

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Out With the Old, In With the New? City Island Continues to Grow

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although City Island retains its character as a small town in a big city, changes are taking place here that even visitors are beginning to notice. A new bridge is gradually appearing and will eventually replace the temporary bridge that was opened in December 2015. Some old buildings are in bad shape, but new ones are on the drawing board. A few storefronts are empty, but some are showing signs of life. The pharmacy may be gone, but the ice cream parlors have opened up for the season.

Many Islanders breathed a sigh of relief to learn that Consolidated Yachts will continue to operate as a boat yard, in spite of the recent sale, but many are still concerned that a few eyesores continue to exist in spite of community protests.

The scaffolding on the old Systems 2000 building at the corner of City Island Avenue and Carroll Street (top photo, below) has bothered residents and visitors alike for years, although the owner, an Island resident, claims that refurbishing the building will soon begin. The old Vallentine Sails building at 135 City Island Avenue (bottom photo), on the corner of Reynolds Street, appears to be having some work done, but the Bank of New York Mellon has held a tax lien on the property for several years, as the owner, who bought it at auction, has failed to pay taxes. The building has displayed graffiti, broken windows, and other signs of vandalism for many years now, and though it has been advertised as being for sale, there have been no

takers.

Some empty buildings aren't exactly eyesores, but they do lend an air of abandonment to the Island. At least three of these sites were the property of the late Virginia Cury or her husband, Thomas, and they have been empty for many years. Tax lien certificates have been sold for all of these properties, which include 311 City Island Avenue (the boarded-up building at the northwest corner of Fordham Street), 414 City Island Avenue (a derelict storefront that once held a cell phone shop), and 167 Rochelle Street. Other properties for which tax liens have been sold include Johnny B's Marina (inside the parking lot at Don Coqui) and a few private houses on the Island.

Although Skip Giacco and the Chamber of Commerce, working with the City Island Civic Association, have been exploring the conversion of some empty storefronts into spaces where artists can live, work and sell or display their work, many storefront owners are unwilling to rent. Some take advantage of tax deductions they can claim on their properties; others simply don't want to rent and would rather let their shops sit empty behind ugly steel gates or use them for storage.

Drop Anchor Inn at 189 City Island Avenue has been closed for years, and it is unlikely ever to open as a bar again, since it is across the street from P.S. 175. Another empty bar, Man Overboard between Carroll and Schofield Streets, looks attractive after a good deal of renovation, but it has been un-



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Seafood City is building an additional restaurant facility south of the present restaurant. The drawing of the work in progress (above) indicates that the new building will be more industrial than nautical in character.

able to obtain a liquor license and may remain empty for some time.

On the positive side, two of the empty shops at the north end of the Island, next to Dunkin' Donuts, are being spruced up by a local business run by Teddy Montee, Danijel

Srdoc and Vladimir Srdoc. The shop at 634 City Island Avenue houses the office of Grindstone Equity Group, Grindstone Construction and Grindstone Property Care and will have a construction showroom behind

Continued on page 16

## Two Pieces of Good News for CI

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

### MTA Bus Extension

After several years of trying to persuade the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to expand its service to City Island, especially during the early morning hours, the authority finally agreed to adding one bus after 12:11 on weeknights and 1:11 on weekends. With the help of petitions signed by 700 residents of City Island and thanks to State Senator Jeff Klein, who supported the request, the MTA announced that the new run would begin in July.

Speaking for the Civic Association, corresponding secretary John Doyle, who had organized a meeting with the MTA in 2015, was pleased by the news, although the original request had been for hourly buses until 5 a.m. as well as better service for the existing runs, which are now shared with the Bay Plaza Shopping Center and rarely run on time.

The MTA may have been persuaded by the tragic death of cyclist Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos in September 2015 who was struck by a hit-and-run driver as she rode off the Island after leaving work at the Shrimp Box after midnight. Her death shed a light on the need for such a service extension to increase commuter safety to and from the City Island.

"This extra hour of service will enable a sound alternative mode of transportation for the late-night crowds of City Island, including workers, residents and tourists. I've written several letters to the MTA over the years requesting such a service extension to the Bx29 line, and I'm thrilled the agency ultimately heeded the concerns of myself and the community," said Senator Klein.

### Muffling Rodman's Neck

Councilman James Vacca reported on May 22 that in a hearing with the New York Police Department, he obtained assurances that funds from this year's capital budget will be used to test sound baffling at the firing range in order to test the effectiveness of soundproof fencing at the facility. Construction on this temporary baffling is expected to begin after the start of Fiscal Year 2018 in July and to be completed within a year. The range will continue to operate, with one range closed at a time, although the NYPD anticipates that they may have to close the entire outdoor range for a few months and move training to another location. However the project moves forward, there may be some relief from the noise of gunfire within the not-so-distant future.



Photos by MATT PANZA

The unsightly scaffolding on the building at the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue (above) has been in place for years, and the condition of the building at 135 City Island Avenue has also been an eyesore, as a result of vandalism and neglect.

# BRIEFLY...

**THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET**, with the cooperation of the City Island Sail & Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post, will take place on Sunday, June 25, at 1 p.m. at Fenton Marine Dock in City Island. Multi-denominational clergy will bless vessels from the dock. Participation is by water only! Boats should assemble in City Island Harbor by the ferry dock on Hart Island at 1230. Communications on VHF #71 will begin at 1230. Event Chairman Dennis Gormley may be contacted at 718-652-3056 or 646-258-4250.

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASSES**, sponsored by Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto are held on a monthly basis at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway, Bronx 10465. Call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235 for available dates and to reserve a seat. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. This six-hour course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips. Those who complete the course will receive a reduction of about 10 percent from the base rate of their automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years.

