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One Dollar

A P.S. 175 GRADUATION UNLIKE ANY IN CI HISTORY

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photo by LIFETOUGH

Graduation for the P.S. 175 eighth-grade class was anything but traditional in 2020 because of the coronavirus crisis. There were none of the usual diploma presentations, speeches and award ceremonies, but fortunately the class photo was taken right before the school was shut down in March. The proud, resilient graduates and faculty members who enabled them to complete their required coursework remotely are shown above: front row (seated, l. to r.) Danka Clara, Sophia Amos, Elena Flores Martinez, Jhanelise Galvez, Denise Taclibon, Sonya Doyle and faculty Giuliana Adesso. Second row: faculty Danielle Minor; graduates Julio David Millan, Yzabella Padagas, Michael Masella, Paul Goonan, Jenesis Beniquez, Eric Lin; faculty Karen Heil. Third row: faculty Anthony Esposito; graduates Rhianna Dyal, Lorenzo Cortez, Dilyn Branch, Miguel Castanos, Ryan Branch, Michael Sanfratello; faculty Alex Mazza. Top row: faculty Kathie Wiehler, Assistant Principal; graduates Jalyann Richardson, Marcus Sipas, Jordyn Knapp, Cyrus Alston, Valeria Ford, Terrance Thomas, Abigail Hayes, Christopher Vazquez; faculty Julie Porras, Principal. In accordance with city guidelines, a virtual graduation ceremony was held on June 24 with flags hung in honor of each graduate (photos below) followed by a parade passing by each student's home on June 25.



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Because of the unprecedented closing of New York City schools during the Covid-19 pandemic, a virtual graduation ceremony was held for the eighth-grade class of 2020. At the ceremony, the newly named principal, Julie Porras, presented the following awards.

The Principal's Award for Excellence went to Sonya Doyle; the Assistant Principal's Award was given to Yzabella Padagas; and the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence

was presented to Rhianna Dyal. The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence went to Sonya Doyle; Sophia Amos was the recipient of the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement; the Lucrezia Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance was given to Paul Goonan.

The Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* went to Sophia Amos; the Alice Persteins Award for Community Involvement was presented to

Miguel Castanos; the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort was given to Jordyn Knapp, and the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership went to Paul Goonan and Marcus Sipas.

The City Council Speaker's Achievement Award for Academic Excellence was presented to Abigail Hayes; the NYC Public Advocate Award went to Cyrus Alston and Michael Sanfratello; Jhanelise Galvez received both the NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achieve-

ment and the ELA Superintendent Award.

The NY Educators Award (after-school program) went to Rhianna Dyal, Eric Lin and Michael Sanfratello; the P.S. 175 Positivity Award was given to Elena Flores Martinez, Terrance Thomas, Michael Sanfratello, Sophia Amos. The P.S. 175 Junior Mentor Award was presented to Jenesis Beniquez and Valeria Ford; the Colleen Burke Tutor Award went

Continued on page 6

BRIEFLY...

ERIC SANDERSON, Island resident, a landscape ecologist at the Bronx Zoo, the author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*, and advisory committee member of the City Island Oyster Reef, will present a webinar on the historical ecology of City Island, Eastchester Bay and the Hutchinson River, including how important this area was for indigenous people. The webinar will be at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15. For access, send an email to cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com.

BARTOW-PELL WEDDING OFFER: As a service to couples who may have had to adjust their plans, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park has offered its garden as a setting for weddings. Availability will start when parks in the city's Phase 4 are allowed to open, now scheduled for July 20, when New York State guidelines will allow for gatherings of 25 or fewer people. The museum itself will be allowed to open but may restrict access to the first floor for planned events. For more information, including costs and details about wedding ceremonies, call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2020. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 3 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTAL DEATH
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from May 20 through June 21, 2020.

5/20 – On Minneford Avenue at 3:30 p.m., an Island male reported that his third-floor neighbor was harassing him by constantly screaming and banging on his windows.

5/24 – At 9 p.m. at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, a security guard was punched in the face by a disorderly male patron who was asked to leave the premises.

5/25 – An Island female told police that a Trek bicycle had been stolen from her Pilot Street home at 12:16 p.m. in an act of petit larceny.

5/28 – On Minneford Avenue at 3:30 p.m., a male Islander observed a gray vehicle striking his parked vehicle, causing property damage. The unknown driver fled the scene of the accident.

5/31 – A Marine Street resident report-

ed that his Lincoln Town Car was stolen at 12 p.m.

6/4 – At 10:30 a.m. on Bay Street, a male Islander told police that he was being harassed on various social media sites, causing him alarm and annoyance.

6/6 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported that her cell phone was stolen at 6 p.m.

6/11 – An off-Island male reported an incident of aggravated harassment at 8 a.m. While walking on City Island Avenue, he observed a sign with a Nazi symbol and derogatory statements, causing him to fear for his safety.

6/13 – On Reynolds Street, a male Islander reported an assault at 10:55 p.m. He told police that another male Islander knocked on his door, asked if the victim had been talking about him, and then punched him on the lip.

6/17 – At 12:58 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, a female Islander reported that she was being harassed by another female Islander who was taking videos of her and her child, causing fear and alarm.

6/20 – On the Pelham Bridge, police responded to a fatal traffic accident at 5:10 p.m. An off-Island male bicyclist was struck accidentally by a motor vehicle.

6/21 – An off-Island male reported an assault on City Island Avenue at 6 p.m. He told police that after a verbal dispute, an unknown male exited his car and struck the victim's car with a bat and then struck him with his fist.

6/21 – A multi-vehicle traffic accident occurred at the City Island circle near the entrance to Rodman's Neck at 9:23 p.m. At least six people were transported to Jacobi for their injuries, and one subsequently died at the hospital.



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The detonation of illegal fireworks all over New York City, including City Island, have resulted in more than 12,500 calls to 911 this year, about 12 times the normal number. On June 23, the mayor announced that the NYPD would start cracking down, and shortly after noon that day, fireworks were detonated at Rodman's Neck. Unfortunately, the explosion resulted in a number of small brush fires in the area, and a fire-boat was called to come put out at least one of the fires.

Water Main Update

The NYC Department of Design and Construction is installing two sub-aqueous water mains just south of the Catherine Scott Promenade that will later serve as the primary source of water for City Island. Work has continued on this project through the pandemic, as it is deemed an essential infrastructure project. Much of the work is underground and not visible from the surface.

The contractor has begun drilling the tunnels needed for the installation of the new water mains, and a 30-foot deep

trench was also recently completed at the exit point for the new tunnels.

The project is anticipated to be completed in May 2021. Island residents who would like to be kept in the loop regarding the project may add their names to the DDC e-mail list by calling the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) at 929-447-5407 or e-mailing CityIslandCCL@gmail.com. During non-working hours, Islanders should call 311 and give the project identification number, which is HED564.

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RECOVERING FROM THE COVID CRISIS: AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of the FRONTLINE PROFESSIONALS

Dedicated City Island healthcare professionals and teachers continue to care for others through the Covid-19 crisis. Eileen Marcus teaches students with disabilities at the International Academy of Hope (top photo, left) and had to transition to online classes in March (second photo). Clam digger Matt Bollatti is a physical therapist at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville (top photo, standing in front at right). Tasha DeSantis (above photos) is a nurse in the Obstetrics Department at nearby Jacobi Medical Center.

In our last two issues, *The Island Current* presented the stories of Islanders working on the front lines during this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. While the number of new Covid-19 cases has declined around New York, many in the City Island community continue to care for those impacted by this disease. As this issue went to press, 555 residents have been tested and there have been 118 confirmed cases of coronavirus on City Island, according to the New York City Department of Health.

As the city completes Phase 1 and some Island businesses have reopened for the first time since March (see story page 7), the future remains uncertain for those who have had to work under conditions they never could have imagined.

Teachers

Eileen Marcus lived on City Island for 24 years and remains an active member of Grace Episcopal Church on Pilot Street. Since 2018, Eileen has been teaching students with disabilities at the International Academy of Hope, a private school in the Harlem section of Manhattan.

“We deal exclusively with students with traumatic brain injuries related to birth defects, genetic disorders, seizures, strokes and other causes. Ninety-nine percent of them are non-verbal,” she explained. Eileen currently works with six students, ages 14 to 19, and leads a team of other professionals, including an assistant teacher and occupational, speech and physical therapists. The students commute to the school by bus, and most are in wheelchairs.

So how did she manage meeting the special needs of her class once the schools were closed on March 13, 2020? She and her colleagues transitioned to remote learning after training by Zoom meetings. Needless to say, this presented special challenges for students who are visually or hearing impaired and for whom school is normally year-round, not just September to June.

“First, thank goodness, none of my students or members of the staff contracted the virus. For the home schooling, we rely on computers and devices like Talk Suite, which is similar to the one used by the late scientist Stephen Hawking [who was wheelchair bound and could not speak],” she told *The Current*.

Eileen gives much credit to the parents of her students who are supporting her efforts even more than usual. “Hats off to them! They are all juggling working from home and helping their children continue to learn. Some call me ‘54 inches Eileen’ since I now teach through their flat screen TVs or iPads.” Though the circumstances are not ideal, her students have continued to progress. Each has individual goals in math, language, speech, and more, and the curriculum is designed to meet the New York State standards adapted for those with limited mobility.

What does the future hold for students with special needs? Eileen is uncertain. “Unfortunately there is no clear picture. The final decision on summer school has not been made, and we are awaiting confirmation for the fall semester from the Department of Education. For now, my students and their families will have to continue to be as independent as possible.”

Healthcare Professionals

Occupational therapist Sally Lachman moved to City Island after marrying clam digger Paul Lachman 20 years ago. She received her Master’s degree from Mercy College after an accident involving her husband piqued her interest in rehabilitation. “My husband is an electrician and got hurt at work. He needed rehab for his hand, and that led to my career in occupational therapy,” she told *The Current*.

Sally worked at several medical facilities, including St. Barnabas and King’s Harbor, before landing a position as occupational therapist at the renowned Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains.

Before the coronavirus crisis, she cared for patients with orthopedic and neurological problems that affected their upper extremities, including upper arms, shoulders and hands.

The pandemic changed everything for Burke and Sally. “Early in March, when we were beginning to learn about Covid-19 at Burke, I became sick and eventually tested positive for the disease,” she explained. Her symptoms started with a mild fever but ended up with the full range, including sinus problems, headaches, loss of taste and smell, gastrointestinal issues and shortness of breath. She was among the “handful of staff members at Burke who became sick with Covid.”

She did not have to be hospitalized and returned to work in April over a week after her symptoms had subsided. At that point, Burke had converted over to caring for Covid patients discharged from White Plains Hospital. “I was assigned to the graveyard shift, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and was totally involved in patient care.” Instead of her usual therapy duties from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., she was redeployed to assist nurses and doctors in all aspects of direct care, including checking vitals, feeding and wound care. “You name it, we did it to help out,” Sally explained. “It was nerve-racking as Burke was at full capacity, and there were fears of cross contamination and other issues related to Covid-19, which we never had to deal with before.”

Their efforts were successful. As of June 15, the 250th patient was discharged Covid-free to cheers and balloons. “Next week we will reopen all outpatient departments,” Sally explained, a sign that things are returning somewhat to normal. When asked about the future, Sally doesn’t expect her duties and life at Burke to be what they once were until at least the end of the year. “People are still afraid to go to the hospital for opera-

tions and other health issues, so we may not return to normal until December or January.” Thankfully, Sally will be there to care for those needing occupational therapy.

