the beautification fund this year and last. Solicitation letters have been hand-delivered by members this year, and donations can be sent to the Garden Club PO Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

Your Garden Club has been busy with spring projects. In June, club members filled our 30 white plant containers on City Island Avenue with petunias, needle-point ivy and dracena ordered from Jill's Cottage. Thanks go to Committee Chair Kathy Gibbons, designer Susan Strazzera, and members Cheryl, Richard, Lorraine, Carla, Vicki, Vangie, Joan, Boo and Barbara. The day was beautiful and it was gratifying how many residents stopped by to express their appreciation.

Our June 7 meeting was held in person on the porch at the City Island Yacht Club with the Hospitality Committee serving refreshments. Committees gave updates on their work. Maria Mangione brought perennials to share and distributed a gardening tip sheet.

On June 17, club members were treated

to a tour of member Barbara Dolensek's garden. Barbara gave a history of the property and the ways in which the garden developed over the past 40 years. Landscape designer Mary Colby talked about the plants and the garden design. She pointed out the use of plants of varying sizes, shapes and textures to create harmony, and she provided members with a list of her favorite tools and the plants she uses to provide year-round interest. Members then enjoyed a "brown bag" lunch on the lawn.

Our members-only installation of officers and lunch will be held on Thursday, July 8, at 11 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. There will be no Monday meetings in July or August.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, send an e-mail to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. We hold meetings the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday Sept. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Cathi Swett and Judy Judson

Quilters by the Sea

We will hold our third Sew Saturday on July 24 at the Leonard Hawkins Post. If you are interested in participating in the Quilts of Valor project, please contact Harlan Sexton at harlan.sexton1@gmail.com. Many thanks to all who stopped by our table at the Spring Crafts Fair. All proceeds from the raffles and bake sale will go toward making future Quilts of Valor for City Island veterans.

Harlan Sexton

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly so please arrive 15 minutes early. In person services are followed by an oneg* (refreshments). Reminder: For the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you as we reopen and hold live in person services on July 9.

All Temple offerings will continue to also be available online via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings, please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer for the community meditation, yoga, qi gong/tai chi and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you. For the month of July, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night in-person Shabbat services on July 9 and 30;



Photo by MARK NANI

The first in a series of four "movie nights" sponsored by the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) was held on June 5, 2021, on Horton Street, where some of the scenes from the featured film "City Island" had been filmed in 2009. The film series, a CIOR fundraising effort, will continue through the summer with "Jaws" on July 16, followed by movie nights on Aug. 20 and Sept. 10. For more information, visit www.ciosterreef.org.

other services will be community led (on Zoom) on July 2 and 16. For the month of August, Rabbi David will lead Friday night in-person Shabbat services on Aug. 13 and 27; other services will be community led (on Zoom) on Aug. 6 and 20. Please see our calendar for our community-led Havdalah services. All services are held in a joyful celebratory manner.

Other activities include:

July 17: Tisha b'Av - Day of Depth with Rabbi David (on Zoom)

July 23: Shabbat by the Sea. Place TBD, 7 to 10 p.m. Rabbi David-led services. Poetry and music jam will start at 7 p.m. This is our annual mid-summer outdoor Shabbat extravaganza seaside on Long Island Sound at sunset. Dress in white and bring your dance shoes! Celebratory oneg to follow.

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

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

*Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (such as a birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to get more information, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Jodie Sadovsky

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church reopened for in-person worship at the beginning of December last year, following the guidelines of the CDC and New York State. It was a joyous return. Recently, we resumed coffee hour after the service, allowing more opportunity to visit and stay connected. With our windows fully opened, those who have been vaccinated may now choose to remove masks, retaining social distance where appropriate. You are invited to join our community any Sunday to offer thanks to God and to pray for our community and others around the world.

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. The church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, corner of Pilot Street. You can also watch our service on Youtube via a link that is distributed weekly. To be added to the distribution of this link, please contact us at gracecityisland@gmail.com. The link is also found on the Grace Church website: <https://www.gracecityisland.net/>.

gracecityisland.net/.

Grace is open for prayer between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Those not able to attend in person are invited to pray at home. Feel free to visit at any time during the hour. Please enter by the main entrance, and a church member will seat you. Please join us for a time of prayer. We pray for each other, for ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers.

Sunday School: Members of the Sunday School met intermittently and safely during the pandemic and prepared special services, including the Father's Day Service on June 20. We look forward to resuming regular church school classes the first and third of the month starting after Labor Day. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net.

Grace Music Ministry: We will resume congregational singing on July 4. The choir will continue to lead the congregation in song. Our music ministry is always welcoming new members. Anyone who would like to sing for our worship services or play hand chimes on special occasions should contact Caroline Coppola, Minister of Music. No prior musical experience is necessary (geccimusic@gmail.com).

The GraceTones are also welcoming new members. You don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to spread joy and happiness to those in need! For information on upcoming rehearsals, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The Auxiliary has been active in recent weeks. We participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade color guard and also in the My Brother Vinny Walk on June 13. This nonprofit organization assists veterans with their moves and transitions to more independent living. Many thanks to Viki Trifari, who led our team, and to the participating walkers. Thanks also to all who stopped by the ALA Unit 156 poppy table on Memorial Day. We are grateful to Dominick's C-Town Market for supporting this event. All proceeds go to our veterans for the rehabilitation and care of those who have sacrificed so much. We could not serve our veterans and military families without the support of the City Island community. Many thanks and appreciation!

We ended our 2020-21 year with a well-attended dinner at the Harlem Yacht Club. President Doreen Gallagher saluted all members for their community service over the last year, with flowers and Certificates of Appreciation for members who devoted an extra level of service. Unit 156 will reconvene in September for our regular monthly meeting. We wish everyone a good summer!

Harlan Sexton



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

Summer has arrived! The board of the City Island Community Center sends greetings to all for a happy, healthy and safe season!

Our City Island Community Center has reopened. Programs are safely running at the center, and we are very glad to see our members back and actively partaking of the center offerings. We are also happy to announce that the City Island Civic Association will return to the center for the monthly meetings on Tuesday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. The board welcomes the Civic back and looks forward to hosting many important community meetings and events in a safe manner.

Please see our full program schedule below for all confirmed dates and times.

As always, if there is a program or service that you would like to see offered at the City Island Community Center, please share your suggestion with us via our Facebook page. We welcome the recommendations of our members so that our center is serving your needs!

As Covid-19 mandates are lifted, please don't forget to stay safe, wear your masks and observe social distancing in public and indoor spaces even if you are fully vaccinated!

APPROVED PROGRAMS:

- Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
- Yoga with Joann:** Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- City Island Civic Association:** last Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
- Aerobics with Mary:** Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.
- AA Meeting:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. All are welcome.
- Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m.