**"AWAKE, THE DREAM OF STANDING ROCK,"** an outstanding contemporary documentary film, will be shown at the Community Center on Sunday, June 25, starting at 5 p.m. The showing will be followed by a discussion of the film and the social, political, environmental and historical elements of the recent non-violent protest activities in North Dakota involving the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, several private oil energy companies and ultimately state and local authorities. The event is sponsored by City Island Indivisible. For more information, call Michael Morrison at 646-244-7214.

**CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM:** The Mark Whitcombe show will come down after Sunday, June 11, so be sure to visit before then to see these wonderful works of art. An exhibition of images of the old City Island Bridge will go up that week and open on Saturday, June 17. The museum has collected some wonderful pictures by Island artists, but there is room for one or two more if anyone has a picture (photograph or painting or print) they would be willing to lend for the summer months. Call 718-885-0507 for more information.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and May 2017. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - PETIT LARCENY
- 3 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - GRAFFITI
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from to April 13 to May 23, 2017.

4/13 - At 9:45 p.m., police investigated a report of reckless endangerment when an unknown operator of a tow truck was observed drag racing with another tow truck on City Island Avenue.

4/21 - Police from the 45th Precinct made two arrests for assault related to the same incident on City Island Avenue at 2:35 p.m. An off-Island male, 37, was arrested after assaulting an Island male, 35, by striking him with a fist and causing injury. An off-Island female, 45, was also later arrested on May 4 and charged with the assault of an Island female, 21.

4/22 - An Island male reported an incident of harassment by another Island male following a verbal dispute on Carroll Street

at 7:20 p.m. No arrest was made.

4/25 - On City Island Avenue at 5 a.m., a commercial establishment was vandalized with graffiti across the awning and inside the building.

4/28 - On Carroll Street at 11 a.m., an Island female reported that after returning to her parked vehicle, she found the windshield had been broken by an unknown person in an act of criminal mischief. No items were removed from the vehicle.

5/7 - An off-Island male reported an incident of petit larceny when his unattended cell phone was removed without his permission while he was at a restaurant on City Island Avenue at 10:30 p.m.

5/13 - On Bridge Street at 3:55 p.m., an off-Island female was driving her vehicle when it was struck by an unknown person in a yellow truck. The driver of the truck fled the scene of the accident.

5/17 - At 12:16 p.m., an Island male reportedly harassed a female neighbor following a verbal dispute on Reynolds Street.

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## CORRECTION

In the article about Don Coqui in the May issue of *The Current*, it was stated that "John Marano, then chair of the Community Board, wrote to the New York State Liquor Authority approving the renewal of Don Coqui's liquor license in May 2014 without conferring with the rest of the board or anyone on City Island." This is not accurate. The Community Board had voted in March 2014 to approve a new liquor license for Don Coqui (previously the Lighthouse), though no one on City Island had been consulted in advance on this issue; also, the letter from the Community Board chair, written in response to requests from Don Coqui, included approvals of the extension of hours and the use of a DJ, again without consultation from anyone on City Island. *The Current* apologizes to John Marano for this error.

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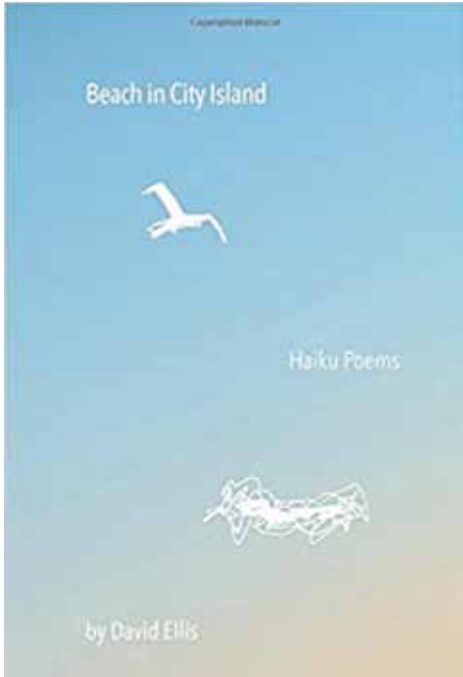
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# A Poet in Our Midst

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of DAVID ELLIS

At left is the cover of David Ellis's book of haiku poems inspired by City Island, and above is one of his driftwood haiku on the beach facing Rat Island.

Stepping out of the house in the summer with my son, Gabriel, barefoot and walking on the beach feels so free. I'm glad he is able to have this memory as a kid, running on the beach and just being a kid."

Mr. Ellis dedicated his book to Gabriel, who is now 6, writing: "May you always have a shell in your pocket and sand between your toes." Gabriel is now illustrating a new children's edition of "Beach in City Island," inspired by the images of nature that inspire his father: crabs, snails and waves. The original edition is currently out of print, but check with the Kaleidoscope Gallery, which will have copies for sale when it is reprinted. In the meantime, take a walk on the beach and find pieces of driftwood that Mr. Ellis has left for us.

"Haiku is a way of life," he says. "It's about staying in the moment."

Flock of birds fly high  
The sun begins to relent  
Ruby gold sunset

Sun shines moon is clear  
Our footprints still in sand  
Seagulls soar in air

The ocean has eyes  
As the waves come in slowly  
Watching us closely

Sun shines on water  
Waves come in steady and strong  
I'm still like the rocks

# A FOND FAREWELL

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

After 43 years on City Island, the Medical Missionaries of Mary are leaving. Pictured here are Sr. Ann Flynn (at left) and Sr. Catherine Cleary, two of the many sisters who made City Island their home over the years.