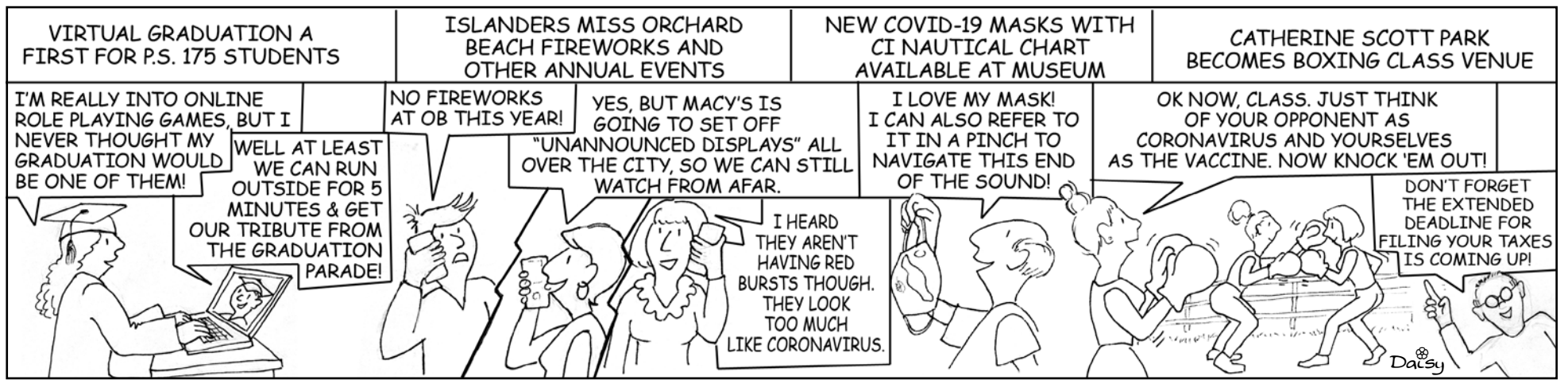
Clam digger Matt Bollati is a physical therapist at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, NY. He attended P.S. 175, the High School for American Studies at Lehman College, and Queens College majoring in exercise science. When he was 17 years old, he tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) playing basketball. He then became interested in a career in physical therapy (PT) “because I didn’t want others to make the same mistake I did by not going for PT after my injury.”

He received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Seton Hall University and worked for Janine Mantzaris at City Island Physical Therapy during his training. He started at Lawrence Hospital (now part of New York-Presbyterian) working in outpatient rehabilitation and was about to rotate to inpatient PT in early March 2020 when one of the first patients diagnosed with Covid-19 in New York arrived at the hospital (attorney Lawrence Garbuz from New Rochelle).

“Everything stopped and all efforts focused on treating coronavirus patients, conserving PPE [personal protective equipment] and preventing cross contamination,” Matt told *The Current*. So instead of transitioning to inpatient PT, Matt spent the early part of the crisis supporting the nurses and medical staff (“all hands on deck”). In addition to the original 20 critical care beds at Lawrence, all beds in the ambulatory surgery and pediatric wings were converted to intensive care (ICU) throughout April and May.

At the height of the crisis, Lawrence had 170 patients testing positive for Covid-19. Matt eventually became part of the teams that worked with intubated patients who were on ventilators.

Continued on page 9



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.

**The City Island Poster Project:
It's Not Too Late**

When the opportunity to bring art, children and writing together to help amplify and protect our community's culture of clean, considerate and healthy living through what became the City Island Poster Project, Joanne Valletta and Maria Caruso joined me by raising their hands to volunteer.

Many thanks to the creative children who gave us some really beautiful and inventive posters; to the parents who set up and cleaned up so their kids could participate; and to Lyn and Russell Thompson for lending us a laminator. We are so grateful to all of you. We also thank the restaurants and shops that proudly displayed what we have given them: Johnny's Reef, Tony's Pier, Sammy's, Black Whale, Clipper Coffee, City Island Diner, Crab Shanty, Artie's, Dominick's Market, To Go Express, Seafood City, Portofino, Lobster House, JGL Wines & Liquors, Sea Breeze Deli, Sea Shore and more.

Joanne, Maria and I hope the City Island Poster Project will be an ongoing exercise in positivity, self-expression and keeping our grounds and waters, our bodies and minds, healthy and happy. Please, keep them coming! We are accepting more posters so we can deliver to other stores and restaurants on City Island.

Portofino owner Kaltrina Rugova said: "This is a great way to spread the word to stop littering. I hate when I see trash thrown from cars or being left behind in our parking lot. Seeing these posters might make customers think twice about leaving their trash behind."

Certainly, a decrease in litter is one of the main objectives of the City Island Poster Project. but the project has also given the children who participated a sense of purpose and a place to express how passionate they feel about keeping City Island clean and healthy.

If you'd like to be part of the solution and if you need details on poster requirements and drop-off protocol, please e-mail clementina@clementinaespositocom.

Clementina Esposito



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND POSTER PROJECT
Three Island volunteers, Maria Caruso, Clementina Esposito and Joanne Valletta (photo at right), coordinated with parents, children and Island restaurants to produce and display posters asking customers to dispose of their leftover trash rather than leave it on the sidewalks. Kaltrina Rugova of Portofino (above) was happy to accept one of the posters; she manages the restaurant for her father, Mario Rugova, the owner of Portofino.



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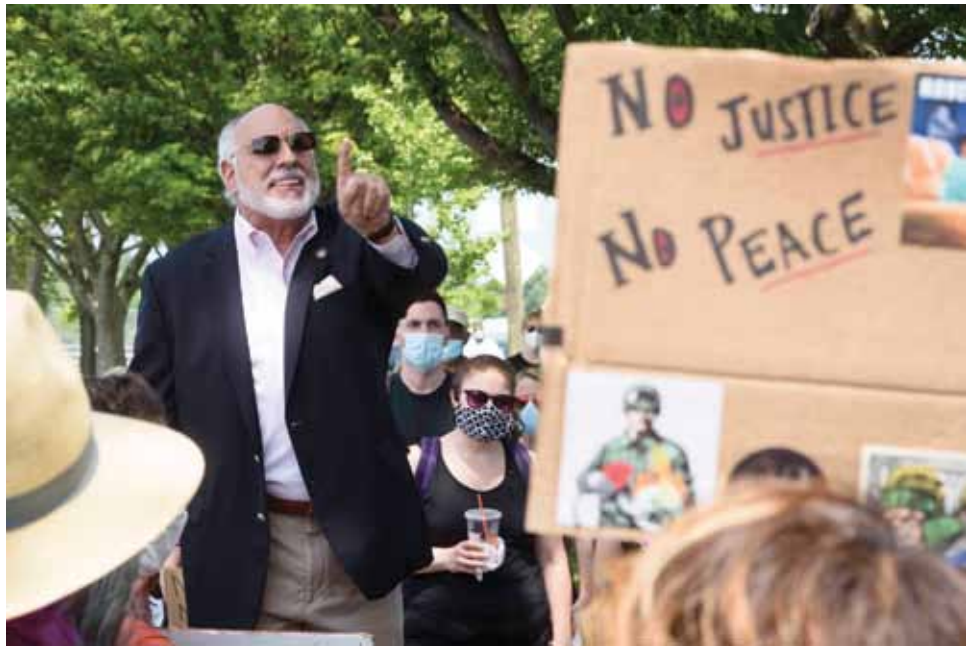
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BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY ON CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT and ROY SMITH
A Black Lives Matter rally was held on June 6, 2020, in the Catherine Scott Promenade. More than 100 Islanders and other guests attended the peaceful event, and listened to remarks by elected officials, religious and community leaders, including (photos at right, from the top) organizer and Island resident Stephen Swieciki, New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Adom Ghebreghiorgis and former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión. The diverse crowd took a knee in a moment of prayer (photo above) and protested for eight minutes and 46 seconds in memory of George Floyd and other victims of police violence and racism.



A rally in Catherine Scott Park on June 6, 2020, was held in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and in commemoration of the recent deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. More than 100 Islanders and other guests attended the event, which was described as “City Islanders gathering to send a clear message against racism and police brutality.” They were joined by elected officials, religious and community leaders in a call for change at the local, state and national levels, according to organizer and Island resident Stephen Swieciki.

“When we were living in Queens, my husband was stopped by police an average of twice a week. Guess how many times I was stopped [as a white woman]? Zero.” She believes there is too much apathy and denial about the black experience in America.

Assemblyman Benedetto called this “an important time for our country. America has to change its attitude.” He recalled fighting against discrimination in education 40 years ago when he was a special education teacher in New York City. He is saddened by the continuing bias against black and Hispanic children. He hopes for a time when “people are judged as people, with no preconceived notions in education and policing.”

Mr. Carrión is an Island resident who had worked for the Obama administration after his term as borough president. He spoke longingly of a better republic of the United States. “I am 69 years old and tired from a lifetime of dealing with hatred and racism. It’s exhausting. We are one family and need to behave like one family.”

Another speaker addressed the need for systemic change. “We have to eliminate the current culture, so good police officers can come forward and tell the truth” when they observe abuse and unnecessary violence.

A police presence of about 10 officers helped make sure the gathering remained peaceful and safe. Mr. Swieciki told *The Current*, “I was happy to work with the 45th Precinct in planning for the event and want to thank them for respecting our space as we protested.”

The peaceful protest began with prayers followed by often impassioned remarks by speakers, including Reverend Wilfredo Benitez, Adom Ghebreghiorgis, New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, John Doyle, Ashlee Danielle and organizers Abby Rosenswaik and Mr. Swieciki. The diverse crowd also took a knee in a moment of silence and protested for eight minutes and 46 seconds in memory of George Floyd and all other victims of police violence and racism.

In his remarks, Mr. Ghebreghiorgis, an activist from Mount Vernon who ran in the June primary to replace Eliot Engel in Congress, acknowledged that both black and white people are victims of police violence. However, he hopes that violence by police can be replaced by support for communities of color with more investment in healthcare and drug rehabilitation, as well as justice reform.

Ms. Rosenswaik spoke from her own experiences as the wife of a black man.

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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and RICK DeWITT

Although the P.S. 175 eighth-grade graduates could not gather for the usual "pomp and circumstance," the middle school teachers (second photo, l. to r.), Lizanne Espina, Anthony Esposito, Karen Heil, Kathy Wiehler, Michael Sabatello, Alexandra Mazza and Danielle Minor, organized a parade past each student's home on City Island, including those of Lorenzo Cortez and Paul Goonan (bottom photo).

P.S. 175 Graduation

Continued from page 1

to Jhanelise Galvez, Yzabella Padagas, Denise Taclibon, Abigail Hayes, Sonya Doyle; the P.S. 175 Perseverance Award was given to Christopher Vazquez, Dilyn Branch, Ryan Branch.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: Science, Rhianna Dyal; Science Regents, Cyrus Alston, Danka Clara, Sonya Doyle, Rhianna Dyal, Jhanelise Galvez, Abigail Hayes, Yzabella Padagas; Mathematics Superintendent Award, Abigail Hayes; Math Regents Awards, Cyrus Alston, Sonya Doyle, Rhianna Dyal, Jhanelise Galvez, Abigail Hayes, Eric Lin, Yzabella Padagas, Denise Taclibon. Technology Award, Sonya Doyle; Foreign Language, Denise Taclibon; Social Studies, Sonya Doyle, Eric Lin; Art, Julio David Millan.

The Andrea Horowitz Award was

given to Danka Clara. The PE Award went to Yzabella Padagas and Jalynn Richardson; the Fitness Gram Award went to Lorenzo Cortez.

Service to School Award (color guard) Sophia Amos, Sonya Doyle, Paul Goonan, Jordyn Knapp, Eric Lin, Yzabella Padagas, Jalynn Richardson.

Congratulations to Ms. Porras on her first P.S. 175 graduation and to all the award winners from the historic class of 2020.

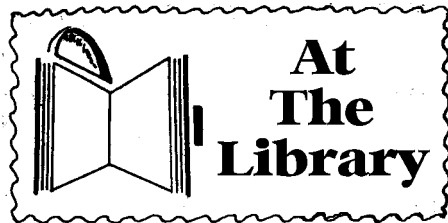
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Additionally, you can still call our helpline at 917-ASK-NYPL (917-275-6975) or contact the City Island Library staff directly on our Facebook page. Not only will we do our best to answer any questions that you may have, but we will be posting information about some of the NYPL's remotely accessible databases for you to check out while you are at home.