High-intensity interval training exercise class: Sundays at 10 a.m. *Please check our FB page for any changes in class schedule.*

Friendly Reminder: You can help support the City Island Community Center through an official membership. Our Membership Drive continues! If you need a renewal form, please call 718-885-1145 and we will mail one. We greatly appreciate all those who have already renewed or have made a generous donation on behalf of a group or business.

For up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook!

Happy Summer!

Melissa Cebollero

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity Church will continue 10 a.m. in-person worship in the Sanctuary. All persons wishing to attend must wear masks and enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance on Bay Street. Attendance is recorded and temperatures are taken. While maintaining social distance, attendees then enter the Sanctuary where seating is staggered. The great news is that we can now sing the hymns that are played by the extraordinary organist Joy Kim. Every effort is being made to thoroughly clean the facility after the service. Trinity understands these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will be live streamed, and recorded for YouTube. To request information about the live stream, email Pastor Dave at david.jolly@nyac-ucm.com.

Trinity has added the safe electronic giving option of "Givebutter." The web address is givebutter.com/trinitydonations. A screen will give you many choices. All former ways of giving remain available and are much appreciated; this is one more option.

The Food Pantry, now named The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, is expanding its hours; the new times are Sunday and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thank you to the many generous people who have stepped up to help those in need.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Civic Association

The May meeting was held on May 25 at the Morris Yacht Club, and all candidates for the offices of City Council and Bronx Borough President were invited. Each candidate was given three minutes to speak and then answered questions from the audience, which included such subjects as zoning, ferries, traffic, noise on the water and Rodman's Neck sound abatement.

City Council, District 13: Candidates who were present included Irene Estrada, Monique Johnson, Alex Mici and a representative of Marjorie Velazquez (whose husband had just been admitted to the hospital). Not present: John Perez and Marilyn Soto. Candidates for Bronx Borough President who were present included Sammy Ravelo, Fernando Cabrera and Luis Sepulveda. Not present: Vanessa Gibson and Nathalia Fernandez.

Steve Caruso from the Department of Sanitation (DOS) announced at the April meeting that DOS has provided extra wastebaskets and collections for City Island. There will be a seven-day basket service on City Island Avenue, which is especially important during spring and summer. There will be special DOS events for residents to dispose of hazardous materials, and the collection of organics will return in the fall.

Cathy Cebek, Teri Kurtz, Stu Sorell and Barbara Dolensek gave testimony at a City Council hearing on April 27 about Hart Island's burial process. The discussion was about the \$52 million allocated by the city to prepare the island for burials and to demolish the old buildings. City Island has been ignored in all of these issues, including that of transportation by ferry to the island. A crematorium has been proposed for a study; we need to fight this.

Eleven traffic agents will be provided Friday, Saturday and Sunday, thanks to the efforts of Councilmember Gjonaj and Community Board 10.

Jane Protzman

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 12, at 12 noon, our first meeting after the summer break. We will be opening the nominations and conducting elections, so please make every effort to attend. Dues are \$55.00 for 2022; please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party, and we can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox, by the Post's flagpole.

As the heat increases, come cool off this summer at City Island's unofficial cooling center. Please feel free to stop by the Post for a cold drink and avoid the heat.

Thanks to all Legion family members and participants who joined us in honoring the City Island veterans who have gone before us. By reflecting on their loss during the Memorial Day Parade, you helped to remind us of their supreme sacrifice. Whether you marched or watched along City Island Avenue, we are grateful for your participation.

A special recognition to Robert Whelan, the SAL member who devoted his time and labor to make sure the Veterans Memorial Triangle (Legion Triangle) was beautified for Memorial Day. And thanks to Vice Commander Greg Clancy, who led the Flag Stewards in posting flags along City Island Avenue. An additional thanks to Ms. Judy Judson of the City Island Garden Club, who provided cleaning assistance and guidance on maintaining the foliage at



Photo by FRED RAMFTL

On May 13, 2021, Tommy Vivola was sworn in as the new commander of the Sons of the American Legion for the 2021-2022 term.

the Triangle for all to enjoy.

The American Legion Family of Post 156 honors and reflects on Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day. It is now a National Holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865, when the announcement was made of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the United States of America. The Legion Family of Post 156 will join our community and beyond in recognizing the struggle of African Americans in our nation both before and after emancipation.

Note the following important days: July 4, Independence Day; July 27, 1953, end of the Korean War; Aug. 2, 1990, Operation Desert Shield; Aug. 4, U.S. Coast Guard birthday; Aug. 7, Purple Heart Day; Aug. 14, V-J Day.

As in past years, the first Sunday in September is part of the Labor Day Weekend, so we have moved our meeting to the following Sunday, Sept. 12, at noon.

Please visit our website for the latest information and to be able to e-mail the Post directly. Flyers of events will be available for download. Our website can be found at Leonardhawkinspost156.com.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 102 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

PSS Senior Center

The PSS City Island Center is partially open at this time. Everything is changing and will be updated as we receive more clearance for classes, attendance, lunches, etc.

If you would like to attend any class, lunch or event, call the center at 718-885-0727 to reserve a spot. A mask needs to be worn at all times (except when eating). At this writing, only 14 members are allowed in the center at once.

Lunch in the center is from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Pick-up for lunch will be available from 12:30 to 1. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information.

Below is the current schedule:

- Mondays**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote)
 - 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Monitoring
 - 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in person)
 - 12:30 p.m. Gardening Club (in person)
- Tuesdays**
 - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, rummy q, scrabble, cards, mahjong or monopoly.
 - 1:15 p.m. Nutrition or Health Classes (a different topic each week)
- Wednesdays**
 - 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote and in person)
 - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Social Worker available to help with Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP

benefits, SCRIE and more. Call for an appointment.

1:30 p.m. Coffee Klatch. An open hour to socialize, share and provide support

Thursdays

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote)
- 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club (in person)

Fridays

- 12:30 p.m. Singing Group with Napat (remote)

Transportation: Transportation is available daily. Please call Alex at 347- 834-6466 for the July trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Only three people are allowed per trip, and masks are to be worn at all times. Temperatures will be taken when boarding, and you must sit in the assigned seats. The windows will remain open to circulate air.

If you have any class suggestions, now is the time to speak up! We're still deciding programming for the coming months.

More vigorous exercise classes will be coming once senior center restrictions are lifted.

Stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program thanks the teachers, parents and students for making it a successful year! See you in September. Have a wonderful summer.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be closed for the summer months and will reopen in September.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Rosette Dietz

City Island Oyster Reef

The CIOR community engagement calendar for the summer is chock full of fun and exciting events! Join us!

To start, we will be hosting Sunrise Paddling twice a month around City Island to learn from our scientists how water quality affects the growth of oysters while enjoying the tranquility of being on the water in the early morning! Kayakers and paddle boarders are welcome. Meet at 89 Horton Street for a 6 a.m. launch (July 10, 24, 14 and Aug. 11).

Get hands-on experience with our Oyster Research Station Monitoring. Learn how to measure oysters and see interesting sea creatures. Gain a better understanding of how oyster reefs contribute to the health of an ecosystem. Great for all ages! (July 17, Aug. 21).