According to Sister Catherine Cleary, the Medical Missionaries of Mary moved to City Island 43 years ago this month and became part of the community, but they will be leaving for good later this year. As she told *The Current*, "Now, as with all missionaries, we are moving on, as our work is done."

The Medical Missionaries of Mary is an international congregation of Catholic women dedicated to providing health care to the underprivileged around the world. The sisters are trained as doctors, nurses, midwives and counselors, and they serve in 14 countries, most of them in Africa. Donations received during this year's annual Lenten Appeal at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church went directly to bringing vaccination programs, nursing care and health education to Honduras.

In 1974, the order bought a house on Minneford Avenue from Tommy and Mary Keegan, and they used it as their administration building for the Americas, including Honduras and Brazil. When the house is sold, the sisters living there will go to other convents that belong to their order.

Many devoted sisters have lived in the convent over the years. Sr. Catherine Cleary was a hospital administrator for 20 years in Nigeria and Tanzania, and on City Island, she was the business administrator for the Americas. "We will miss our neighbors, friends, St. Mary's and the Island community, and we are very grateful for the years here," she said. Sr. Catherine will be returning to her native Ireland.

Sr. Margaret Meyer, a medical doctor who worked in Africa for 35 years with leprosy and AIDs patients, has recently left for Somerville, MA. Sr. Ann Flynn, a nurse

and midwife in Tanzania for 17 years, will be joining Sr. Margaret in the Boston area. "Every place you go," Sr. Ann said wistfully, "you carry a piece of each with you when you leave."

Many St. Mary's parishioners have fond memories of Sr. Mary Shepard, Sr. Marie Flynn and Sr. Bernadette McConville, who lived here for many years.

Judy and Mike Rauh told *The Current* that they will miss the sisters from the Medical Missionaries. "They brought the blessings of their religious community to our City Island neighborhood. More than neighbors, they became friends."

The only convent still on City Island is on Kilroe Street. It houses the Daughters of Mary, a missionary congregation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

Another parishioner, Matt Panza, noted: "We are experiencing a bleeding of sorts in our Island. In recent memory, we have seen the closing of the Catholic school and the annexation of St. Mary's to the mainland parish of Our Lady of the Assumption. One of the yearly rituals was to give to the Medical Missionaries of Mary during Lent by placing quarters in a special folder. I just realized that this will be the last. The Medical Missionaries will no longer be on our Island."

In a letter published in St. Mary's Sunday bulletin, the sisters wrote: "We leave the Island but we carry you in our hearts and prayers. Thank you so much for all your friendship, help and support."

Parishioners and neighbors will miss the sweet smiles and compassion of the Medical Missionaries as they bid them a fond farewell.



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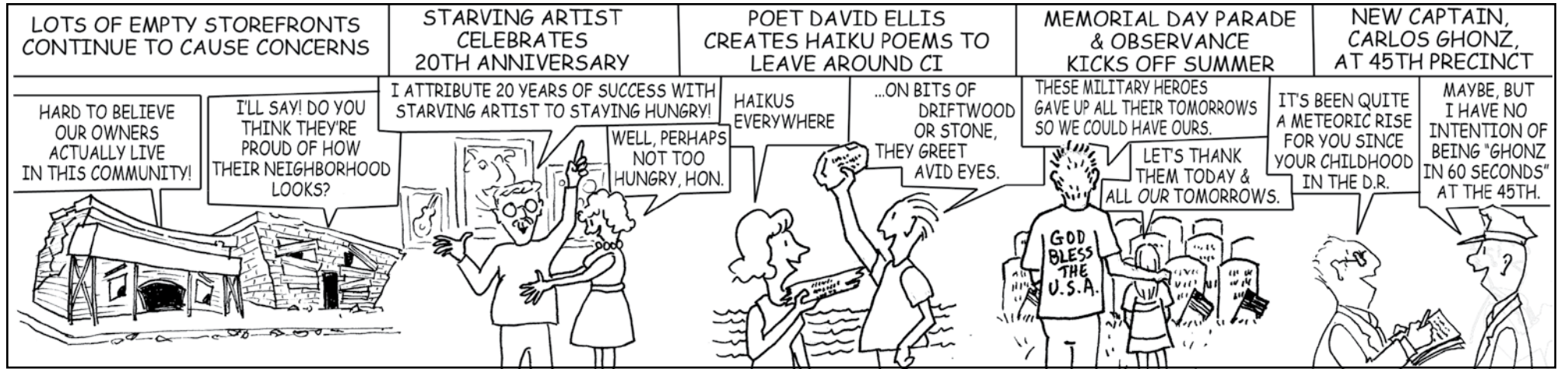
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Photo by MATT PANZA

Island Current editor, Karen Nani, was among the honorees at the 45th Precinct's Community Council annual breakfast on May 10, 2017. She was introduced by John Doyle (above, left) and congratulated by Council president Bob Bieder and 45th Precinct Commanding Officer, Carlos Ghonz. Karen has also been selected as one of the 25 Bronx Influential Women for 2017 by the Bronx Times Reporter newspaper. The ceremony will be on Wednesday, June 28, at 6 p.m. at Maestro's in the Bronx. Those who wish to attend can call 718-260-4595 for reservations.



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.

**Decorators Profile**

To the Editor:

We would sincerely like to thank *The Island Current* for the lovely article on Lumia Decorators in the May 2017 issue.

Thank you to Karen Nani for making it possible and to Bill Stuttig for such a well-written and kind article. We have been longtime advertisers and truly enjoy reading *The Current*. We treasure our clients and the many friends we have made on City Island!

Keep up the good work.