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		
188 Reville Street	\$415,000	3/11/20
182 Fordham Street	525,000	3/27/20
99 Earley Street	575,000	3/31/20
651 Minneford Avenue	451,675	4/6/20
72 Hawkins Street	629,000	4/8/20
69 Centre Street	671,500	4/16/20
23 Schofield Street	340,000	5/5/20
630 Minneford Avenue	474,000	5/6/20
151 Reville Street	520,000	5/11/20
77 Fordham Street	550,000	5/15/20
Multi-Family House		
77 Pilot Street	450,000	6/12/20
Condominiums		
35 Island Point	1,045,000	3/27/20
238 Bowne Street, 254A	373,100	10/16/19
170 Schofield St, 3L	190,000	5/6/20
70 Island Point	705,000	5/27/20
12 Deepwater Way	429,021	6/9/20
Commercial		
155 Pilot Street	8,750,000	3/23/20
110 Schofield Street	550,000	3/20/20

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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Coping with Covid: How City Island Businesses Are Surviving the Pandemic

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Changes in shopping and dining gradually took place during May and June 2020 as City Island businesses slowly reopened under New York City's Phases 1 and 2 of the pandemic recovery program. Kaleidoscope owner Paul Klein makes sales while offering hand sanitizer and a mask at the front door of the shop (photo above). Bridge Marine Supply reports that the curbside pickup business has been excellent now that the marinas and yacht clubs have opened (photo top left). Peter Gennari of Clipper Coffee set up a table at the front door, from which he can dispense his specialties, and chairs on the sidewalk provide an informal chat room for customers (photo, right).

Although the number of Covid-19 cases on City Island have been far lower than elsewhere in New York City, we still have to abide by the rules and regulations and reopening plans set for the rest of the city. Phase 2 began on Monday, June 22, allowing outdoor dining at restaurants, in-person retail, hair salons and barbershops (but not personal care services like nails or massages), non-essential construction, and more office-based jobs, all at half capacity and with mandatory COVID safeguards in place like social distancing and facial coverings. This is good news, but not good enough for a number of businesses on the Island, which have suffered during the pandemic and don't expect things to return to normal any time soon.

Shopping

Changes in shopping gradually took place during May and June, when instore shopping was not allowed but curbside pickup was. Now that customers are allowed to go into stores, however, the size of most shops on City Island is so small that social distancing is not feasible. John Foley is often found sitting outside his store at 270 City Island Avenue, where he can readily manage sales to visitors who see things they like through the window. Window displays have also been very important at Kaleidoscope (280 City Island Avenue), where either owner Paul Klein or his assistant, Nicole Nielson, can make a sale (while offering hand sanitizer and a mask) at the front door during traditional open hours (11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day). Although sales have not been overwhelming, Paul has been able to keep afloat, largely thanks to local customers who rely on him for watch batteries and repairs, as well as jewelry, and off-Islanders who love the toys and other gifts.

David Ellis often sits outside Janos and Theresa, the antique and art gallery at the southeast corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue, and he finds that the large windows are a great advantage since customers can see much of what is in the shop. Down the block, however, at Buddy's Hardware and Marine, Karl Hoedl has a grim view of the pandemic. Although he has been allowed to stay open during the shutdown, as an essential business, sales have been down because he has been unable to restock many sold-out items. Products that are made in China or made up of components imported from China have been difficult, if not impossible, to

obtain, and truck drivers are increasingly reluctant to deliver to New York City because of concerns about the coronavirus and the recent protests. The only bright spot is that his marine supplies are selling better now that the weather has warmed up and as people have been able to work on or use their boats.

Marine Businesses

Joe "Bridge" of Bridge Marine Supply at 673 City Island Avenue reports that his curbside pickup business has been excellent now that the marinas and yacht clubs have opened. He told *The Current* that he was very happy not to be in the restaurant business! Joe Burck of JJ Burck Hardware and Marine, 526 City Island Avenue, closed for three days at the beginning of the quarantine but reopened to customers who can adhere to social distancing and mask-wearing in his store. Although it has been difficult to replace inventory, Joe has enjoyed good sales, and he reported that boat buying itself is way up. "After all, you don't have to worry about social distancing if you're on a private boat with your family or friends, and you can fish, swim, dive, waterski, or even serve dinner without any restrictions." The recent popularity of boating is pretty much limited to powerboats, of course, since, as Joe notes, if you get a sailboat, "you have to learn to sail!" For those who are concerned about what they need to know to use a boat safely, Joe noted that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers online boating courses (www.uscgaux.info).

Mike Carew of Mike's Dive Shop at 530 City Island Avenue has been closed during the quarantine period, and reopening won't be easy, largely because of the restrictions pertaining to the use of diving equipment, which must be cleaned regularly, not shared by divers and kept in individual bins after cleaning. Although Mike has given a webinar on new teaching protocols and watched a number of others, he cannot use pools for training until the city opens them up, nor can he use the beaches. Rules governing the boats that he uses to travel to diving sites restrict the number of divers, although he was happy to have had the chance to explore a wreck recently and not having to practice social distancing underwater!

Sailing, however, is off to a good start, thanks to the new regatta, the Big Tom Wednesday Night Series, which was launched on June 13 in Eastchester Bay



under the direction of the City Island Yacht Club. In order to make social distancing possible, boats are sailing with limited crew. Jimmy Lynch of the City Island Yacht Club and Chris McGuire of All-Pro Marine managed to get most of the club's boats into the water by the beginning of June, and members are enthusiastic about the new race series. The new chef at the club, Trevor Cooke, is offering take-out to members on their boats and is opening up for social-distanced dining on the porch. Anne Booth, who is based at the Harlem Yacht Club, continues to offer her take-out menu to members and non-members. The Morris Yacht Club has also opened for members, who can purchase take-out food, use their boats and swim on the beach, which is most welcome especially since Orchard Beach has still not opened for swimming.

Although Jack's Bait and Tackle told *The Current* that "the fishing industry is pandemic proof," indicating that bait sales were up, not all boat-related fishing activity is positive. Chris Cullen of the Island Current fishing fleet has been able to take people fishing but only in limited numbers. All of his special cruises and summer camp boat rides have been canceled, although a number of clients who had booked trips have optimistically rescheduled for next year. Fishing trips are run regularly morning and evening, but where Chris could once handle 131 people on a boat, he can now allow only 50. Insurance costs have not been reduced, so he has had to increase his prices somewhat, which he regrets doing now, but he says that his clients have been very understanding and patient. And the porgies, striped bass and bluefish have been biting, so that is a bit of good news.

Islander Dick Sadler is a captain for the Circle Line, but because tour boats fall into the same category as hotels, they have not been allowed to operate at all since the quarantine was put in place. The reopening date for Phase 3, which regulates hotels, is scheduled for July 20. Other vessels in New York Harbor are definitely working, says Dick, including tugboats, barges and cargo ships. The city ferries are also running, although on a reduced schedule, and one may get to the Statue of Liberty by boat because it is not considered a "tour boat" since it carries passengers to

a destination, not around Manhattan. Dick, who is also an accomplished photographer, has been keeping busy developing a photography website "store" that he hopes to open in a few months' time, since the cold weather might set in before the Circle Line is released from its quarantine.

Dining Out

Many restaurants on the Island do not have outdoor dining areas, but the Lobster House, Portofino, and the Seashore plan to provide sit-down service in their outdoor areas, and Artie's has set up tables along the sidewalk. Johnny's Reef, Tony's Pier and Seafood City also have outdoor eating areas, and it is assumed that these will become pretty crowded as the summer progresses. Restaurants like Artie's that have wide sidewalks in front are taking advantage of the fact that the City Council has now suspended the city's ability to collect sidewalk licensing fees for restaurants, which usually total thousands of dollars each year, through Feb. 28, 2021. However, the Department of Health has demanded certain restrictions on sidewalk dining, so City Island's sidewalks may not change much. And Mayor Di Blasio has also decided to allow NYC restaurants to put seating in curbside parking areas, though such a move on City Island could be a disaster, since there is little curbside parking as it is, and double parking has become a serious issue, even a dangerous one in some areas on the Island.

Sean Wingate opened his attractive City Island Juice Bar at 327 City Island Avenue on Feb. 1, 2020, but within six weeks he had to close down because of the coronavirus. Although he was allowed to deliver or sell take-out food and groceries, he decided it was best to close the store on March 15, especially since his elderly grandfather, a partner in the business, was clearly at risk during the pandemic. Sean reopened on May 1, and although business is slower than he would like, he has developed loyal customers who find his health foods of great comfort, since they are rich in antioxidants, proteins and other benefits to the immune system. His fresh fruits, juices rich in protein powder and other ingredients, as well as his amazing ginger shots are, for his customers, a way to protect themselves against the virus.

Continued on page 9

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Coping With Covid

Continued from page 7

Peter Gennari of Clipper Coffee at 274 City Island Avenue, has devised a clever way of serving his special coffees and pastries without allowing customers into his small shop. He has set up a table at the front door, from which he can dispense his specialties, and chairs on the sidewalk provide an informal chat room for customers who are used to gathering indoors. Across the street, Skip and Louise Giacco are just about ready to open Lickety Split, which is always very popular during the summer months. They have figured out how people can adhere to social-distancing regulations there, and they would like nothing more than to have customers back. They have not wanted to open as a take-out restaurant, because they believe that Lickety Split offers an enjoyable social experience along with ice cream.

As acting president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, Paul Klein has been extremely busy, not just running Kaleidoscope but also trying to help Island businesses through the crisis. The Chamber website now publicizes information about all businesses, whether or not they are members of the Chamber, and he is providing them with a great deal of information that he has gleaned from attending numerous webinars. Funds are available for small businesses through long-term loans, some with no interest, and landlords can apply for grants to cover their costs

for tenants who may not be able to pay in full. Paul is making plans and taking reservations for the Chamber Arts & Crafts Fair scheduled for Sept. 11 and 12. No one knows, of course, whether the fair will be allowed by the city, but these days Paul feels that it is always best to take a positive approach, especially when we have no idea what the future holds.



Joe Burck of JJ Burck Hardware and Marine has reopened to customers who can adhere to social distancing and mask-wearing in his store.



Photo by KAREN NANI

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to increased use of outdoor spaces, especially City Island's Catherine Scott Promenade. In addition to the rally held in June (see article page 5), fitness activities like this boxing class have made good use of the picturesque park.

Recovering From Covid

Continued from page 3

"Research came out showing it helped to put intubated patients on their stomachs which increased their lung capacity, so I was part of the team that positioned sedated patients this way."

How did he and his wife, who is a teacher, stay safe given the early coronavirus cases at Lawrence? "Every night when I came home, I took off my scrubs, rolled them up into a bundle, threw them in the washing machine, took a shower, and tried to limit her exposure." Ironically, his wife, Amanda, became mildly ill in March just after the schools closed, and she eventually tested positive for Covid-19. Matt never had any symptoms but has since tested positive for the antibodies ("I was fortunate.")

When asked about the future, Matt said that things are starting to return to "normal," but he fears coronavirus cases can spike again if everyone is not careful. "We went from 170 cases down to 16 currently at Lawrence. I did 12 PT evaluations this week and 11 were Covid negative." He looks forward to working with inpatients needing PT from falls, orthopedic surgery, toe amputations and other non-Covid medical issues.

Tasha DeSantis, RN, was born and raised in Brooklyn but moved to Earley Street in 2007 with her husband, Victor, a licensed electrician. She graduated from nursing school in 2003 and now works in the Obstetrics Department at Jacobi Medical Center. She has three children of her own, a daughter in college and two boys attending P.S.175.