Now that our City Island restaurants are in full swing, CIOR is re-starting our shell collection. We are looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from local restaurants.



Women Directors in the 21st Century

As I stated in my previous column, the world of cinema has been largely dominated by male directors. However, more and more women are making and/or taking opportunities to direct feature films. Among my favorites is one from Mira Nair who brought us the joyful **Monsoon Wedding** (2001). Set in Delhi, India, the Verna family has arranged a marriage for their daughter Aditi (Vasundhara Das) with Hemant (Parvin Dabas), a computer programmer from Houston. The meeting, engagement and wedding all take place within a few days, but there are complications as Aditi is in love with a married man. There is a delightful romantic subplot with P.K. Dube (Vijay Raaz), the wedding planner, smitten with the family maid, Alice (Tilotama Shome). There is also a very serious undercurrent with Aditi's cousin Ria (Shefali Shetty) and her aversion to an old family friend.

Patricia Cardoso brought us the independent film, **Real Women Have Curves** (2002), the story of Ana (America Ferrera) a very bright 18-year old Mexican-American who is forced by her extremely critical mother, Carmen (Lupe Ontiveros), to go to work in the family dress factory rather than go to college. There is a scene where all the women in the factory compare their enormous curves, with hilarious results. This is a charming, coming-of-age film about an authentic teen with self-respect and the tenderness she feels towards an Anglo boy of whom her mother would never approve.

Nici Caro's film set in modern-day New Zealand, **Whale Rider** (2002) is the story of Pai (Keisha Castle-Hughes) a young Maori girl whose twin brother dies in childbirth along with her mother. Pai's grandfather Koro (Rawiri Paratene) is devastated when his son Porourangi (Cliff Curtis), refuses to take over as tribal chief and deserts the family. Pai, left in the care of Koro and Nancy Flowers (Vicky Kaughton), is heartbroken that her grandfather considers her just a worthless girl. When a pod of whales is washed ashore, Pai is presented with an insurmountable challenge and opportunity to prove herself and become a hero to her people.

Directed by Gurinda Chadah **Bend it Like Beckham** was my favorite film

of 2003. It stars Parminder K. Nagra as Jesminder, a British teen from a traditional Indian family. Set in England, the family expects her to learn to cook and to marry a nice Indian boy. Jess has an entirely different plan in mind: She wants to play soccer. She is befriended by soccer mate Juliette (Keira Knightley), and both girls have a crush on their coach, an Irishman named Joe (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers). Juliette's mother Paula (Juliet Stevenson) steals every scene as a prim and proper Brit saddled with a tomboy daughter. This is an utterly delightful film about how the challenges of traditional and modern life are reconciled.

Sofia Coppola wrote and directed **Lost in Translation** (2003) about a slowly unfolding friendship between two Americans disoriented in Tokyo. It stars Bill Murray as Bob, a well-known but fading married middle aged actor who has been hired to film a commercial. Meanwhile, young adult Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) has been left on her own by her husband of two years while he is away at work. Staying at the same hotel, the two meet and a connection develops that turns into a lovely friendship with the glaring lights of Tokyo in the background.

Kathryn Bigelow was the first woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director for **The Hurt Locker** (2009) which also won Best Picture. It is an American war thriller starring Jeremy Renner as Sgt. William James who is part of a War Ordinance Disposal team stationed in Iraq. They are tasked with disarming bombs left by insurgents to kill American soldiers. The tension and psychological stress reactions are reminiscent of the terrifying Vietnam era film **Platoon** (1986) wherein anyone can die at any moment. The outstanding supporting cast includes Ralph Fiennes, David Morse, and Guy Pearce who are all part of the team at various times. When James' tour ends and he returns to his family in the US, we see how the war has ruined him for everyday life. Among Bigelow's other impressive directorial efforts are **Point Break** (1991), **K-11: The Widowmaker** (2002) and **Zero Dark Thirty** (2012).

Director Debra Granik gave 20-year old Jennifer Lawrence her first big screen role starring in **Winter's Bone** (2010). When her family home is in danger of being repossessed after her meth-cooking dad skips bail and disappears, she breaks local conventions by confronting her family about their conspiracy of silence. If she fails to track her father down, Ree, her younger siblings, and their disabled mother will be homeless.

Considering the events of the past year, viewers will really appreciate the very timely **Selma** (2014) which was Ava DuVernay's acclaimed film that dramatized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Interesting to note, the film stars three British actors David Oyelowo as King, Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Tim Roth as Governor George Wallace. Oprah Winfrey appears as Annie Lee Cooper who is seen struggling to register to vote. The efforts of all those who demonstrated culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. DuVernay made history as the first African-American Best Director winner at the Sundance Film Festival.

Nicole Holofcener's **Enough Said** (2016) stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus as Eva, a divorced single parent, who makes a living as a masseuse. She is experiencing empty nest syndrome as her daughter readies to depart for college. Unexpectedly, Eva begins a romance with Albert (James Gandolfini, in his last screen role), a nice man she met at a party she attended with her best friends Sara (Toni Colette) and Will (Ben Falcone). At that same party Eva also meets poet Marianne (Catherine Keener) who becomes a client and friend. When Eva hears about Marianne's troubles with her ex-husband, she starts to doubt her relationship with Albert.

In 2017 Patty Jenkins broke the record for biggest grossing live-action film directed by a woman, domestic and worldwide, with **Wonder Woman**. It stars Gal Gadot as Diana, an Amazon princess who finds her idyllic life on an island occupied only by female warriors interrupted when a pilot (Chris Pine) crash-lands nearby. After rescuing him, she learns that World War I is engulfing the planet, and vows to use her superpowers to restore peace. Jenkins also wrote and directed her debut film **Monster** (2003) a grim biographical crime drama about serial killer Aileen Wuornos, a for-

mer street prostitute who murdered seven of her male clients between 1989 and 1990 and was executed in Florida in 2002. Charlize Theron won a well-deserved Oscar as Wuornos.

Marielle Heller's **A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood** (2019) is a biographical film loosely based on a 1998 Esquire magazine article by Tom Junod. In the film the investigative journalist's name is Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) who receives an assignment to profile Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks). Vogel is very skeptical as he cannot conceive of anyone that kind and good-natured. However, Vogel's jaded outlook on life is turned inside out as Mr. Rogers helps him reconcile with his painful past involving his father (Chris Cooper). The supporting cast includes Susan Kelechi Watson and Wendy Makkena as Vogel's first and second wives, Maryann Plunkett as Mrs. Rogers, and Christine Lahti as Vogel's editor Ellen.