**Paula and Joe Florio**

**Pursuit of Charity**

*(A copy of the following letter was received by The Current)*

Dear Friend:

The Brothers of the Bronx since 1918 have made the pursuit of charity one of our most important Masonic endeavors. In the early years, funds raised were for the sole purpose of welfare relief for Brothers and their families. Over the years with the introduction of medical and life insurance, it became evident that we needed to redirect our efforts. In the 1970s, the Brothers of the Bronx took on the mission to assist organizations that were bringing economic relief and social programs to charities that do not enjoy a national fundraising base and rely for the most part on individuals

who are in the local geographic area.

We raise funds through our charity ball journal. We sell ads and boosters and many months of diligent work go into the preparation of this journal; the profits we generate in turn are shared with charitable organizations. We have no administrative fees and 100 percent of the profits are distributed each year.

The following is a brief list of charities that we support in your area: Trinity United Methodist Church, the City Island Community Center, and various Boy and Girl Scout troops. We also run three blood banks during the year, clothing and food drives for residents of the South Bronx, and we run three to four Child ID programs at Bronx schools. We also hold a holiday party for children in the South Bronx.

Every year, we hold a charity appreciation night and invite the charities to receive gifts from our fund raising effort. Our message to these charities follows: "We appreciate your life's work and your impact on the community and in our small way we hope this gift helps you continue your labor of love. Again thank you for what you do and your impact on the community you service."

This year on April 26, we presented gifts to the representatives of the following City Island organizations: Troop 211 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts (Angelo Bellocchio and Jim McGaughan); City Island Girl Scouts and Brownies (Melissa Cebollero, Jonna Gallo-Weppler and Cheryl Riordan); Temple Beth-El (Elaine Belasco); the City Island Community Center (Brenda Prohaska); Trinity United Methodist Church (Violet Smith and Pastor Yew); and Grace Episcopal Church (Barbara Dennis and Paul Nani).

Our District message to our brothers is a simple one: "If you care, then please share; if you don't then who will?"

May God bless you and keep you.

**Joseph Manzi**  
Bronx Masonic Charities

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**PAST SALES :** 346 William Ave., 504 Minnieford Ave. a 1 family home 511 Minnieford a 3 family brick  
**SALES IN CONTRACT/CLOSING SOON:** 512 Minnieford Ave a 1 family waterfront home with 3 cottages, a studio apt. at The Sailmaker, a 1 bedroom condo at The Sailmaker and just sold: another studio at The Sailmaker!

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# New Leadership, New Ideas at 45th Precinct

By KAREN NANI



Photo by MATT PANZA

The new commander of the 45th Precinct, Captain Carlos Ghonz (above left), met with Islanders at the Community Council breakfast on May 10, 2017, including retired NYPD officer and *Island Current* photographer Matt Panza.

The new commander at the 45th Precinct, Captain Carlos Ghonz, brings a wide range of police experience gained from his 12 years of rising in the ranks of the New York City Police Department (NYPD). He took over leadership of the precinct, which includes City Island, Pelham Bay, Co-op City and other east Bronx neighborhoods, in March 2017, following the departure of Deputy Inspector Danielle Raia.

Captain Ghonz described his personal history and rise in the NYPD in an interview with *The Current* on May 23, 2017. He was born in the Dominican Republic in 1979, and his family moved to New York in 1989. "I attended Norman Thomas High School in Manhattan" he said nostalgically, "which doesn't have that name any more."

He eventually received a full scholarship to Newberry College in South Carolina, "for baseball, because everyone plays baseball in the Dominican Republic." After college, he tried his hand at teaching and also considered law school.

But in 2005 he applied to the NYPD. Although no one in his family had been a police officer, law enforcement was in the back of his mind, and he knew that his family and peers consider it a respected profession. Things happened very fast after that; he was accepted into the academy, graduated in six months and was assigned first to the 23rd and then to the 30th Precinct in Manhattan.

Captain Ghonz's next assignment was in the Narcotics Division in the Bronx, and in 2009 he was promoted to detective. His success at undercover work earned him a promotion to sergeant, and he was moved to the 46th Precinct in the Bronx. He also spent time in Housing and Internal Affairs and was eventually promoted to lieutenant, when he moved to the 52nd Precinct. After being promoted to captain, he returned to the 46th Precinct, where he became executive officer, or second in command, and was put in charge at the 45th earlier this year.

Along the way, he met his wife, Michelle, who was working for the district attorney's office and is now an officer in the 50th Precinct in the Bronx. The couple lives in Yonkers and are raising two sons. When asked if she could ever work under his command in the 45th, he joked that, in addition to its being against departmental rules, she wouldn't be able to boss him around here

the way she does at home.

So what does he think of his new assignment? "I love it in the 45th Precinct, because it is a very involved community, which makes it easier for us to do our jobs." (He noted an interesting statistic—that there are more NYPD officers living within the boundaries of the 45th Precinct than in any other precinct.) He praised the City Island Civic Association, whose April meeting he attended early in his tenure as commanding officer in order to meet and listen to residents.

He is especially focused on the traffic problems on City Island and is responsible for the new traffic pattern implemented on Easter and Mother's Day. "There was a lot of traffic, but my officers kept it moving the entire day." He was personally on the scene, and he instructed officers to make anyone caught in the fire lane turn around and leave the Island.

In addition to traffic, "my goal is that officers never leave the Island," explaining that he strives to have a detail on the Island for every shift, especially during the upcoming summer weekends. He also wants more officers qualified for bicycle duty, because they can move around better in traffic and at Orchard Beach.

Overall, his emphasis is on crime prevention and having as many officers on the street as possible. "We will focus on chronic 311 complaints, which come to our computer if they are from residents in the 45th Precinct, and we try to fix the issue before it becomes a crime."