Like many other nurses and physicians, the coronavirus crisis turned Tasha's life upside down, but one thing remained the same: babies were still coming into the world. "Nobody planned to deliver their baby during a pandemic, but here we are," she told *The Current*. "We had a lot of Covid-positive patients, many with symptoms and many without. It was frightening, because we were unaware of the risks of fetal transmission."

Little is known about the effects of



Islander Sally Lachman is an occupational therapist at the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains


the virus on an unborn fetus, according to Tasha. Fortunately, the newborns born to positive mothers so far at Jacobi have been healthy and tested negative for Covid-19. They are especially careful with PPE because exposure to bodily fluids is normal during childbirth.

But it has not been the usual happy family time for mothers giving birth during the crisis. "The maternity floor is typically joyful, and we are trying to keep it that way for our moms-to-be. However, we have to adapt to new protocols," Tasha explained. Patients who are admitted to Jacobi in labor are allowed only one support person, and that person is the only one who gets to visit them throughout their stay. This is the protocol now, but at the peak of the crisis no one was allowed to be with the mother and baby.

So nurses like Tasha were their only support and worked under tense conditions. "Every patient has been tested for Covid-19 since the outbreak started. Our positive patients are kept separate in isolation and they are not allowed out of their rooms. Even our healthy patients are anxious about being in the hospital and contracting the virus."

As with hospitals all over the city, they are getting fewer Covid patients every day ("some days we have had none!"). But Tasha emphasizes the importance of continuing to wear masks and maintaining social distancing. "We must remain careful and committed if we don't want a second wave to come our way again." Let's all do it for the new babies entering the world.

The Current appreciates each of these dedicated professionals for taking the time to answer our questions about what they are experiencing during this crisis. We will continue to share stories of Islanders on the front lines in upcoming issues until the coronavirus crisis abates.



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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

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the museum has been unable to open to the public, and we will remain closed for the rest of the year. If anyone wishes to have access to the museum archive for the purposes of research, please call 718-885-0507. Our oral history project, originally scheduled to be launched in May, is on hold for the present time, and we plan to launch it in the spring of next year.

In the meantime, we have added an illustrated history of City Island to the museum's website, www.cityislandmuseum.org, as well as the opportunity to purchase a City Island mask (see photo), which is available for \$15. Call 718-885-1616 for information or to place an order.

We are happy to report that a webinar about City Island was presented through the New York Adventure Club on June 15, to be repeated on July 1 (www.nyadventureclub.com). This brought in welcome revenue since we are unable to welcome our rush of summer visitors.

We are also pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of \$3,000 for general operating support from the New York State Historic Marker Grant Program of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, one of 18 recipients selected from the total of 112 applicants! This will be most welcome during a difficult time.

Barbara Dolensek

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 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. All Temple offerings are 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.

Twice a month Rabbi David Evan Markus leads Friday night Shabbat services. Other services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. 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.

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

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

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

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

Paul Klein

Trinity United Methodist Church

We continue to hold all of our neighbors near and far in prayer, and we continue to offer free food for all who are hungry. Currently the hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday. Please have one member from the family come, please wear a mask, and please maintain six feet or more of separation.

Worship in person in the sanctuary is still suspended until further notice. You can receive the link to our devotions and online worship by sending your e-mail to Pastor Dave at David.jolly@nyac-umc.com.

Faith is key, with prayer and action for others. By the power of the Holy Spirit we seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Theater Group

Our Board of Directors has met virtually to begin planning our next steps. We miss our loyal audience and are looking forward to the day our curtain goes up again and the house lights dim. Until then, please remain safe and healthy. The show will go on!

Mary McIntyre

Garden Club of City Island

Despite our having had to cancel our membership meetings and put field trips on hold, the Garden Club is staying busy. For now, we have replaced our membership meetings with a monthly newsletter as a way of staying abreast of club activities and staying in touch.

The club's beautification efforts are going on as usual. The pansies in our containers on City Island Avenue filled in nicely but as the hot weather arrives, we will be replacing them with more heat-tolerant plants. In spite of many cloudy days in May, there was not a lot of rain, so we are hoping that residents and businesses will help us by watering the containers near them. Pouring a five-gallon bucket of water on a container regularly once a week is a good start. Those of you who have watered in past years have seen the plants grow and become lush.

We continue to contract with CJS Property Care to mow the Post Office garden along with cleaning the tree pits on City Island Avenue monthly. We very reluctantly cancelled our annual luncheon and are looking forward to holding it next



Photo by JUDY JUDSON

One of the gardens on City Island cared for by the Garden Club is in front of the Post Office, where this oakleaf hydrangea is thriving.

spring.

The club's beautification fund drive letters have arrived, and we are in the process of delivering them to all residents on City Island. We realize that not everyone can be as generous this year as in past years, so we are encouraging those of you who can donate to do so. Donations should be sent to PO Box 43, City Island Station, Bronx, NY 10464.

Sharynne Wilder

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Watch for our reopening. Signs and flyers will be posted. We hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses at St. Mary's have resumed. Please visit our website, www.olasmss.com, for more information.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop remains closed until further notice.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Rose Dietz

American Legion Post 156

I'm happy to announce that we have limited outdoor service at Post 156 as of June 25, for members of the Legion family only, from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Entrance to the Post will be restricted to the restrooms on the first floor; no one will be permitted in the bar area. All members must provide their own masks and wear them at all times when not seated at a table.

Please visit our website,

Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Barbara Hoffman, shop manager for the City Island Nautical Museum, wears a City Island mask based on a nautical chart. Masks are available for \$15 each (tax included); to order, call 718-885-1616. Other items from the museum gift shop are available online (www.cityislandmuseum.org).

hawkinspost156.com, for the latest information and to e-mail the Post directly. Flyers of events will be available for download.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

AARP 318

We will not hold any meetings during the summer months. Hopefully, we will see you in September. For membership information or questions, please call 718 885-2016.

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

New Yorkers are getting haircuts, enjoying outdoor dining as they experience stage 2 of the reopening phases. The Community Center has been designated stage 4. This may happen at the end of July or early August. Please look at City Island Community Center on Facebook for the latest information.

When we do open, social distancing and facemasks will be required. Until then, all in-person programs are canceled; some programs listed below are available on computers and smart phones via Zoom.us.

We hope everyone is staying safe and cool while enjoying the comforts of home and family, City Island and the beautiful weather we are having.

For up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for news and information.

Orchard Beach AA Group: Seven days a week at 7:30 a.m., go to Zoom.us and put in

#781-386-7680.

Rajasthani Folk Dance: Sundays at 12 noon on Zoom. Contact Lalitha Cosme at laithadance@gmail.com for more information or to join.

Patty Grondahl

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Anticipating the reopening of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post in September, members of the American Legion Auxiliary 156 plan to meet on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 7:30 p.m. The Quilters by the Sea QOV will hold a Sew Saturday on Sept. 12, time to be determined. All are welcome. We look forward to continuing our programs for our veterans in the new year.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the City Island Poster Project: Keep our Island Safe & Clean, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, the City Island Little League, City Island Drift, Girl Scout Troop #1115, and Cub Scout Pack #211. The purpose of the project is to make visitors and the community aware of the importance of keeping our Island safe and clean. Posters were collected by Clementina Esposito and distributed by Joanne Valletta, ALA Community Service Chair, and Maria Caruso of City Island Drift. Posters were displayed at local restaurants throughout the Island. Please keep a look out for our young artist's works.

Thinking about joining the American Legion Auxiliary, the largest, and most active women's group in our community? Contact our membership chair, Viki Trifari (wik99@me.com), about eligibility. The summer is a good time

to get your documentation in order. If you are interested in quilt-making for local veterans, contact Harlan Sexton at harlan.sexton1@gmail.com. You do not need to know how to sew.

Harlan Sexton

Grace Episcopal Church

The coronavirus has altered many aspects of our lives. People are confused and frightened and dealing with almost unprecedented uncertainty. As we explore new and different ways of living together, many of us find comfort in those things that are constant: family, dear friends, worship (in whatever form) and our congregation at Grace Church.

Our sincere thanks to Kevin Boyle, who is making it possible for us to connect and worship together on a regular basis. On Sundays at 10 a.m. we have our online church service. Please join our 10 a.m. Sunday service from your computer, tablet or smartphone (https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/488784813). You can also dial in using your phone: United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 488-784-813. Are you new to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/488784813.

Each Wednesday we have prayer service from our respective homes at 2 p.m. Please join Father John in pausing weekly for a time of prayer. We pray for each other, for

ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers. And, as Father John suggests, "find a moment to be thankful for our lives and those things that bring us comfort and joy."

Our congregation will endure. Vestry is continuing to hold monthly online meetings coordinated by Senior Warden, Bruce Weis, and Junior Warden, John Skinner, who is coordinating the transition committee for our eventual return to public worship. Paul Nani reports that Cuba, our sexton, checks on the building daily; our treasurer, Kathy Lonergan, sorts the mail and visits the office during the week; and Evyonne Baker, our volunteer office assistant, is working on updating our website, which will now have Father Covington's sermons posted.

The Sunday school participated in online worship in May under the direction of Karen Nani, who looks forward to meeting with her students again in person when the crisis abates.

GraceTones Music Ministry: We look forward to singing again at area nursing homes and local businesses when it is safe to do so.

Be safe, and look forward to a future time when we will again gather at our parish church, remembering that, however precious and consecrated, the building is not the church; it is we who are the body of Christ.

Sandy Dunn

PSS Senior Center

The PSS City Island Senior Center is currently open on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. to distribute meals, masks, sanitizers and more as we receive them. Please be sure to listen to the One Call Now sent to members to update them on meal pickups, new groups and the steps we will take when reopening (hopefully soon!).

Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also shows instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote arthritis class and our support group. Staff is regularly calling our members individually to check on their well-being. If you are not on our calling list, please e-mail pattis@pssusa.org with your name and phone number; or you can reach the center at 718-885-0727. Until we're together again, stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

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With everything going on in the world, I thought it would be appropriate to focus on lighter fare for the summer. I have seen all of these movies many times, and with every viewing, my enjoyment increases with anticipation of my favorite parts of each one.

Feel Good Films

To many people, **Singin' in the Rain** (1952) is considered one of the great musicals of all time. The setting is the silent film era, and the top stars are Don Lockwood (Gene Kelly) and Lina Lamont (Jean Hagen). Although passionate on the screen, Don cannot stand Lina, and he falls for singer/dancer Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds). When talking pictures come into vogue, this spells disaster for the on-screen couple because Lina has such a terrible voice. Donald O'Connor plays Don's closest friend, Cosmo Brown, and has one of the best numbers in the film, "Be a Clown." For those who enjoy cinema trivia, when Kathy is supposedly lip-sinking for Lina at the end of the film, it is actually Jean Hagen's voice we hear.

Tootsie (1982) stars Dustin Hoffman as Michael Dorsey, a struggling actor who cannot find work because of his difficult temperament. In order to help fund a play for his roommate Jeff (Bill Murray), Michael gets a job on a soap opera as a woman. There he falls for his co-star Julie (Jessica Lange, in an Oscar-winning performance), but is courted by her father (Charles Durning) in this wonderful classic comedy.