Nomadland (2020) was written and directed by Beijing-born Chloé Zhao, who blurs the lines between documentary and narrative fiction with her use of non-professional actors in natural settings. The story focuses on Fern (Frances McDormand), a woman in her sixties who, after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks on a journey through the American West. She leaves her hometown after her husband dies and the sole industry closes down. She considers herself to be "houseless," living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. David Strathairn co-stars as Dave, a potential love interest for Fern. The rest of the cast consists of a number of real-life nomads appearing as fictionalized versions of themselves. At the 93rd Academy Awards, it won Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actress for McDormand, with Zhao becoming the first non-white woman and second female to win Best Director.

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

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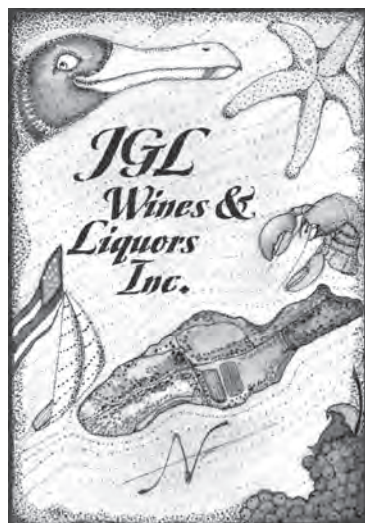
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Photos by KAREN NANI

The City Island Little League season closing ceremony was held on June 26, 2021. Dom Esposito, president, happily led the presentation of the trophies to players from all the teams, including T-ball, Junior Minors, Minors and Majors. The City Island Majors team (top right) went undefeated for the season and won the interleague championship. They will play the first game of the Williamsport tournament on July 5 on City Island. It was a joyous celebration of the season, since all players could attend safely as Covid restrictions were eased.

Organization News

Continued from page 11

Although the work does not take long, it is strenuous and a little dirty at times. Volunteers need to be available to help on Mondays or Thursdays between 4 and 6 p.m. or on Tuesdays and Fridays between 8 and 10 a.m.

The Living Shoreline project behind P.S. 175 is moving forward! The initial design, surveying and permitting for a pilot oyster reef and education center has now commenced. With funding awarded to CIOR from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, we hired Filomena Riganti, a landscape architect and project manager. Filomena is an ecosystems and community-focused landscape architect, and through the years has worked for several environmental non-profits, including the Hudson River sloop *Clearwater*, and as a staff landscape architect for New York Restoration Project.

CIOR is looking for eco-volunteers to help remove the invasive weeds and marine debris in the Living Shoreline area behind P.S. 175. A team from the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), an amazing CIOR partner, visited in June to help remove invasive plants and train CIOR volunteers on the best way to remove and control the weeds. More work will be needed through the summer.

If you are interested in participating in any of these community engagement activities, please reach out to Cody Carroll, CIOR's Volunteer Coordinator, at cody.carroll43@myhunter.cuny.edu.

Our first CIOR Movie Night fundraiser under the stars was a great success. A big friendly crowd came out to see the movie "City Island," on Horton Street where it was filmed. This was the first in a series of four films in the annual Malcolm Campbell Summer Film Series, named for a beloved member of CIOR who recently passed away. The best part of this event was the strong feeling of community spirit as everyone came together to support a local cause to clean our local waters. The Steven

Spielberg classic "Jaws" will be shown on July 16 at 7 p.m. at 89 Horton Street. The last two shows will be on Aug. 20 at 89 Horton Street and on Sept. 10 at 21 Tier Street.

Finally, the CIOR Webinar Series continues on Thursday, July 29, at 4 p.m. with Malenthe Teunis from BESE, an environmental company in the Netherlands, who will talk about their eco-friendly products that are used in oyster restoration projects around the world.

The second annual Water Jubilee is set for Saturday, Aug. 7 (rain date Aug. 8). Enjoy the kayak challenge (for paddle boards, too) around City Island in the morning or an afternoon sailing race on the Eastchester Bay to benefit CIOR. Registration starts soon.

Sally Connolly

AARP 318

Hi, everyone. Good news! We have been informed by the National AARP organization that we may begin having meetings again in September! We don't know all the details yet, or what rules and restrictions will be in place, so keep watching *The Current* for updates. And if you haven't already been vaccinated, we strongly suggest that you do so.

See you all in September!

Carroll A. Reid

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Emotional Labor: Appreciating the Hard Work of Parenting as the Pandemic Recedes

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

"Nothing will work unless you do..."
 Maya Angelou

Recently I came across the term "emotional labor" in one of my journals. There are two definitions of this term that seems relevant to parenting as we move into the "new normal" of post-pandemic life:

- **Emotional labor** can be the mental activity required to manage or perform the routine tasks necessary for maintaining relationships and ensuring the smooth operation of a household or process, typically regarded as an unappreciated or unacknowledged burden.

- **Emotional labor** can also be the management of one's emotions in order to present oneself and interact with other people in a certain way while doing a task—on the job outside the home (think flight attendant) or in the home (think calming parent for worried children).

Every woman who has given birth knows that bringing new life into the world is not without pain and challenges. That's why we call it labor! Once our children are here with us, there can be times (such as during the pandemic) when we need to manage the emotional well-being of a household and put aside our own feelings to assure our children that all will be well, even when we are dealing with our own fears and insecurities. This burden of "emotional labor," in both senses of the term, can be exhausting, and we need to acknowledge that many of us are quite spent as we have been running our households and doing our jobs.

A friend just told me that she feels guilty that she didn't make more of the opportunities afforded her by enforced

family time during quarantine. What she doesn't acknowledge, and what most of us would not acknowledge, is that part of taking care of our families meant putting aside our own emotional needs. This is work—"emotional labor" indeed!—that is usually "unappreciated or unacknowledged" and has been a part of the parenting process all along.

So, what can we do?

- Acknowledge the good work that we have been doing in the home and outside the home despite the obstacles of quarantine and anxiety about the virus. Do something loving for yourself every day, even if it's just time for a cup of tea and some alone time with your favorite magazine or book of poetry.

- Realize that we have "permission to feel" whatever comes our way, usually in the presence of people who know, trust, and love us. Feelings are real but not the truth; they change all the time! And another human being can provide the shelter we need to weather whatever emotional storm is brewing.

- Make ourselves available to our friends and family to be that "shelter" for others. We do best when we are open to each other and realize that life is a gift we experience best when we share our time with others.

Have a blessed summer!

It looks as if we will have an Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) Basic Workshop here on City Island in August. Learn to communicate well, solve conflicts and undo the violence in our lives in a safe and energizing environment. For more information contact me at johncardina@hotmail.com.

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Photo by KAREN NANI

Voting was light at P.S. 175 on Primary Day, June 22, 2021. Because of the new rank choice voting, results will not be final until July or August. Meanwhile, the PTA president, Cheryl Riordan, was busy raising funds for the school with a 50/50 raffle in front of P.S. 175 on election day.



Photos by RON TURNER

Thanks to the quick response of the City Island Fire Department, a disaster was prevented when a fire started in a dryer at the Clam Diggers Laundromat, 323 City Island Avenue, at about 9 p.m. on June 7. All the stores and apartments above are in the same building, and as Ron Turner reported the next day: "If it weren't for the speed and the professionalism of City Island's firefighters, I would be coming this morning to half a block of burnt rubble. Thank you."