Longer term, he looks forward to the 45th becoming an "NCO command," which stands for Neighborhood Coordination Officers. These designations have been happening across the city, and the 45th is one of the few remaining precincts without that status. "It will mean more officers for us, which will potentially increase the present total of 150 officers to around 200."

Captain Ghonz summarized his optimism about working with the community. He wants residents to contact the precinct any time there is a problem or to call 311 or 911. He looks forward to better communication between the neighborhoods and the police in the large geography of the 45th Precinct.

Welcome aboard, Captain Ghonz!

# RED, WHITE & RAINY!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

A drizzly rain fell on the bagpipers as they were unpacking their instruments, but by the time the annual Memorial Day parade on May 29, 2017, kicked off, the rain had subsided and the parade continued under cloudy skies. Once again due to the bridge construction, organizers from the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 placed a wreath on a makeshift memorial in front of the American Legion hall on City Island Avenue, along with the traditional stops at Hawkins Park and Pelham Cemetery. Legion commander Pete DeDebbio, Sons of the American Legion president Vic Anderson, Auxiliary president Laura Booth (top photos) and Chaplain Joe Goonan led the remembrances of those who died in conflicts past, including the 400 City Islanders who lost their lives in different wars. They reminded the crowd to "remember that freedom never had a greater friend than the American soldier, sailor, airman, marine and coast guardsman." The armed forces were represented in City Island's parade this year by sailors from the merchant marine vessel USNS Yuma under the command of Captain David Gomma. They were joined by members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 5; the Saffron United Pipe Band from Babylon, Long Island; the City Island Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts; the Garden Club; and the City Island Little League. Special guests included Congressman Joe Crowley, New York State Senator Jeff Klein, Assembly members Michael Benedetto and Mark Gjonaj, and Bronx County Legion Commander Tony Salimbene.



Photo by RON TERNER

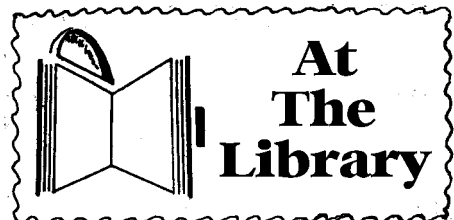
In May 1997, Elliott Glick opened up the Starving Artist Gallery on City Island, where he featured his own handmade jewelry and the fine art / fine craft work of local artisans, including handmade boxes, pottery, paintings and photographs. Now, 20 years later, having added music in 2004, the Starving Artist continues, now a space for the visual and music artist, for the listener and performer, for a harmony of space and spirit. "Come in, and live right!" as Elliott likes to say, especially during 2017, which marks two decades of the Artist on City Island, NY. Here he entertains his enthusiastic audience with his daughter, Hannah, and wife, Monica.



The Manor Club is holding an attic treasures tag sale on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham Manor. There will be something for everyone! Jewelry, designer clothing, furniture, holiday items and much, much more, both new and gently loved. Lots of great stuff! Come by and find what you have been looking for.

Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) presents "Architectural Sculptures from the Bronx and Around the World," a one-person show by architect and photographer Robert Arthur King, from June 2 through June 25, with an opening reception on Friday, June 2, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc., at 300 City Island Avenue, welcomes June M. McGuire, licensed NYS sales agent and longtime resident, homeowner and community member, to their office. June is a retired NYPD firearms instructor and liaison officer between the NYPD Department of Community Affairs and the Mayor's Office. June also owned and operated an exclusive interior painting and restoration business, Thomas & McGuire Inc., for 10 years. Please stop in and say "Hello"!



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY 718-885-1703

Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Summer Reading: Toddler Playtime: We bring all sorts of crawl tunnels, a portable ball pit and other fun toys along with a puppet story time! For toddlers to 5 years old. Limit to 20 participants. Monday, June 12, at 11 a.m.

Lego League: Bring your imagination and join us for fun with Legos! Blocks of various sizes will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5 through 11. A limit of 10 children with their caregivers. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

It's Bin Fun!: Toddlers and preschoolers can play and explore our various sensory bins that will encourage curiosity through touch, sight, and sound! Parent and child participation required. Ages 2 through 4 years old. Every Saturday at 10 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, June 16, at 11:30 a.m.

JUNE TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Summer Reading: Etch Your Own: Create and take home your own beautiful one of a kind glass piece using stencils and various techniques. Teens/Young Adults (13-18 years) Monday, June 12, at 3 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

City Island Chess Club: Chess is widely considered the oldest game in the

world and has been played by people of all cultures for centuries. Now we're encouraging families, friends and people of all ages to come and learn how to play like a professional. Saturday, June 3 and 17, at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! June 2: Color a Cube; June 9: Father's Day DIY; June 16: Wii and Board Games; June 23: Wii and Board Games; June 30: Wii and Board Games

JUNE ADULT PROGRAMS

Thursday Writing Club: Where have all the good stories gone? They are lurking at the City Island Library. Come in to see what the weekly themes will be. Gail Hitt leads the adventure. No registration required. Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Growing Together: A group for people who want to improve and develop themselves and help others to do the same by providing motivation and support as a group to the individuals in it. We seek to provide a comfortable atmosphere for people to explore goals they want to achieve and self-improvement ideas and be a network of people willing to listen, help and motivate them. Wednesday, June 7 and 21, at 2 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. You may even learn a thing or two while you're making some new friends. Note: Limited to 12 participants; registration required. Call or stop by the branch to reserve your spot. Thursday, June 1, 15 and 29, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Monday, June 5 and 19, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Intro to Computers: Come to the library, ask questions about how to use computers and sharpen your skills through computer use. "How do I turn the computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to

12 noon.