A fabulous family film is the delightful comedy-fantasy-adventure **The Princess Bride** (1987). When a grandfather (Peter Falk) reads a book to his sick grandson (Fred Savage), the characters come to life. The beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright) falls in love with a peasant boy Westley (Cary Elwes), who goes away to make his fortune. Several years later, when he is reported as dead, Buttercup agrees to marry the evil Prince Humperdinck (Chris Sarandon). The story features Christopher Guest as the evil Count Rugen; Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya, sworn to avenge his father's death; Andre the Giant as Fessik, Montoya's companion; Wallace Shawn as Vizzini, hired by Humperdinck to help start a war by kidnapping Princess Buttercup; and Billy Crystal and Carol Kane as the hilarious Miracle Max and his wife, who agree to help humiliate the prince. Perhaps the funniest scene in the movie is when Buttercup and Humperdinck are being married by the inimitable Peter Cook as the Impressive Clergyman. Some interesting trivia: Elwes and Patinkin studied fencing for three months in order to perform the entire swashbuckling swordplay scene themselves, using a stunt double only for acrobatics around the tree. During the scene when Westley returns and confronts Buttercup, Elwes did the entire scene with a broken toe. Fans of this film will really enjoy Elwes' recently published book about the making of this movie, "As You Wish." The audio version has Elwes himself reading it, with all key members of the cast adding their own memories from time to time.

A long-time favorite is **Crossing Delancey** (1988), a charming romantic comedy starring Amy Irving as Isabelle "Izzy" Grossman, who works in an Upper West Side bookstore. When her grandmother Bubbie (Reizel Bosyk) goes to a matchmaker (Sylvia Miles), Izzy is intro-

duced to Sam Posner (Peter Riegert), who sells pickles for a living. Izzy yearns for a romantic life with the pompous, narcissistic writer Anton Maes (Jeroen Krabbe), but somehow Sam gets under her skin.

Eddie Murphy stars in **Coming to America** (1988) as pampered African Prince Akeem who, rebelling against an arranged marriage by his father (James Earl Jones), heads to America to find a bride. With his best friend/personal aide Semmi (Arsenio Hall) at his side, the two pretend to be foreign students in order to avoid fortune hunters. Shari Headley is featured as Murphy's love interest. Murphy and Hall play multiple roles, and there are innumerable celebrity cameos peppered throughout the film.

Sister Act (1992) stars Whoopi Goldberg as Deloris Van Cartier, a Reno Lounge singer who witnesses a murder ordered by mob boss Vince LaRocca (Harvey Keitel). A police lieutenant (Bill Nunn) hides her in St. Catherine's convent while waiting to testify at the trial. There she meets her match in the formidable Mother Superior (Maggie Smith). Pretending to be a nun, Deloris is befriended by three Sisters, Mary Patrick (Kathy Najimy, a total scene-stealer), Mary Robert (Wendy Makkena) and Mary Lazarus (Mary Wickes). When Deloris takes over the choir, she helps transform the convent from a reclusive house of prayer to a modern order involved in the welfare of the community. The music is joyous, the script genuinely funny, and the acting really fine. This is a feel-good movie which easily can be seen more than once—so enjoy!

In **Sleepless in Seattle** (1993), Tom Hanks stars as the widowed father of Jonah (Ross Malinger), who move to Seattle to start a new life. When Jonah calls a radio talk show host and says "my father needs a new wife," the program is heard by Annie Reed (Meg Ryan), a reporter from Baltimore who becomes obsessed with Sam. A wonderful supporting cast includes Rosie O'Donnell as Annie's boss, Rob Reiner as Sam's friend, David Hyde Pierce as Annie's brother and Bill Pullman as Annie's fiancé. This film is an homage to the wonderful **An Affair to Remember** (from the 1950s).

Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) stars Robin Williams as Daniel Hillard, an eccentric actor who specializes in dubbing voices for cartoon characters. When Daniel's wife, Miranda (Sally Field), files for divorce, with help from his make-up artist brother Frank (Harvey Fierstein), Daniel is disguised as Mrs. Iphegenia Doubtfire, a stern but caring Scottish nanny so Miranda will hire him to take care of the children. Pierce Brosnan is on hand as Miranda's new boyfriend, Stu.

Director Woody Allen returns to slapstick comedy with a sophisticated flair in **Small Time Crooks** (2000). The film stars Woody as Ray, who is always scheming with get-rich-quick ideas. He is married to Frenchy (Tracey Ullman), who winds up making a fortune selling home-baked cookies. She hires David (Hugh Grant), an opportunistic art dealer, to tutor them in culture, language and art. Elaine May is hysterical as Frenchy's cousin May.

Saving Grace (2000) is a hilarious British comedy in which Brenda Blethyn also appears as Grace Trevelyan, a cheerful upper-class housewife and gardening enthusiast whose philandering husband leaves her destitute. Out of desperation, with the help of her oddball Scottish gardener Matthew (Craig Ferguson), Grace puts her green thumb to work and converts her greenhouse into the biggest marijuana farm in Cornwall. In order to actually sell her product, she unexpectedly finds help from her late husband's mistress, Honey (Diana Quick). Unfortunately, their scheme is threatened by a French drug lord (Tcheky Karyo).

Legally Blonde (2001), stars Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, a sorority queen who decides to follow her boyfriend Warner (Matthew Davis) to Harvard Law School after he breaks up with her. Elle

becomes a legal intern to Professor Callahan (Victor Garber) and is assigned to the case of a weight-loss consultant (Ali Carter) who is accused of murder. How Elle uses her brains and encyclopedic knowledge of fashion is rather witty and leaves the viewer smiling.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002) was written by and stars Nia Vardalos as Toula, a frumpy unattractive 30-year-old woman who works in the family restaurant. Wanting to better herself, she fixes her hair, puts on make-up, buys nicer clothes and takes computer classes. Eventually Toula goes to work at the family travel agency, where she meets non-Greek vegetarian Ian Miller (John Corbett) and falls head over heels in love, much to the consternation of her parents (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan). Andrea Martin is absolutely hilarious as Toula's Aunt Voula, and Louis Mandylor is wonderfully appealing as Toula's brother Nick.

An all-time favorite, the ensemble film **Love Actually** (2003), has a stellar cast that includes Hugh Grant as the British Prime Minister in love with his secretary (Martine McCutcheon) and at odds with the President of the United States (Billy Bob Thornton). Emma Thompson is Karen, the Prime Minister's sister who is married to Harry (Alan Rickman), a man contemplating an affair with his secretary. Emma's best friend is recently widowed Daniel (Liam Neeson), whose grade-school stepson Sam (Thomas Sangster) is suffering the pangs of first love. Colin Firth is Jamie, a cuckolded writer who falls for his Portuguese housekeeper, Aurelia (Lucia Moniz). Newlywed Keira Knightly is idolized by Mark (Andrew Lincoln), the best friend of her husband Peter (Chiwetel Ejiofor). Martin Freeman and Joanna Page are adorable as John and Just Judy, innocent stand-ins in a porn film. Kris Marshall is hysterical as Colin, a British nerd determined to find love in Wisconsin, and Bill Nighy steals every scene as a Billy Mack, a vulgar has-been rock star trying to make a comeback at Christmas.

Hitch (2005) stars Will Smith in the title role as Alex Hitchens, a "Date Doctor" who helps lonely guys get the girl of their dreams. Though sincere, Hitch is thought to be disingenuous by newspaper gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes). Kevin James is delightful as Albert Brennaman, Hitch's rotund client, who is in love with the beautiful heiress Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

The Devil Wears Prada (2006) is the story of Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway) a

would-be journalist who "settles" for a job for which scores of young women would sell their souls—that of assistant to the managing editor of Vogue Magazine, Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep). The supporting cast includes Stanley Tucci as designer Nigel, Emily Blunt as Miranda's primary assistant, Adrian Grenier as Andy's boyfriend Nate, and Simon Baker as Christian Thompson, a disingenuous writer who tries to capture Andy's heart. The entire cast is excellent, with the scene stealers of course being the clothes.

In **Spy** (2015) Melissa McCarthy plays Susan Cooper who, despite having solid field training, has spent her entire career chained to a desk as a CIA analyst. Using high-tech equipment and a hidden earpiece, Susan assures the safety of her partner, suave field agent Bradley Fine (Jude Law). However, when he falls off the grid and other top agents Rick Ford (Jason Statham) and Karen Walker (Morena Baccarin) are compromised, she begs her boss, Elaine Crocker (Allison Janney), to let her go into the field undercover to prevent a global disaster. Her assignment is to penetrate the world of treacherous arms dealers, including Rayna Boyanov (Rose Byrne), middleman Sergio De Luca (Bobby Cannavale) and terrorist Solsa Dudaev (Richard Brake). With her best friend, Nancy (Miranda Hart), providing remote intelligence through an earpiece, Susan sets out to save the world. This is a laugh-out-loud film, with hilarious end credits featuring different aliases Susan will eventually assume. There is also a scene after the end credits are finished that is definitely worth the wait.

The comedy **Crazy Rich Asians** (2018) is a sometimes surprising depiction of a culture with which many Americans are totally unfamiliar. When Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), an American-born Chinese economics professor, accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick (Henry Golding), to his best friend's wedding in Singapore, she is stunned to learn that Nick's family is extremely wealthy and that he is considered one of the most eligible bachelors in Asia. Thrust into the spotlight, Rachel must now contend with jealous socialites, quirky relatives and something far, far worse—Nick's disapproving mother, Eleanor (Michelle Yeoh). The supporting cast includes Awkwafina as Rachel's good friend Peik Lin Goh, and Lisa Lu as Nick's grandmother Ah Ma, whose approval means everything.

Stay safe and healthy, and until next time, happy viewing...

Cory Fontana

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JACK FLYNN: Islander Who Survived the “Death March” in 1945

By RICHARD FROHM

I recently completed two years of research in the wartime experiences of my father-in-law, Jack Flynn, who was born and raised on City Island, and served with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. Because 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of that war, I felt that it was important to tell his story now. Each day we lose men like him from the “Greatest Generation,” and sadly, their stories are dying with them. The younger generations, not only in America but all around the world, need to be reminded that their freedom is the result of the sacrifices made by men like him and his colleagues.

Jack Flynn’s wartime story started like any other Sunday for a 17-year-old in December of 1941. However, this particular Sunday was Dec. 7. Jack and a group of his buddies were playing basketball at St. Mary, Star of the Sea school gym, but their basketball game stopped when a friend rushed into the gym and told them that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The boys all went back to their homes to be with their families. Their world changed forever that afternoon. War with Japan was declared the following day, and three days later Germany declared war on the United States. Jack, like so many young men, would soon be fighting in the Pacific or in Europe.

Jack graduated in June 1942 from Cardinal Hayes High School and then went to work for his father, who owned and operated a supply boat that provided fuel for the many luxury yachts that moored off City Island. It was during that summer that Jack would meet Dolores McGrail at a local dance. As Jack talked with a group of his friends, he noticed a group of girls standing across the room, and one girl in particular caught his attention. He couldn’t take his eyes off her, and she couldn’t help but notice him. With a little encouragement from his buddies, Jack walked over to Dolores, introduced himself and asked if she would like to dance. Dolores said, “Yes,” and that night began a love story that would last a lifetime.

When Jack turned 18, he knew that he wanted to join the Army Air Force, and on Nov. 25, the following year on the day before Thanksgiving, he and a friend went to the Air Force recruitment office in the Bronx and enlisted. Jack explained to his family that if he were drafted, he couldn’t choose the branch of service, and he was determined to be in the Air Force. Jack’s father, Eugene, took the news the hardest because of the horrors he had seen in World War I. He was a volunteer with the American Field Service, which provided medical care for the French Army, and he was injured in a German gas attack. For his heroism under fire, the French awarded Eugene the Croix de Guerre and a silver star.

Jack entered the Army Air Force that December and over the next nine months, he received extensive and specialized training in the operation of a B-17 bomber. He was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and selected to be a Flight Engineer / Top Turret Gunner on a B-17. It was during this time that Jack proposed to Dolores, and the two agreed to marry after his return from duty. Like all brides, Dolores wanted a silk wedding gown, but due to wartime rationing, it was not possible. Dolores was never far from his mind. One afternoon after completing a training exercise, he spotted a parachute someone had not turned in lying on the ground next to a building. Although he risked being court-martialed and sent to federal prison, he knew how much he wanted Dolores to have a silk wedding gown, so with the help of two crewmates, he opened the bag, cut the lines and took the silk chute. Dolores would have her silk wedding gown, which is still treasured by the family.