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

JULY 2021									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0602	7.06	1224	0.78	1833	7.36			Thu 01
02 Fri	0058	0.93	0701	6.88	1317	1.01	1928	7.38	Fri 02
03 Sat	0156	0.92	0757	6.79	1409	1.15	2020	7.43	Sat 03
04 Sun	0249	0.85	0850	6.76	1459	1.22	2110	7.50	Sun 04
05 Mon	0340	0.73	0940	6.80	1545	1.24	2156	7.57	Mon 05
06 Tue	0426	0.60	1027	6.86	1627	1.23	2239	7.63	Tue 06
07 Wed	0509	0.49	1111	6.92	1703	1.21	2316	7.67	Wed 07
08 Thu	0548	0.41	1150	6.98	1733	1.16	2343	7.72	Thu 08
09 Fri	0622	0.35	1223	7.04	1756	1.06	2359	7.81	Fri 09
10 Sat	0650	0.30	1244	7.13	1826	0.93			Sat 10
11 Sun	0024	7.94	0712	0.24	1303	7.29	1902	0.79	Sun 11
12 Mon	0059	8.05	0740	0.16	1334	7.50	1943	0.66	Mon 12
13 Tue	0140	8.10	0815	0.10	1413	7.69	2027	0.56	Tue 13
14 Wed	0224	8.04	0855	0.08	1456	7.84	2115	0.51	Wed 14
15 Thu	0312	7.88	0939	0.13	1544	7.93	2207	0.51	Thu 15
16 Fri	0404	7.62	1028	0.23	1636	7.96	2305	0.54	Fri 16
17 Sat	0501	7.31	1121	0.38	1732	7.95			Sat 17
18 Sun	0011	0.55	0604	7.02	1219	0.52	1834	7.95	Sun 18
19 Mon	0137	0.48	0715	6.83	1326	0.62	1942	7.99	Mon 19
20 Tue	0302	0.22	0836	6.82	1447	0.60	2054	8.10	Tue 20
21 Wed	0410	-0.13	0952	6.99	1606	0.44	2205	8.27	Wed 21
22 Thu	0509	-0.44	1055	7.24	1711	0.23	2307	8.42	Thu 22
23 Fri	0603	-0.66	1152	7.49	1808	0.05			Fri 23
24 Sat	0004	8.49	0654	-0.73	1244	7.68	1902	-0.04	Sat 24
25 Sun	0057	8.44	0742	-0.65	1333	7.78	1953	-0.01	Sun 25
26 Mon	0148	8.26	0829	-0.43	1422	7.78	2042	0.12	Mon 26
27 Tue	0238	7.98	0914	-0.10	1509	7.70	2132	0.35	Tue 27
28 Wed	0328	7.63	0959	0.29	1558	7.56	2223	0.62	Wed 28
29 Thu	0420	7.26	1043	0.69	1649	7.39	2316	0.91	Thu 29
30 Fri	0516	6.91	1128	1.07	1743	7.23			Fri 30
31 Sat	0012	1.14	0615	6.64	1216	1.38	1840	7.13	Sat 31
AUGUST 2021									
01 Sun	0110	1.28	0714	6.49	1310	1.61	1936	7.10	Sun 01
02 Mon	0207	1.31	0812	6.47	1405	1.71	2031	7.16	Mon 02
03 Tue	0301	1.23	0905	6.56	1458	1.71	2121	7.29	Tue 03
04 Wed	0350	1.07	0955	6.72	1545	1.61	2206	7.44	Wed 04
05 Thu	0435	0.87	1040	6.91	1627	1.44	2245	7.61	Thu 05
06 Fri	0515	0.66	1119	7.11	1703	1.21	2313	7.78	Fri 06
07 Sat	0550	0.46	1150	7.30	1735	0.94	2335	7.97	Sat 07
08 Sun	0620	0.26	1211	7.53	1809	0.65			Sun 08
09 Mon	0004	8.16	0646	0.07	1236	7.79	1847	0.38	Mon 09
10 Tue	0040	8.28	0716	-0.08	1309	8.04	1927	0.16	Tue 10
11 Wed	0121	8.31	0752	-0.17	1348	8.23	2011	0.04	Wed 11
12 Thu	0206	8.20	0832	-0.16	1432	8.32	2058	0.05	Thu 12
13 Fri	0253	7.95	0916	-0.02	1519	8.29	2150	0.17	Fri 13
14 Sat	0345	7.59	1004	0.22	1611	8.16	2249	0.39	Sat 14
15 Sun	0443	7.18	1058	0.54	1709	7.95			Sun 15
16 Mon	0006	0.60	0550	6.80	1201	0.86	1816	7.76	Mon 16
17 Tue	0145	0.62	0717	6.62	1330	1.05	1941	7.70	Tue 17
18 Wed	0300	0.40	0850	6.76	1505	0.93	2109	7.86	Wed 18
19 Thu	0403	0.08	0956	7.09	1613	0.62	2215	8.11	Thu 19
20 Fri	0459	-0.21	1052	7.45	1710	0.29	2311	8.31	Fri 20
21 Sat	0550	-0.41	1143	7.75	1802	0.02			Sat 21
22 Sun	0002	8.41	0637	-0.47	1230	7.96	1851	-0.13	Sun 22
23 Mon	0049	8.36	0721	-0.38	1313	8.04	1936	-0.12	Mon 23
24 Tue	0133	8.19	0802	-0.15	1355	7.99	2019	0.02	Tue 24
25 Wed	0215	7.90	0840	0.17	1434	7.85	2100	0.28	Wed 25
26 Thu	0255	7.55	0912	0.55	1510	7.64	2139	0.61	Thu 26
27 Fri	0334	7.18	0934	0.92	1546	7.40	2216	0.97	Fri 27
28 Sat	0417	6.82	0956	1.25	1623	7.17	2257	1.30	Sat 28
29 Sun	0508	6.52	1032	1.55	1709	6.97	2357	1.58	Sun 29
30 Mon	0617	6.34	1120	1.82	1813	6.85			Mon 30
31 Tue	0101	1.71	0726	6.32	1217	2.01	1935	6.87	Tue 31
SEPTEMBER 2021									
01 Wed	0213	1.67	0826	6.46	1332	2.05	2036	7.04	Wed 01
02 Thu	0308	1.48	0918	6.72	1453	1.87	2125	7.28	Thu 02
03 Fri	0355	1.19	1003	7.02	1547	1.53	2205	7.56	Fri 03
04 Sat	0436	0.85	1039	7.34	1631	1.11	2236	7.84	Sat 04



DO YOU REMEMBER?

We understand there was some confusion about last month's column. Our apologies. The answers that were given last

month (June) were for the prior month's (May's) mystery pictures. Below are the reprinted pictures from June's column with the answers.