Resumé Workshop: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Wednesday, June 7 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

One-on-One: Computer Training: Stop by or call to make an appointment for one hour of instruction that focuses on your questions and interests.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: at 1 p.m.: June 3: "Bleed For This"; June 10: "Allied"; June 17: "Life on the Line"; June 24: "The 9th Life of Louis Drax"

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person or by phone. All programs are free.

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# Skip Giacco: “Think Small and Your Business Will Grow”

By BILL STUTTIG

Skip Giacco and his wife, Louise, have owned and operated Lickety Split ice cream parlor for the past 14 years. As he was preparing to open up for another season of children and families and socializing over a scoop of pistachio ice cream on a nice spring evening, he told *The Island Current* his business is proof that small businesses can make it on City Island over the long haul.

“Lickety Split is unusual because we appeal to both off-Islanders and Islanders, and it’s wonderful to see those two groups coming together and eating together,” he said. Skip believes that the combination of the local residents mingling with a small percentage of the more than 40,000 visitors who come to the Island each summer weekend is proof that it can be done, that businesses can be marketed to both visitors and residents and that it can work.

Skip, a former creative director for a major Madison Avenue advertising firm, and Louise, a former model, moved to City Island for a quiet retirement in 2001 after he was first diagnosed with macular degeneration and his eyesight had begun a slow progression toward legal blindness.

But after a year of quietly enjoying the Island’s small town appeal, he became curious about the ice cream parlor behind the cottage where he and his wife lived. It had been closed for some time, and, after investigating further, he found that the owners were going through difficulties, both financial and medical, which made it impossible to continue the business. Skip and Louise thought that reviving the former ice cream business behind their home might be an interesting retirement project, so they bought the business, fixed up the parlor over several months and began selling ice cream the following spring, all while pursuing other interests, which included playing with a band at local gigs.

The Giaccos, with the help of several local teenagers, ran the shop from late spring through early fall for several years without getting involved in local civic affairs. But when a controversy began to arise in 2009 over the removal of the dolphin statue from Hawkins Park, which is next to Lickety Split, he joined with other local merchants and schoolchildren in a successful campaign to save the beloved dolphin from relocation.

From then on, Skip’s involvement with

his fellow City Island entrepreneurs grew, and he decided to take on the role of leading the Island’s Chamber of Commerce and to try bringing the many diverse businesses together to work with each other. “There are 108 businesses on City Island, including home office businesses, and we have 63 members, 10 of them restaurants, so I think the chamber is very healthy,” Skip says.

For all his efforts, Skip has received the Sam Berman Award from the City Island Chamber of Commerce and an Outstanding Leadership award from the 45th Precinct Community Council. He accepted on behalf of the City Island Chamber of Commerce the Tourism Award from the Bronx Borough President and several proclamations from our elected officials. Along with Barbara Dolensek and John Doyle, Skip led the fight for our new bridge and against the misuse of property on the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue.

Skip believes that the participation and cooperation among the business owners remains high, but that the Island’s business community still faces many problems, including a limited customer base—only 4,500 residents, competition from off-Island mega-stores and traffic, which he considers both a blessing and a curse.

“Whenever there is an effort to reduce or redirect traffic, the ones that feel it are the small local businesses,” he said. “What the traffic control is doing is essentially turning away our customers. The harder we make it for people to get here, the harder it becomes for the little guy.” He believes that what the Island needs to do is not to turn away those people but to reach out and encourage them to explore the whole Island.

“Our small business and a few others, like the Diner, have been successful over a period of years, and I ask myself ‘What do we have in common?’ The answer is that we are cool. We have small town appeal, and that is what brings a lot of people here. They come from the high-density communities to this little small town. Every product that we offer they can get in their neighborhoods, but they come here for the experience—the small town atmosphere that is unique here. City Island has to think small. That is what people want. That is the ideal.” Skip notes, however: “I don’t know how to make that idea grow, other than more small restaurants. A Mexican restaurant would do wonderfully here, for example.”

Recent marketing ideas initiated by the Chamber—including a free trolley and reaching out to the Bronx Marriott to provide free transportation from the hotel to the Island—have been successful on a limited basis. But other ideas, such as taking advantage of available state grants to establish art studio residences in some of the vacant storefronts in the middle of the Island, have been met with resistance by the owners of those storefronts.

“Most of the landlords do not want to be bothered,” he notes, “because that means making a deal that may not be as good for them as they would like. But in the end, it would be good for the community. Everybody has to understand that if we don’t work together as a community, we are going to have a problem. The property owners must be willing to make deals with the entrepreneurs, who have to be willing to create a business that is going to work in this market. And the people who live here have to make a commitment to buy here; even if we have to spend a little more, we will help the community. We all have to be willing to make that effort.”

Skip adds that the key is affordability, providing a product that is simple but affordable so that both Islanders and off-Islanders will be willing to spend money here. That is the formula that has allowed his ice cream parlor to survive for 14 years, and it has worked for others as well. He knows that several of his fellow business owners realize that they are not going to get rich here, but he believes that this is a trade-off that allows them to stay here in a small quiet community and be happy.

Skip takes heart that a group of Asian entrepreneurs have come to the Island and opened businesses in the center of the island. “This is wonderful because they are seeing City Island as a place to invest their money. It proves that people are willing to come here and take a chance, and that it is up to the rest of us to support them.”

Lickety Split offers everything a tradi-



Photo by LOUISE GIACCO  
Skip Giacco with his grandchildren, Olivia and Andreas.

tional community ice cream parlor offers, including high-quality ice cream and gelato, a unique assortment of specialty flavors and a variety of ice cream parlor-based drinks, including milk shakes, egg creams and ice cream sodas. The store opened on May 20 and will remain open every day until early October from noon to 10 p.m. on weekdays and until midnight on weekends.