On Oct. 17, 1944, after training was completed, the 10-man crew led by pilot

Lt. Raymond Buthe and co-piloted by Lt. Charles Norris, left Hunter Army Airfield near Savannah, GA, ferrying a new B-17 loaded with spare parts. Their flight route to England took them near New York City, and the pilot said to the crew, “Let’s go take a look at the Statue of Liberty,” so they circled it and to Jack’s delight flew over his home on City Island. Jack said jokingly to Lt. Buthe: “Oh boy, can I jump out?” We can only guess at the pilot’s response! On Oct. 24 they reported to Rattlesden Army Air Force Base in Suffolk, England, where they would join the Eighth Air Forces 708th Bomber Squadron.

On Nov. 21, 1944, at 3 a.m. the crew learned they were going on their first combat bombing mission. Their training was over; this time in the air, they would be together as a crew, not only depending on each other, but realizing that everyone else in their bomber formation would be depending on them. Their target that day was the oil refinery and marshaling yard in the German city of Koblenz, about 200 miles from the Belgian border. The young crew managed to get through both the German fighters and heavy flak to drop their bombs on the target and make it back safely to England.

Their next mission was on Nov. 26, and the target was the railroad marshaling yards in Hamm, Germany, northeast of Cologne. The crew made it back to their base at Rattlesden, although this time they were a lot more aware of the dangers involved. One of the bombardiers reported that the squadron had been shot up considerably, but that he and the crew returned home safely. Their last bombing mission was Nov. 30, which began at 3 a.m. with breakfast in the mess hall, a prayer in church, followed by a briefing, take-off and formation. Their target that day was the Lutzendorf Oil Refinery near Merseburg, Germany. They were one crewman short that morning, since their waist gunner, Sgt. Douglas Aldrich, flew with another crew. That turned out to be a blessing for Sgt. Aldrich, who would go onto finish the war and return home.

Over the target at 27,800 feet, their bomber was hit by German fire just moments before the bombs were released when the bomb bay doors were open. From his top turret position, Jack saw the tail section explode, and he believed that the tail section had been completely blown off, killing Sgt. Ralph Corning the tail gunner, as well as Sgt. Anthony Demarco, the radio operator who at the time was acting as a waist gunner, and the ball turret gunner, Sgt. Charles Agantovich, both of whom died at the same time. When the tail section was struck, the force knocked Jack out of the top turret, and he landed behind the pilot and copilot.

Since the top turret was too small for one to wear a parachute, Jack did not have his on, but miraculously he landed on top of his chest parachute and was able to hook one strap. The plane then started to turn almost entirely upside down into a downward spiral. Jack looked up and saw the pilot and copilot struggling frantically to get out of their seats, but because the plane was in a downward spin, centrifugal force held them in their places, so they couldn’t free themselves. Suddenly the plane was ripped by another explosion, which blew Jack through the opening that led into the bomb bay and out through the open bomb bay doors. The bombs were still in place, which left only a small opening for him to fit through, making his escape even more miraculous. Jack would later write, “Don’t tell me there is no God.”

As he headed downward, Jack was able to pull the ripcord on his parachute, but to his horror, the chute did not fully deploy. With only the one strap hooked on, he was spinning and when he looked up, he could see falling pieces of debris. Was he the only one to escape? He saw two



Photos courtesy of RICHARD FROHM

Clam digger Jack Flynn served with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He is shown above and with his crew after they completed training in Tampa, FL, before heading to Europe (top photo, standing l. to r.): Staff Sgt. Jack Flynn, Sgt. Doug Aldrich (Waist Gunner), Sgt. Charles Agantovich (Ball Turret), Sgt. Anthony, DeMarco (Radio Operator), Sgt. John Lafferty Jr. (Waist Gunner), and Sgt. Ralph Corning (Tail Gunner). Kneeling: Lt. Charles Norris (Co-Pilot), Lt. Raymond Buthe (Pilot), Lt. Curtis Chapman (Bombardier), and Lt. Marvin Brawer (Navigator). Sgt. Flynn (bottom photo, right) took some time off with Sgts. Agantovich and Corning before the completion of their training.



parachutes and knew at least two others had made it out.

Because his chute did not fully open, Jack’s descent was fast and his landing hard. He was knocked unconscious for a short time, and when he came to, he began to hide his parachute when a shot rang out over his head. Jack saw a group of German soldiers with their rifles out running toward him and knew that his only option was to surrender. The soldiers grabbed him and took him to a vehicle, where they kept him under guard. As he stood next to the truck, he noticed other German soldiers heading toward him with two American fliers, Sgt. Lafferty and Lt. Chapman. Lt. Chapman told Jack that he had been in the nose preparing to drop the bombs when there was an explosion, which killed Lt. Marvin Brawer, the navigator. Lt. Chapman was knocked unconscious but when he came to, he found himself in a free fall from the plane with just enough time to pull the ripcord of his parachute. Like Jack and Sgt. Lafferty, he was caught by German soldiers as he was attempting to bury his parachute. The Germans put the three in the back of one of their vehicles and drove through the German town of Zeitz, which was still on fire from the bombing. One of the German soldiers sitting in front of the vehicle turned around and spat on the three Americans.

The three were transported to Frankfurt, where they arrived the next morning about 8 a.m. They were then taken by train to Oberursel and held at a transit camp for captured members of the Army Air Force, where newly captured aircrews were interrogated before being transferred in groups to permanent prisoner-of-war (POW) camps. The three were separated after they arrived. After being photographed and fingerprinted, Jack was taken and put into a windowless cell, where he would spend the next 10 days in solitary confinement.

Jack described those 10 days as horrendous. The Germans would come in

at midnight, turn on the cell lights, and make him stand up. He said that this was to exhaust him in order to make any interrogation go easier for them. The Germans would not take him to the bathroom, so he had to use a bottle in his cell. They gave him very little water, and when his thirst became unbearable, he had to drink his own urine to survive. The only food he received during those 10 days was bread. After day 10, he was taken, along with a small group of other Americans, to the Dulag Luft near Westlar, a transit camp for captured American airmen, where he found Lt. Chapman and Sgt. Lafferty. They were soon transported to three different POW camps, however, so this would be the last time the three sole survivors would ever see each other. Lt. Chapman went to Stalag Luft I, Sgt. Lafferty to Stalag Luft III, and Jack was transported by train to Stalag Luft IV in eastern Germany, in what today is Poland. This camp held almost 8,000 American airmen, along with several hundred prisoners from other countries. Although Jack rarely spoke of his time in Stalag Luft IV, we know that it was overcrowded, that the barracks were in poor condition and there was little if any heat, inadequate food, clothing and medical supplies. An International Red Cross report from October 1944 described the camp conditions as generally bad. Jack arrived at the camp in mid-December to spend his first Christmas away from his family. His future was uncertain: Would he live to see the end of the war? Would he come home to marry Dolores? Jack attributed his survival to his faith in God and his desire to get back to Dolores and his family.

The Russians were advancing from the east and by early February 1945 were only 40 miles away from the camp, so the Germans decided to abandon Stalag Luft IV. The sick, injured and disabled prisoners were transported by train to prison camps in western Germany. Prisoners like Jack

Continued on page 19

WHAT'S MISSING THIS SUMMER?



Photos by RICK DeWITT, KAREN NANI and MATT PANZA

Because of the coronavirus crisis, longtime summer events are not taking place this year, including (from top to bottom) the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce; City Island Little League games and ceremonies; the Blessing of the Fleet led by the City Island Power Squadron, Island clergy and the American Legion color guard; and the annual Bronx Salutes America fireworks off Orchard Beach. Islanders will appreciate these traditions even more next year when they (hopefully) return.

LOCAL VIEWS By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

How did you survive the last 100 days during the Covid shelter in place?



Alaura Stivala

Adjusting to this new way of life as a new mother, as a kindergarten teacher working from home and as the wife of an NYFD firefighter has been a challenge, to say the least. The silver lining of the last 100 days was being able to spend more time with my baby boy, Theo. The unknown is a very hard thing to overcome as a mother at any time, especially in the midst of a global pandemic. I believe the love and support from my family, patience and flexibility (the teacher in me) along with having faith that "this too shall pass" is what got me through. Thank you to our first responders, and a big shout out to teachers and students everywhere!

Ken Farnum



Most of my last 100 days were spent making virtual choir videos for my choirs at Fordham University, Fordham Prep and St. Catharine Academy. Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Virtual faculty meetings, arranging Zoom meetings with musician friends whom we seem to never have time to talk to in "normal" times kept us busy. I hope to use video-conferencing to stay in better touch with everyone I will love when life returns to normal.



Rose Appese

I searched Youtube videos and turned my non-existent gardening skills into a DIY daily garden beautification lesson. I learned that there are therapeutic ingredients occurring naturally in soil. I kept my hands busy in the dirt, and I called family and friends while keeping calm and staying mostly at home.

Violet Smith

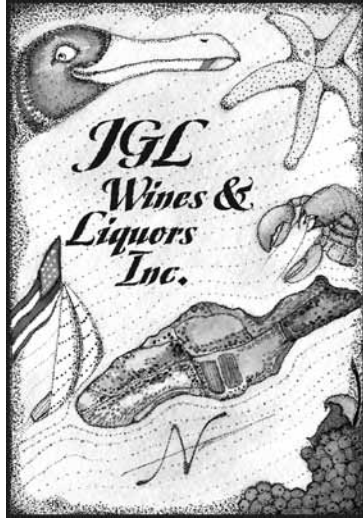


During this time, I find myself praying more often—for protection for me and my family, and for my community and our world. I never feel isolated because I have seven other family members from 6 to 60 living with me, so I have lots of company. The other thing is that this community is so wonderful. I've been to half a dozen music gatherings at different locations.



Mike Carmody

We have survived the last 100 days by staying close to our loved ones. We stay close to each other with walks and talks and crossword puzzle races. Our son and daughter-in-law live near Chicago, and we have a daughter in New Rochelle. We have regular Zooms with all of them on Friday evenings and our daughter and future son-in-law often come over for socially distant Sunday dinners. We have a regular Sunday afternoon Zoom with my siblings—all eight of them! Every couple of days, my wife, Jane, calls her dad, who is 88 years old, and we Zoom with her siblings often. We have enjoyed many sunsets with dear friends who stop over for a socially distant glass of wine at the water's edge.