1. Today's FISH BOX



2. Today's TONY'S PIER



3. Today's SHRIMP BOX



4. Today's SCAVELLOS



5. Today's ARTIES



6. Today's ARCHIES

Now here's this month's challenge: Bungalows like the ones in the picture below were places for families to rent for weeks or months at a time in the summer. Many old-time City Island families learned to love the Island this way, one summer at a time. In some instances, bungalows were purchased outright and winterized so that they could become year-round residences. In others, the bungalows were ultimately razed to make way for new development. Such was the case with the homes below. Do you know where they were? (Answer below)



East Horton Street, last property on the left

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by NANCY OLIVERI

Marigolds

A Potpourri of Flowers

Summer has arrived with soaring temperatures. This is the time for hot-headed plants: zinnia, petunia, marigold and sunflower. You can also have cosmos, amaranth, flowering tobacco and four o'clocks. Raised from seed, sown mid-May or bought now at a garden center, they are great for cutting. Even a late sowing in July will produce beautiful plants in September that are alarmingly colorful and are well needed as accents.

Aside from all this color, wouldn't it be charming to have some fragrant flowers too? All of May and June I have seen small white carnations that smell of clove and perfume the air when the sun is out.

In a small garden phlox eventually

grow too large, but in a wide border nothing is more festive in late summer than these beauties. Phlox paniculata come in pink, white, purple and magenta. Many revert to magenta as they age, and people dread this color, but on phlox it is, in my book, just the right shade. "Miss Lingard" begins blooming very early in mid-June and is followed by "David," which is mildew resistant. Their flowers froth in pure white, and the fragrance is sweet with a hint of vanilla that wafts through the garden in the gloaming. They should be divided every three or four years for better blooms.

Now I'd like to say something nice about nasturtiums. They are entirely worth growing and easily had on the seed racks of hardware stores. The seeds are large and a delight to set out even by small children. Rich soil, the kind that roses, oriental poppies and peonies like, are their preference. Scrambling over pavement they are suitable for edging. The flowers are edible and the aroma sweet. Ask Monet. His rose and iris allées are graced with nasturtiums, whose leaves mimic his beloved water lilies.

On to lilies. The oriental, the madonna, and the turkscap all give off such heady perfume as to be almost overwhelming when brought into the house. Lilies bloom in July and August. These noble flowers, planted in spring, also want rich, free-draining soil.

Lilacs, honeysuckle and roses join the cornucopia of the perfumers art. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Try these: Madame Alfred Carrière, Louise Odier, Constance Spry, Rosa Rugosa Alba, or my favorite, Riene de Violettes.

Sweet peas that were sown in January have been blooming since May, and their fragrance is right out of a bottle. The spencers have the longest stems for picking, and you must pick so more will come. Feed them

with tomato food once they set bud.

I'll end with lavender, whose fragrance lulls us to sleep and calms the tired mind. Flowers can be a comfort and a treatment for

whatever ails.

Mary Colby is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.



Photo by LORRAINE NICOLETTI

Garden Club members enjoyed a tour of Barbara Dolensek's garden on June 17, 2021 (l. to r.): Barbara Dolensek, Richard DeLalla, Mary Colby, Judy Judson and Carla Chomin.

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Hart Island's Place in 50 Years of City Island History

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On July 1, 2021, Hart Island will be officially transferred from the NYC Department of Corrections to the Department of Parks & Recreation. Always used as a burial place, with as many as one million souls now interred there, the island continued to be used for various other purposes as well. Since *The Island Current* was launched 50 years ago, Hart Island has been the subject of at least 90 articles, most of them describing City Island's relationship with this intriguing island. Two of these articles were editorials, several were letters, but most were reports on the various proposals that New York City frequently made over those years involving the installation of everything from prisons to homeless shelters, from a drug rehabilitation camp to a garbage disposal plant. Several of these plans were actually carried out, but many were headed off by the City Island community.

Soon after the island was purchased by the city in 1868, it was administered by the Department of Charities and Corrections, but when that department was divided, Corrections took over jurisdiction. When *The Current* began publication, a drug-rehab facility called Phoenix House had been on the island since 1966. A minor incident in the summer of 1972 in which several Phoenix House residents were disruptive on the City Island bus because they did not wish to pay the fare propelled the Civic Association into forming a committee to fight against the organization. Finally, four years later, the city decided to move Phoenix House into Manhattan, which left the island without any residents, a situation that led to vandalism, the destruction of many burial records and the curious discovery of buried counterfeit money apparently hidden by two men who worked at Kennedy Airport.

However, New York State had other ideas for Hart Island, and these were announced at a Civic Association meeting in March 1974, when the State Power Authority announced that it proposed using Hart Island as the site for a 700,000 kilowatt power plant that would provide electric power to the MTA and would use 1,600 tons of garbage a day as fuel. Since the Pelham Bay landfill was slated for closure before the end of the decade (Jan. 1, 1979, to be exact), this plant would be doubly valuable to the city. The May 1974 issue of *The Current* described the potential for 500-foot smoke stacks, a causeway built from Fordham Street to Hart Island and new docks built on Hart Island to accommodate oil tankers and barges full of garbage. The Civic Association immediately formed a committee to engage elected officials and to insist on more information, but the State could not answer questions about the effect of smoke or smell on City Island because they had never before built such a plant.

As *The Current* reporter wrote: "Hart Island is a beautiful place. How beautiful will it be belching smoke from three huge smoke stacks? Salt air smells great. How great will the air smell when the plant starts cooking the garbage?" City Islanders responded by writing several hundred letters to Mayor Abe Beame, led by Russell Schaller, chair of the Hart Island Committee. Eventually, the mayor's office announced that Arthur Kill on Staten Island, the site of several power plants, had been proposed as a possible alternative.

Although the NYC Department of Corrections continued to bury the dead on the island, several acres, under the authority of the NYC Department of Real Estate, were proposed for other uses, including a prison to be built by the State Correctional Services Department. Andre Galerne, president of International Underwater Contractors, located at the east end of Fordham Street, applied in March 1977 to lease land for a diving school but ultimately decided that conditions there were too bad. Other interested groups included the New York Zoological Society and the Coney Island Aquarium, which were interested in studying water pollution.

Nothing much happened on Hart Island until May 12, 1982, when Mayor Ed Koch announced that he wanted to open on the island a "work camp prison" for individuals who had committed "quality of life" crimes. The first group of inmates would rehabilitate an existing building "as a permanent jail for 200 inmates." No City Island organizations or the Community Board or the 45th precinct had been informed of these plans until the mayor made his announcement. Even the Department of Corrections (DOC) had not been told, and when Andre Galerne had asked the department about a prison on Hart Island three months earlier, the response had been "There are no plans or need to make the island a jail complex." But the assistant commissioner of Corrections explained to the City Island Chamber of Commerce on May 18 that Hart Island had been "authorized as a prison area since 1869 and therefore no notice was required to be served."