“We hire local kids,” Skip told *The Current*. “It is great. You see them grow up, and later they come back to say hello as they go on to college and beyond. It is a very special neighborhood type of feeling.” Louise agrees: “It’s authentic. I love the business, and I love the children. When they drop their ice cream, we go and get them another.”

Skip adds: “This business is about ice cream and kids and creating a space where people can be together. Where can you go wrong?”



Photos by LINDA HILL

An injured minke whale tried to come ashore at Orchard Beach on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The NYPD’s Harbor and Emergency Services units and a marine specialist used straps to keep the animal in the water until reinforcements arrived. Efforts to move the young whale into deeper water failed, however, and the whale was euthanized. An autopsy will be performed to determine whether the animal was ill or injured.

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## A Current Review

# “The Philadelphia Story” Delights City Island

By BRUCE A. WEIS

The spring production of the City Island Theater Group was a lively and handsomely produced presentation of “The Philadelphia Story,” a comedy by Philip Barry, who wrote it in 1938 with Katharine Hepburn in mind. Surprising as it may seem now, the summer of 1938 was an anxious time for the actress, whose popularity was at an all-time low. She liked to speak her mind, shunned make-up and didn’t choose to play the role of Hollywood star, but worst of all, her recent films had all lost money. That year a full-page ad appeared in the Hollywood Reporter criticizing studios for promoting stars like Hepburn whose “public appeal is negligible,” and that same day, RKO announced that the studio had “parted ways” with her.

But Barry’s “Philadelphia Story” changed all that. Hepburn felt that the story of a socialite, Tracy Lord, whose wedding plans are complicated by the simultaneous arrival of her ex-husband and an attractive journalist, might help create a vehicle for herself that could erase her label as “box office poison.” So she financially backed the play as well as starring in it, foregoing a salary in return for a percentage of the play’s profits, and her former lover Howard Hughes helped her purchase the film rights as a vehicle for her screen comeback.

The play opened on Broadway on March 28, 1939, at the Shubert Theatre in New York City, running for 417 performances, and the film version appeared shortly afterward starring Hepburn with Cary Grant and James Stewart (who won the Best Actor Oscar). Interesting side note: Hepburn continued to appear in the road show of the play even after the movie was released to become a huge success that snapped Hepburn’s losing streak for good. The film was remade in 1956 as a musical, retitled “High Society” and starring Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong.

Many have thought of this play as a classic farce, but it actually falls into a sub-genre, a comedy of remarriage, a style popular in the 1930s and 1940s, in which a couple divorce, flirt with outsiders and then remarry.

The play opens as the wealthy Lord family is preparing to invite the cream of Philadelphia society into their home for the wedding of their daughter to George Kittredge, a self-made manager of a coal company. The pending marriage doesn’t sit well, however, with little sister Dinah, big brother Sandy or ex-husband C.K. Dexter Haven, all of whom believe that George isn’t good enough for Tracy. To complicate matters even more, the philandering of Tracy’s father with a Broadway dancer has caused a scandal, and an unscrupulous media tycoon has threatened to expose it unless his reporters are allowed to cover the wedding. A connection develops between Mike Conner, the reporter, and Tracy as they spar over class boundaries. Torn between George, Dexter, and Mike, Tracy must determine whether or not she belongs on a pedestal.

In the City Island Theater Group production, Casey Marie Ecker was charming, headstrong and demanding in the role of Tracy Lord, and though the audience may have been reminded of Hepburn, Casey definitely brought her own interpretation and comic timing to the role. Jean Eifert, as Tracy’s long-suffering mother, Margaret, made a great show of keeping up Philadelphia appearances and trying to hold the family together in the absence of her philandering husband, Seth Lord, who was played with sensitivity and warmth by Robert Mulroy. Seth had not been expected to attend the wedding, but a secret invitation gave him the opportunity to mend some fences and to help Tracy come to terms with herself and the issues she faced on her wedding day.

Claudia Kimmel, as Tracy Lord’s younger sister, Dinah, easily had the most energy, pound for pound, of any actor in the cast. Claudia, a graduate of P.S. 175, is multi-talented, and we expect to see a lot more of her in the future. Robert McEvily, as Tracy’s brother, Seth, displayed an appropriately diplomatic charm in arranging for his sister’s wedding to become tabloid fodder in order to avoid cruel exposure for his father. Joseph Montano, as Uncle William Tracy, had fun with what is considered one of the play’s better roles as a wealthy, retired lawyer with a predilection for pinching the backsides of nearby females.

Elizabeth Paldino handled the role of photographer Liz Imbrie, whose job was to cover the wedding, with her usual aplomb. The role calls for idealism with a sense of fatalism, and she provided both with a fine sense of timing. Steven Pearce, as reporter Mike Conner, was like Liz rather dismissive of high society, but he adroitly handled his crush on Tracy as he sparred with her on social issues. Fortunately, Greg Morra, as Tracy’s first husband, C.K. Dexter Haven, served as peacemaker by successfully conveying an unflappable patrician air that played beautifully into Tracy’s willfulness.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Theater Group delighted audiences recently with its production of “The Philadelphia Story” by Philip Barry. The cast and crew included (seated, l. to r.): Joseph Montano, Hannah Glick (stage manager), Elizabeth Paldino, Amanda Livingston Martin (director); (standing): Frances Suro, Robert Mulroy, Jean Eifert, Claudia Kimmel, Tracy Marie Ecker, Greg Morra, Stephen Pearce, Robert McEvily, Robbie Livingston and Bob Livingston.