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

JULY 2020										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET		
01	Wed	0321	-0.12	0909	7.07	1527	0.27	2128	8.19	Wed 01
02	Thu	0420	-0.46	1010	7.19	1626	0.14	2226	8.35	Thu 02
03	Fri	0515	-0.70	1106	7.32	1720	0.05	2319	8.43	Fri 03
04	Sat	0606	-0.80	1157	7.42	1811	0.04			Sat 04
05	Sun	0009	8.42	0655	-0.75	1246	7.48	1900	0.12	Sun 05
06	Mon	0056	8.30	0742	-0.56	1333	7.48	1946	0.28	Mon 06
07	Tue	0142	8.10	0826	-0.26	1419	7.44	2030	0.51	Tue 07
08	Wed	0227	7.83	0908	0.11	1503	7.36	2113	0.77	Wed 08
09	Thu	0311	7.52	0948	0.50	1548	7.25	2155	1.04	Thu 09
10	Fri	0355	7.20	1023	0.86	1633	7.14	2237	1.28	Fri 10
11	Sat	0443	6.90	1049	1.15	1721	7.05	2324	1.46	Sat 11
12	Sun	0538	6.64	1116	1.37	1812	6.98			Sun 12
13	Mon	0023	1.56	0639	6.46	1157	1.51	1904	6.98	Mon 13
14	Tue	0127	1.54	0739	6.38	1247	1.59	1954	7.03	Tue 14
15	Wed	0226	1.42	0835	6.39	1341	1.59	2039	7.16	Wed 15
16	Thu	0319	1.19	0925	6.49	1436	1.49	2115	7.34	Thu 16
17	Fri	0406	0.91	1009	6.65	1529	1.32	2148	7.58	Fri 17
18	Sat	0449	0.60	1045	6.85	1619	1.08	2225	7.86	Sat 18
19	Sun	0529	0.30	1117	7.11	1706	0.82	2306	8.13	Sun 19
20	Mon	0606	0.02	1150	7.39	1752	0.55	2348	8.36	Mon 20
21	Tue	0644	-0.21	1229	7.67	1839	0.31			Tue 21
22	Wed	0034	8.49	0724	-0.36	1311	7.91	1928	0.14	Wed 22
23	Thu	0121	8.49	0806	-0.41	1357	8.07	2019	0.06	Thu 23
24	Fri	0211	8.35	0851	-0.35	1445	8.12	2113	0.08	Fri 24
25	Sat	0304	8.06	0940	-0.18	1538	8.08	2214	0.19	Sat 25
26	Sun	0401	7.67	1034	0.07	1636	7.97	2328	0.31	Sun 26
27	Mon	0507	7.25	1138	0.36	1743	7.84			Mon 27
28	Tue	0051	0.34	0629	6.94	1256	0.57	1903	7.78	Tue 28
29	Wed	0204	0.22	0755	6.85	1413	0.63	2020	7.86	Wed 29
30	Thu	0309	0.01	0904	6.94	1519	0.56	2125	8.02	Thu 30
31	Fri	0408	-0.22	1003	7.13	1618	0.42	2222	8.18	Fri 31
AUGUST 2020										
01	Sat	0502	-0.39	1056	7.33	1712	0.29	2314	8.28	Sat 01
02	Sun	0552	-0.46	1146	7.51	1801	0.21			Sun 02
03	Mon	0002	8.30	0638	-0.40	1231	7.62	1847	0.22	Mon 03
04	Tue	0047	8.22	0721	-0.23	1314	7.66	1929	0.31	Tue 04
05	Wed	0128	8.05	0800	0.03	1353	7.63	2007	0.48	Wed 05
06	Thu	0205	7.81	0834	0.34	1428	7.54	2039	0.69	Thu 06
07	Fri	0236	7.53	0857	0.65	1457	7.42	2101	0.90	Fri 07
08	Sat	0303	7.25	0907	0.88	1522	7.31	2125	1.08	Sat 08
09	Sun	0333	6.99	0934	1.06	1552	7.21	2203	1.25	Sun 09
10	Mon	0412	6.74	1012	1.24	1631	7.12	2248	1.42	Mon 10
11	Tue	0458	6.52	1057	1.43	1716	7.06	2341	1.54	Tue 11
12	Wed	0551	6.36	1148	1.59	1807	7.05			Wed 12
13	Thu	0043	1.58	0654	6.31	1243	1.68	1904	7.13	Thu 13
14	Fri	0204	1.46	0809	6.42	1344	1.63	2004	7.33	Fri 14
15	Sat	0318	1.16	0914	6.69	1449	1.42	2102	7.62	Sat 15
16	Sun	0412	0.76	1002	7.05	1552	1.07	2156	7.97	Sun 16
17	Mon	0458	0.33	1044	7.46	1649	0.64	2245	8.30	Mon 17
18	Tue	0541	-0.07	1125	7.86	1741	0.20	2333	8.56	Tue 18
19	Wed	0622	-0.39	1207	8.22	1830	-0.16			Wed 19
20	Thu	0020	8.69	0704	-0.60	1251	8.48	1919	-0.41	Thu 20
21	Fri	0109	8.66	0747	-0.65	1337	8.61	2011	-0.49	Fri 21
22	Sat	0159	8.46	0832	-0.53	1426	8.58	2105	-0.39	Sat 22
23	Sun	0251	8.09	0921	-0.26	1518	8.40	2208	-0.16	Sun 23
24	Mon	0350	7.63	1016	0.12	1616	8.12	2322	0.12	Mon 24
25	Tue	0501	7.17	1126	0.54	1729	7.83			Tue 25
26	Wed	0040	0.30	0631	6.88	1250	0.83	1859	7.68	Wed 26
27	Thu	0150	0.32	0748	6.87	1405	0.90	2014	7.74	Thu 27
28	Fri	0255	0.21	0853	7.04	1510	0.79	2117	7.91	Fri 28
29	Sat	0353	0.06	0950	7.31	1607	0.59	2213	8.10	Sat 29
30	Sun	0445	-0.07	1042	7.57	1659	0.38	2303	8.22	Sun 30
31	Mon	0532	-0.12	1128	7.78	1746	0.25	2348	8.25	Mon 31
SEPTEMBER 2020										
01	Tue	0616	-0.07	1211	7.89	1829	0.20			Tue 01
02	Wed	0030	8.17	0655	0.08	1250	7.91	1908	0.26	Wed 02



**HART ISLAND:
THE FINAL ANSWER ON THE
ORIGIN OF ITS NAME?**

Whenever we want answers about place names for City Island and its environs, we don't waste time on the internet (not too much, anyway). We go straight to the bible on the subject: John McNamara's book "History in Asphalt." Take Hart Island, for instance. Some have tried to link the Hart Island name to the Hart family, who were 17th-century Dutch landowners in Rye, but that link is tenuous at best. Others have cited a map drawn in 1775 under the auspices of the British navy. That map labeled the island as Heart Island, and the speculation is that it may have had something to do with the land's shape. Mr. McNamara makes note of this, but then turns to what we are convinced is the real reason for the island's name: deer!

There are at least two other, well-documented former names for Hart Island. One is Little Minneford, which was an appellation given to distinguish it from its nearby neighbor, Great Minneford (our own City Island). The other name was given by Oliver DeLancey, a former owner of the island. DeLancey called the island Spectacle Island, which is another name thought to be linked to the land's shape. Hart Island it is, though, and what has convinced us of the deer connection is yet another experience on the beach at Fordham Street.

We have written here before about the

Dutch word for deer, hert, as well as the old English hart. We have also written before about the deer swimming to City Island shores from Rodman's Neck. The latest incident took place in early June: a deer, probably a male, emerged from the water at the end of Fordham Street, crossed into the beach club, and hopped the jetty onto the beaches at the end of Bay Street. The last we saw of him he was in the water again, swimming around the big Bay Street pier. Since we did not hear anything more, we assumed that he had had enough already and was heading back to Rodman's Neck.

Although it is not a regular occurrence, these visits from the local herd have happened often enough over a relatively short period of time to give additional credence to the origin theory recounted by McNamara. It is not difficult at all to imagine that when the herds were larger and less restricted, as they most certainly were in the 17th and 18th centuries, even more accounts of deer taking to the water were a distinct possibility. Especially for the young males, to which the hert/hart word refers particularly. These frustrated young bucks are the ones most likely to seek new opportunities for breeding, even if it means swimming for it.

Wikipedia suggests that deer crossed to Hart Island when the bay/sound was frozen over, and this may well be. But the evidence of our own experience suggests that deer crossing to Hart Island was probably happening with or without the weather.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Thanks to donations from members of the City Island Masonic Temple, and support from Dominick's Market, 10 boxes of food staples were delivered to eight Island families on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, by (l. to r. standing): David Diaz, Jay Medina and Harold Lopez, under the direction of Louis Juers, lodge leader (seated). Lodge members also collected \$1,200 in donations that will be used to purchase school supplies for P.S. 175.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photos by MARY COLBY

Ox-eye daisies (photo, left) are cut back after blooming to make way for the Annabelle hydrangeas (photo, right).

The Art and Craft of Succession Planting

How does one enjoy and plant a four-season garden? With succession planting. I will try to encapsulate the gist of this very important garden craft.

There is no reason for a garden not to be awash in bloom from April to October. No group of plants blooms for more than a month or so, and that is why the mixed border was conceived by the grand dame of gardening, Gertrude Jekyll. A mixed border can have it all, from small trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs, the veritable kitchen sink. Three seasons can be achieved in this way, and if space is not limited, a winter garden can be threaded through the whole. Evergreens, witch-hazel, snowdrops and hellebores will keep you interested from January through March.

Spring arrives and how delightful it is if your site has some shade. Here can dwell anemone nemerosa, wood poppy, and bear's foot hellebore, followed by ferns, followed by hosta. September could see the return of wood asters among variegated Ivy. This is succession planting. If backed by box or yew, a green foil for your treasures, you would have four seasons.

There are countless combinations. A planting scheme for full sun could begin with primrose and pulmonaria for April, and between them, tulips and daffodils interplanted with dill or forget-me-nots. There are early and late varieties of daffodils and tulips, so choose both and extend your bloom time. Of course, you will scrap the tulips and the dill and replant them the following year. If you choose to keep the tulip bulbs, dig them up and place in a trench or hole to be replanted in the autumn. The

month of May could see euphorbias, daisies, poppies, alliums and iris. This is May in all its floral abundance, and these plants look absolutely beautiful together.

Now you have some work ahead of you. I call it the "big reveal." You must chop down the daisies and the euphorbias, leaving them to regrow into nice cushions. The perennial oriental poppies will disappear, but mark them so that you won't dig them up while adding annuals later. Now the plants that have been intermingling between them are revealed. Everything looks fresh and ready for another go. You could use salvia and yarrow and then goldenrod and aster as your next waves.

June, ah June, one of the loveliest of months with roses climbing up walls, intertwined with clematis, accompanied by Queen Anne's lace, foxglove, carnations, verbascums and annual poppies. Catmint, salvia and perennial geraniums are good blues. It is the drowning season, with so much coming on so quickly. Again, you must cut and prune all these things after flowering.

July and August could highlight the tall garden phlox, rudbeckia, grasses, cannas, zinnias, sunflowers and self-sowers like verbena bonariensis. August is a lonely

month for flowering trees, but crape myrtle will light up the garden in those dog days. On and on to autumn when the blue asters take center stage with tall white anemone honorine Jobert, smooth-leaved goldenrod and grasses that hold their bleached tawny inflorescence into winter. The late autumnal garden should be spectacular blazing into its final rest.

But if this is all too much, and it is, you could choose to plant box, holly and yew; add some grasses, a nice dogwood tree or sargent crabapple; and then bed out annuals. You can scatter seeds of self-sowers in early spring or October, such as ox-eye daisy, poppies (*Papaver atlanticum*, *rheas* or *somniferum*), and verbena bonariensis, but sow them thinly and thin out to four inches apart. More work indeed, but easy.

You have to know how much work you are able to accomplish. Youth and devotion would choose the mixed border and succession planting. If so, read Christopher Lloyd's book of the same title. It is definitive.

So there you have it.

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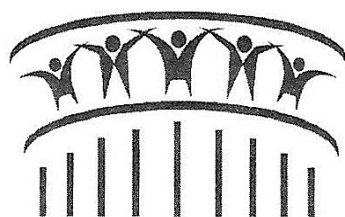
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Photo courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

With the closure of schools due to Covid-19, graduations in 2020 could not be enjoyed in person at the City Island school compared to the P.S. 17 class of 1961 shown above.



From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Loan Forgiveness Under the Paycheck Protection Plan

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law March 27, 2020, many small business owners were able to apply for and receive a loan of up to \$10 million

under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Businesses, including nonprofits, veterans' organizations, tribal entities, self-employed individuals, sole proprietorships and independent contractors that were in operation on Feb. 15 and that have 500 or fewer employees are eligible for the PPP loans. The deadline for applying for a PPP loan was June 30, 2020. This date may be extended. If the loan proceeds are used as specified, business owners may apply to have the loan forgiven.

Here is what you need to know about loan forgiveness under the PPP:

Covered Period

The loan covers eight weeks (56 days) of payroll, rent, mortgage interest and utility expenses; however, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 (PPPPFA) allows PPP loan borrowers that received loans before June 5 the option to extend the covered period to 24 weeks. The original June 30 deadline for rehiring workers and spending the PPP funds has been extended to Dec. 31 to allow for the 24-week period.