The Current published an editorial calling on residents to attend the Civic Association meeting on June 29, 1982, to "prove we are not an apathetic community. . . . We must make it known we will monitor what is going on there and will not accept infringements on our lives." The Civic held an emergency meeting in January 1983 to oppose a proposal to build a "resource recovery plant" on Hart Island, at the direction of City Comptroller Harrison Goldin, the first of several plants that would burn tons of raw garbage in furnaces that would emit pollutants into the air. The combustion waste heat would then be converted to produce marketable steam. Mr. Goldin, a Brooklyn resident, proposed Hart Island because he was against such a facility being built in Brooklyn, where it ultimately ended up.

In April 1987, *The Current* announced that the NYC Board of Estimate had granted the city permission to expand the number of Hart Island inmates to 400, citing "a declaration of emergency." Again large meetings were held on City Island and *The Current* published yet another editorial calling for residents to fight the expansion and to write elected officials and commissioners. "As if we haven't had enough with political chicanery in our city recently, now we have to put up with a bunch of bureaucrats who think Hart Island is the perfect place for a full-scale prison. Only for 400 more inmates, they say. We don't believe it. Politicians come and go; talk is cheap. . . . It is imperative that all Island residents, business owners, and yes, even tourists, help in any way you can." Money was collected for a legal fund, letters were written to politicians and city officials, and rallies were held.

On June 14, 1987, a rally was attended by about 500 people at the IUC property at the east end of Fordham Street, organized by the Hart Island Committee, whose attorney, Islander Chris Carpentieri, had filed an injunction against the expansion of the prison. A judge ruled that the expansion could take place but not until after the it complied with required land-use and environmental laws. This delayed the expansion plans, which were vigorously opposed by City Island's elected officials and the Community Board, but the city had yet another proposal up its sleeve: a prison barge holding up to 800 prisoners to be moored off Hart Island, with docking sites near Orchard Beach to use for transportation to the barge and to Hart Island. Again, the Hart Island Committee sprang into action to testify again the plan.

While the prison expansion and prison barge were still being fought in court, the commissioner of the Human Resources Administration proposed in March 1989 putting 2,000 homeless single adults in a facility on Hart Island. As State Senator Guy Veleva pointed out in bitterly criticizing the proposal: "Hart Island is the site of Potter's Field. It seems the city wants to bury its homeless once and for all." In spite of objections from Councilman Michael DeMarco, the city expanded the number to



Photos from THE ISLAND CURRENT ARCHIVE

The uses that New York City has proposed for Hart Island since the mid-19th century have affected life on City Island, from the transport of vans in September 1982 for the opening of a new prison (top photo) to vandalism in 1976 after Phoenix House left the island (middle, left) to the huge rally of more than 500 Islanders at the east end of Fordham Street in June 1987 to protest the expansion of the prison (middle, right and bottom).

4,000, to be placed in four "living centers" for single adults.

All three efforts—the expanded prison, the prison barge and the homeless shelters—eventually came to naught, and *The Current* remained silent on Hart Island issues for nearly a decade. Attention turned instead to lead pollution at Rodman's Neck and the superfund cleanup of the former landfill in Pelham Bay Park. In September 2008, Russell Schaller, who had led one of the City Island committees against the expanded prison on Hart Island, wrote a history of Hart Island, where his father had worked when Russell was a child. A lecture on Hart Island was presented at the City Island Nautical Museum by Norman Brouwer of South Street Seaport, featuring photographs that he took before the public was banned from the island.

It wasn't until December 2014 that Hart Island again became the subject of discussion in *The Current*, because of an effort by the City Council to transfer jurisdiction of the island to the Department of Parks & Recreation. Many residents, including the Civic Association, supported that effort in 2014, because it was believed that park

jurisdiction would prevent campaigns to build prisons and homeless shelters, but protests were eventually raised by other Islanders, who were concerned that the island would become a park that would attract visitors who would have to get there via City Island. Nevertheless, the City Council approved the transfer in November 2019, acknowledging that a great deal of work had to be done before the island would be suitable for visitors because of hazardous conditions in the old buildings and damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

During the pandemic, burials increased substantially on Hart Island, which was also reported on by *The Current*, and several million dollars were provided by FEMA to repair storm damage on the island. In May, it was announced by Mayor di Blasio that more than \$50 million has been allocated to the Parks Department for Hart Island after the transfer on July 1. Much of the funding will be used to demolish abandoned buildings, remove contaminants and expand burial areas, and you can be sure that *The Island Current* will be on the job making sure that City Island's concerns are addressed.

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.



Dorothy (Dotty) Cus

Former City Island resident Dorothy Cus, known to all as Dotty, passed away at the age of 85 on April 30, 2021, in Englewood, FL, after a long illness.

Dotty was born on Nov. 6, 1935, to Martin and Vera Meurer, who immigrated to New York City from Germany. She had two sisters, Arlene and Helen. After graduating from Preston High School in Throggs Neck, Dotty ventured out to Arizona and California, where she fell in love with the American West. This was the beginning of her love for travel throughout the United States and beyond. Her favorite places to visit were Sedona, Santa Fe and Colorado, but she also loved taking cruises to Hawaii and the Caribbean.

Dotty moved to City Island in 1958 when she married Willie Cus and raised her two children here. Many residents remember Dotty for the arts and crafts that she introduced to many Island girls as a Girl Scout leader. She worked at Spouters Inn for many years, where all City Islanders came to know her, and she was also a dear friend to many neighbors who lived on west Fordham Street. In the summer you would find her sunbathing and playing cards at the West Fordham Street Beach Club.

Later in life, she met and married her soulmate, Joseph Kurta, to whom she was married for 18 years before he passed away in 2008. Joe and Dotty loved visiting Europe together and eventually moved to Florida, where collecting shells on Gasparilla Island was a favorite past time. During her life, she enjoyed crocheting, gardening, playing canasta, and most of all cooking, and entertaining. Her favorite time of the year was Christmas. She had a year-round Christmas display in her Florida home for all to experience. Most of all, she loved her cats!

Dotty was predeceased by both Willie Cus and Joseph Kurta and is survived by her two children: Bill Cus, who lives in Colorado Springs, and Gwen Michelle Casas, who lives in New Fairfield CT, along with three grandchildren—Tanner Cus, Jason Casas and Lauren Casas Nichols. Dotty also had three great grandchildren, Naomi and twins Grace and Harper, whom she was very happy to meet during the past year.

Dotty touched many lives over her 85 years, and each of those friends have many fond memories that will be cherished forever.

Tomasina (Mazie) Salzarulo

Tomasina Salzarulo, a longtime resident of City Island, died on June 7, 2021, at the age of 88. Tomasina, who was called Mazie, was born on March 30, 1933, in the Bronx to the late Frank and Anna Brescia. She married her high-school sweetheart, Joseph Salzarulo, in 1956, and they moved to City Island in 1964.

Mazie enjoyed spending time with her sister, Catherine (Ambrosini), and her family, working at Hild Sails and Ratsey's, raising her two children, Valerie and Joseph, and making lifelong friends. Her favorite days were spent baking delicious cakes and cookies and preparing gravy for eggplant parmigiana. Her heart was open to all; she was always willing to lend a hand to others and care for stray animals in need. Mazie spent the last few decades of her life doing what gave her the most joy and fulfillment, helping to raise her beloved grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Joseph Salzarulo; her daughter, Valerie Korzec; her son-in-law, Arthur Korzec, and her grandchildren, Sarah and Henry Korzec.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, June 11, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and she was interred at Pelham Cemetery. Donations may be made in her name to the American Diabetes Association: www.diabetes.org/donate.



Photos by JUDY RAUH and ROSE KOLB

Thanks to the easing of pandemic restrictions and the sponsorship of borough president Ruben Diaz and City councilman Mark Gjonaj, the fireworks off Orchard Beach resumed in 2021 to the delight of Islanders and boaters all gathered at the north end of City Island to watch the New York Salutes America extravaganza on June 24.



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Photo by KAREN NANI

At the City Island Little League closing ceremony on June 26, 2021, President Dom Esposito (top photo, right) recognized several parent volunteers who worked hard to make the season possible, including (l. to r.) Brian Kenny, James and Susan Goonan, and Meaghan Clancy (not shown).



Photo by ALISON WINTERS

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 held its annual dinner on June 8 at the Harlem Yacht Club. Longtime members celebrated at the event (top photo, l to r): Marguerite Sessa, Harlan Sexton, Doreen Gallagher, Ethel Lott, Sandra Panzarella, Carol Menonna, Margaret Eberhart, Margaret Knapp and Betty Jordan.

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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Photo courtesy of UNIT 156

Poppy fundraising by Auxiliary Unit 156 (l. to r.): Michelle Santiago, Pam Turner, Laura Booth, Doreen Gallagher, Joanne Valletta, and Harlan Sexton in front of Dominick's C-Town Market.



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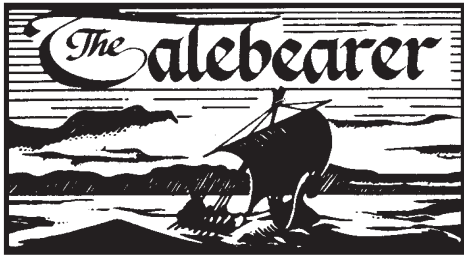
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Happy birthday to Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson, who celebrates her big day on July 14. With lots of love from Deb, Elzie and Ken.

Graduation congratulations to our niece, Violet Chadwick, who graduated from P.S. 175 and will be attending St. Catharine's in the fall.

Happy 36th anniversary on July 27 to Ginger and Hans Dannegger.

Happy 30th birthday on Aug. 22 to Maria Christina Swieciki, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families. Get ready for a very special celebration!

Best wishes for continued happiness to Mary (Dannegger) and Warren Sheinwald, who will celebrate their third wedding anniversary on Aug. 11.

Brava to Islander Robyn Lobe, who appears in the new movie "In the Heights." Robyn is a dancer, an actress and a percussionist who has been touring with several bands. She competed against many dancers for the role in the movie based on the Broadway show.

Happy eighth birthday to Arlo Rota. Birthday greetings to his mother, Beth Rota, and his aunt, Susie Rauh. Happy 16th wedding anniversary to Beth and Matt Rota.

Belated June birthday wishes to Karen Nani, who celebrated with family and friends at Grace Church Parish Hall on June 5, 2021. Kudos to her husband, sons and daughters-in-law for throwing a wonderful luncheon full of surprises for Karen.

You did it! Best wishes to Fordham Street's Jonna Gallo, who graduated from Lehman College with a master's of science in Organizational Leadership. Her thesis is on research-driven strategies for making faster, better decisions. Jonna is especially thrilled to have earned a master's after turning 50 in April.

Welcome back to City Island to

Michael, Julia and Laura Phillips, who gathered with their parents, family and friends to remember their grandmother Rosalie Phillips at a memorial service on June 12. Julia is headed to England on her latest JAG assignment; Michael lives and works in Florida, and Laura works and lives in Austin, Texas.

Speedy recovery to Islander Myra Martin, who took a tumble in June but is working to get back on her feet. At 95, Myra is still going strong and hopes to be up and around City Island Avenue soon.

Belated happy birthday(s) on May 9 to my cousin Gene Jones and also to my special pal, Carolyn (Foley) Peters, who celebrated her birthday on June 21. We were all clam diggers and have many happy memories of City Island life. These ladies are very special to me! Love from Barbara Hass Lynch.

Summer birthday wishes to Ellen Dierenfeld (July 9), Lori Travers (July 19), Jennifer Carman (July 21), Nolan Quinn (Aug. 26) and Samantha Emerick (Aug. 30).

Happy 55th Birthday to our Jennifer. We are so proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad

And to all our readers, neighbors and friends, we wish you a very happy and safe summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki

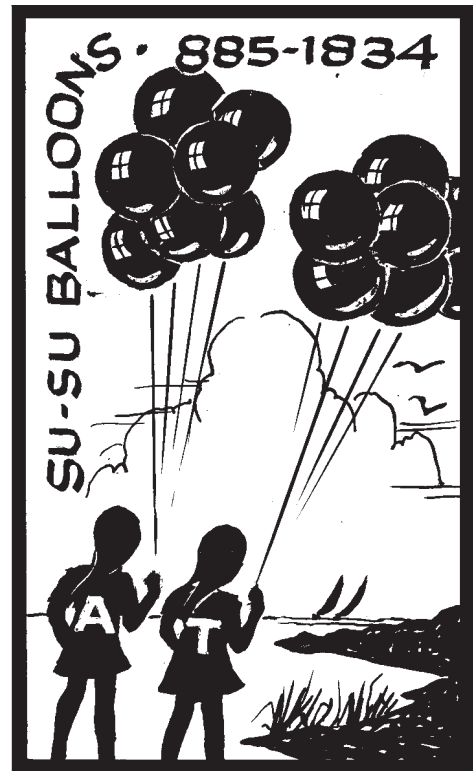


Photo by KAREN NANI

Julia, Michael and Laura Phillips were together to celebrate their grandmother Rosalie Phillips at a memorial service on June 12, 2021.



Photo by ICARO NOGUEIRA

Family and friends gathered on June 5, 2021, in Grace Church parish hall to celebrate Karen Rauhauser Nani's birthday (age withheld upon request). Shown above are (l. to r.) Bob and Carol McKenna, Jamie Rapczynski, Karen Nani, Melinda Halligan, Lorena and Mark Nani, Roger Nani, Lauren McKenna Morabito, Luke, Leah and Paul Nani and Damian Morabito.



Photo by RON TERNER

Kudos to the cute kindergarteners who wore their masks and celebrated Moving Up Day in person with their families on June 22, 2021, in the P.S. 175 schoolyard.

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