Generally, the first day of the covered period is the same day as the loan disbursement. For example, if the loan proceeds were received on Wednesday, April 22, that is the first day of the covered

period. The last day of the covered eight-week period, for example, would then be Tuesday, June 16.

Alternative Payroll Covered Period.

If you pay your employees weekly or bi-weekly, you may elect to have the eight-week (56-day) period—or 24-week period—begin on the first day of the first pay period following the PPP loan disbursement date. In the case of an eight-week period, if the loan proceeds were received on Wednesday, April 22, and the first day of the first pay period following the loan disbursement is Monday, April 27, the first day of the Alternative Payroll Covered Period is April 27 and the last day of the Alternative Payroll Covered Period is Sunday, June 21.

Eligible Expenses

PPP loans cover both payroll costs and nonpayroll costs; however, to be eligible for loan forgiveness, 60 percent of the PPP loan proceeds must go toward payroll costs (previously 75 percent), with the remaining 40 percent to be used toward nonpayroll costs.

If your business does not meet the 60 percent requirement, there will be a proportionate reduction in loan forgiveness. It is not a complete loss.

Here is an example using the eight-week covered period: A business owner that received loan proceeds of \$250,000 must use \$150,000 of that amount on payroll costs to be eligible for loan forgiveness. The remaining \$100,000 can be used to pay nonpayroll costs as specified below.

Under the PPPFA, businesses that received PPP loan funds are now able to delay payment of their payroll taxes. This was previously prohibited under the CARES Act.

Eligible payroll costs. Payroll costs include costs for employee vacation, parental, family, medical and sick leave. The total amount of cash compensation—payroll costs paid, and payroll costs incurred—for each individual employee may not exceed \$15,385 for the covered period of eight weeks (56 days) based on an annualized salary of \$100,000. If the borrower chooses a covered period of 24 weeks, then each individual employee may not exceed \$46,154 for the covered period of 24 weeks based on an annualized salary of \$100,000. Bonuses can be included as long as this threshold amount is not exceeded.

Payroll expenses for independent contractors or sole proprietors only include wages, commissions, income or net earnings from self-employment, or similar compensation. PPP loan funds can be used to cover the owner compensation costs for eight weeks (8/52) of 2019 profit only, up to a maximum of \$15,385. However, if the 24-week covered period is chosen, it is limited to 2.5 months (2.5/12) of 2019 net profit from Form 1040 Schedule C up to a maximum of \$20,833.

To count toward eligible payroll expenses, employer contributions for retirement plans as well as health insurance must be paid during the covered period.

Loan forgiveness is based on full-time equivalent (FTE) workers and a standard 40-hour work week. A simplified method allows 1.0 FTE for 40-hour work weeks and 0.5 FTE for less than 40-hour work

weeks. Calculations can be done using either method to determine which one is most advantageous to the employer. Special rules apply for workers whose salary has been reduced by 25 percent or more. Please call if you have any questions about this.

Businesses that received PPP loans can exclude laid-off employees from loan forgiveness reduction calculations if the employees turn down a written offer to be rehired.

Eligible nonpayroll costs. Specific nonpayroll costs are also eligible for forgiveness; however, they cannot exceed 40 percent of the total forgiveness amount. They must be paid or incurred during the covered period and paid on or before the next regular billing date, even if the billing date is after the covered period and can include costs that were paid and incurred one time.

- Payments of interest on any business mortgage obligation on real or personal property incurred before Feb. 15, 2020. These amounts do not include any prepayment or payment of principal.

- Business rent or lease payments (including leases for vehicles and office machinery) entered into force before Feb. 15, 2020; and

- Business utility payments for services begun before Feb. 15, 2020, such as electricity, gas, water, transportation, telephone, or internet access.

- Interest payments on debt obligations incurred before Feb. 15, 2020.

- Refinancing an SBA EIDL loan made between Jan. 31, 2020, and April 3, 2020.

Self-employed individuals can use PPP loan funds to cover interest, rent and utility payments are also eligible as long as these amounts are deductible on Form 1040 Schedule C.

Loan Amounts not Forgiven

Any amounts that are not forgiven must be repaid at an interest rate of 1 percent, which begins to accrue upon loan disbursement. Payments, however, are deferred for six months once the SBA determines forgiveness status. Under the PPPFA borrowers now have five years to repay new loans approved on or after June 5, 2020 (previously it was two years). Borrowers with loans disbursed prior to June 5, will still need to abide by the two-year loan period unless the lender agrees to extend it to five years.

Tracking Expenses

Business owners need to keep accurate records of how PPP loans are used. Failing to document or falsely claiming eligible expenses could lead to criminal penalties.

Do not delay. Start planning now to maximize PPP loan forgiveness today! Applications for forgiveness must be submitted within 10 months of the date of receiving the loan or it will not be forgiven.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Because of Covid-19, your 2019 business and personal Federal and New York State income tax returns, originally due on April 19, are due on or before July 15, 2020. Extensions to file are available through Sept. 15 for businesses, and Oct. 15 for individual taxpayers. 2019 tax balances due must be paid along with your extension request.

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Jack Flynn

Continued from page 13

who were considered fit to march left the prison camp on Feb. 6, on what would later be called the "Death March." The prisoners had the clothes on their backs and a Red Cross food box.

The German captors said that the walk would last only three days, but it eventually covered more than 600 miles and lasted 86 days, in some of the worst weather seen in years. Jack wrote: "If we were fortunate, we spent a night in a barn giving us shelter from the cold, snow or rain" but most nights they had no shelter at all and were forced to sleep on the ground. Jack contracted dysentery, diarrhea and trench foot, as did many of his comrades. Since no medication was available, they ate charcoal from the bonfires they had had the night before in order to battle dysentery and diarrhea.

Prisoners who were unable to walk or who were too ill to go for food were helped by the prisoners who were healthy enough to help care for them. Food was minimal, mostly potatoes or a vegetable, and malnutrition was the norm. Jack, who was thin to begin with, was very fortunate to survive. Exhaustion, exposure and other illnesses took their toll on the prisoners, and those who fell behind were left in the hands of their German guards.

At one point, the prisoners were put in boxcars, 90 men per car. All of them had to stand, except for the seriously ill. There was no water and only one small hole in the floor to use as a toilet. During the 30-mile journey, the train came under attack from allied fighter planes, and several boxcars were hit, killing an unknown number of prisoners. After the attack, the prisoners knew for certain that the Germans had set them up as targets.

For Jack and the surviving members of the Death March, the nightmare came to an end on May 2, 1945, near Lübeck, Germany. Their German captors had fled the day before, but the prisoners sat exhausted and ill, waiting, not knowing what was next for them. Off in the distance, the sounds of military vehicles could be heard, and to the joy of Jack and

the rest of the POWs, they carried British and Canadian soldiers. Jack was paper-thin, exhausted and ill, but the sight of the allies confirmed that his nightmare was over and that he would be going home. The liberated airmen were treated by British medical services, took showers, received clean British uniforms and finally slept on real beds. On May 8, Jack and a large group of former prisoners were transported to Brussels, and from there, they traveled by train to Camp Lucky Strike northeast of Le Havre, France, where they were processed and waited for a liberty ship to return to the states.

Jack returned home to his beloved City Island and married Dolores on Aug. 11, 1945, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Over the next 49 years, they would go onto raise four children and have nine grandchildren. Sadly, she succumbed to cancer in 1994, and he joined her and his crew on Feb. 9, 2009. Lt. Chapman returned home, married and raised a family; he passed away in July 1963 at the age of 43. Sgt. John W. Lafferty Jr. returned home as well, married and raised three children, passing away in 1995. The Germans recovered the remains of Lt. Buthe, Lt. Norris, Sgt. Corning and Sgt. DeMarco shortly after the crash and buried them in the Michaelis Cemetery in Zeitz on Dec. 2, 1944. They were later disinterred and reburied at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium. The bodies of Lt. Brawer and Sgt. Agantovich were recovered later and transported to the American Military Cemetery at Ardennes.

Like so many veterans, Jack came home from World War II and buried his memories of the horrors he had suffered and witnessed, of the friends he had lost, the pain he had endured. Like all of those returning veterans, he had a life to start living again. Over the years, bits and pieces of his story would slip out, but it was only late in his life that his children sat down and spoke with him about his wartime years. They learned about his miraculous story of survival. Even though five decades had passed since the end of the war, the three words he spoke during his interview with his children said it all: "You never forget."

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



Islander Meghan McConaghy graduated from St. Barnabas High School in June 2020.

Belated birthday wishes for a wonderful birthday go out to Minneford Avenue's Debra Erickson, who celebrated her special day on June 19. We love you so much! Mom, Elzie and Ken.

Happy second wedding anniversary on Aug. 11 to Mary (Dannegger) and Warren Sheinwald.

Happy first birthday as a "Dad" to Roger Nani on Aug. 9. He will travel from Madison, CT, to City Island with his wife, Leah, and son, Luke, to celebrate the big day with the rest of the Nani family. No doubt there will be champagne, so enjoy the day!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson, who will celebrate her big day on July 14. We love you so much! Deb, Elzie and Ken.

Anniversary greetings to Ginger and Hans Dannegger, who will celebrate 35 years on July 27.

Keep up the good work and best wishes



Earley Street's Matthew DeSantis will celebrate his 13th birthday on July 16.

for continued success to Meghan McConaghy who graduated from St. Barnabas H.S. Good luck at Dominican College! We are so proud of you!

Happy July 16 birthday to honorary Fordham Street resident Leslie Gallo. Your sister, brother-in-law, niece and nephew think you are THE BEST! We love you!

Best of luck to Jonna Gallo, who is going back to school after a 27-year hiatus! Jonna will be going for a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership at Lehman College.

WOW! Lots of celebrating at the Ulmer home: Congratulations to our granddaughter Gabrielle Nicole on her graduation up to Middle School. We are so proud of her! Birthday greetings to our grandson Dylan Thomas on Aug. 4, our son-in-law Ryan on Aug. 12, Gabrielle Nicole Alit on Aug. 23 and a very Sweet 16 to our granddaughter Allison Grace Kratzer. A very happy anniversary to our daughter Karen and her husband, Ryan, who will celebrate 28 years on Aug. 14; it seems like yesterday! A very special 55th happy anniversary to my husband, John! Where did the time go? Love you to the moon and back—Linda!

Happy seventh birthday on July 11 to Arlo Rota. Also celebrating birthdays in July: Mama Beth Rota and Aunt Susie Rauh. Finishing out the month, Beth and Matt Rota celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary.



Photos by KAREN NANI

Congrats to the graduates of the class of 2020 whose families honored their achievements with banners throughout City Island.

Wishing Earley Street's Matthew DeSantis a very happy 13th birthday on July 16. How did he get here so fast—you are officially a teenager dude. Now slow down! We love you so much; happy birthday with love—Mom, Dad, Karina and JoJo.

Congratulations to Lauren Nye for completing her Master of Public Administration at Baruch College. Lauren continues to use her smarts and ethics to support her community and her city. Way to go!

Happy July birthday wishes to my two beautiful granddaughters, who will be celebrating special birthdays this year. Kayla turns "Sweet 16" on July 4 and Alyssa becomes a teenager on July 23. Congratulations, girls! Love, Grandma Penny.

Birthday wishes being sent to Maria Christina Swieciki on Aug. 22 with lots of love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

The Rosendahl and Masella families would like to congratulate both Michael and Anthony on each of their academic accomplishments. We wish them much success in their future endeavors.

Additional birthday wishes to Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld (7/9), Jennifer Carman (7/21), Nolan Quinn (8/16) and Samantha Emerick (8/30).

Wishing our neighbors, friends and readers a very safe and enjoyable summer! See you in September!

Maria Swieciki

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