Robbie Livingston convincingly played the role of George Kittredge, Tracy’s groom to be, as a suitably stuffy social climber, in spite of the fact that he actually got the role three days before opening night when the original actor became ill. Bob Livingston, as the butler Thomas, maintained a properly reserved demeanor through the show, despite the events unfolding around him, and Frances Suro as Elsie, the Lord family maid, added a sensible air to every scene she appeared in.

Ranked by many reviewers as an unqualified classic, one of the best romantic comedies of all time, “The Philadelphia Story” brought large, enthusiastic audiences to the performances on City Island. Much of the credit for the staging belongs to the director, Amanda Livingston Martin, who took on the role of director for the first time, having been an actress and stage manager for the CITG in “The Diary of Ann Frank” and “Prelude to a Kiss,” respectively. If the name Livingston appears often on the list of cast and crew, that is no accident. In spite of last-minute changes and the loss of one of the major cast

members, Amanda managed to keep her cool and involve both her brother and her father in this successful production.

As usual, costume design was directed by Carol McCabe, with the help of Cheryl Brinker, who with a cohort of Island ladies shared the labor of hemming, altering and otherwise making the cast look like 1930s Main Line Philadelphia. Joe Burck did his usual brilliant job of designing the lighting and the set, which cleverly turned inside out to change from elegant living room to outdoor ivy-covered patio and back. Prop mistress was Barbara Dolensek, whose porch furniture made its second appearance on a CITG stage, and she was ably assisted by Robin Kingsbury, who also helped design the set, constructed by Dan Srdoc. Hannah Glick, as production stage manager, managed the rapid set changes, assisted by Jeanine Carpenter, and Denis Zepeda did his usual magic as sound designer. And last but by no means least, CITG president Nick Sala was production manager, keeping track of the thousands of details that accompany all of the theater group’s wonderful productions.



## Bartow-Pell Events

First Friday: Music & Trolley, June 2, 5:30–8:30 p.m. Glenwood is Roland Rogers (acoustic guitar and vocals), Jonathan Ellinghaus (cajon, percussion and vocals), and Lloyd Fricker (electric guitar and bass). The acoustic trio was formed in New Rochelle from a love of playing an eclectic mix of music with an ear toward reinterpreting classic arrangements. The trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration suggested. Cost BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

Sing for Hope Piano on the Terrace on Tuesday, June 6. BPMM is one of 50 NYC sites selected to host an artist-painted piano, which has been loaned to an organization in the city during the month of June for the public to enjoy. Come take a turn at a tune or listen to others play it. The piano will be accessible daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On Thursday, June 8, 12–2 p.m. support the Bartow-Pell Conservancy and enjoy an

elegant lunch outdoors on the pebble court overlooking the NYC-designated landmark formal garden designed by Aldrich & Delano in 1914. Visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org) for details. Reservations required.

Bartow’s Literary Elevesens take place on Saturday, June 17, 10–11:30 a.m. Join Museum guides Laura DeRiggi and Caitlyn Sellar as they lead a historical fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Contact BPMM for the current book being explored. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration requested. Cost Free.

Bats! Brats! And Beer! on Saturday, June 17, 1–3 p.m. Calling all dads! As part of Father’s Day Weekend, BPMM offers a Saturday afternoon ballgame with beer and brats. Come celebrate on the front lawn of the mansion and watch the New York Mutuals play with 1864 rules, balls, bats, and uniforms—but no helmets or gloves! After the game, kids join in the fun for a game of rounders with team members. Beer and food vendors will be on-site. Cost \$10 Adults; \$5 children; dads Free (in honor of Father’s Day).

Summer Solstice Make Music New York, on Wednesday, June 21, 1 to 7 p.m. Make Music New York is NYC’s largest one-day free celebration of music, and BPMM is participating in this unique music holiday, in which music makers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds take center stage through live performances in outdoor public spaces across all five boroughs. Participants are encouraged to perform on BPMM’s Sing for Hope piano that day. Cost Free.

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# Organization News

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

## Current Calendar

### JUNE

Sat., June 3, **Clothing Drive**, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, 241 City Island Avenue, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., June 3 and 4, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

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

Sun., June 25, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

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

Thurs., June 29, **Annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza**, Orchard Beach, 6 to 10 p.m.

### City Island Indivisible

City Island Indivisible is open to all people interested in working to promote progressive, inclusive issues through activism, conversation, information sharing and coalition building. We welcome you to join our meetings, our mailing list and our Facebook page to stay informed and in action; for more information, e-mail [cityislandtrg@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandtrg@gmail.com) or go to City Island Indivisible on Facebook. Our meetings in June are on Tuesday, June 6, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 25, at 5 p.m. in the City Island Community Center.

Susan Bellinson

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Don't miss our end-of-season sale, which includes half-price bric-a-brac and a \$5 bag sale. We will close for the season on June 27 and re-open on Sept. 21.

Arlene Byrne

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to the following:

**Worship Schedule:** Sundays at 10 a.m. lead by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We now do birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Don't miss the Grace Church booth at City Island Spring Arts and Crafts Fair on June 3 and 4. Please drop by our booth right outside of Papa John's Deli. We'll have a bountiful table of delicious home-made breads, cookies, cakes, pies, brownies and more for sale, lovingly prepared by our parishioners and friends of Grace.

**Sunday School:** It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month and is led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. Sunday School will take a break during July and August and resume

in September.

**Music Ministry:** The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is starting its second year! Members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. We now rehearse on the second Sunday of the month and on the Monday before the show. Our next performance will be at Williamsbridge Manor Nursing Home in the Bronx, where we will sing songs celebrating the coming of summer! If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel; you just need the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

Sandy Dunn

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. At other times the services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory *oneg* (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Temple Services Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea and celebratory *oneg* after the service.

June 2: Rabbi David  
June 9: Community-led  
June 16: Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David

June 23: Community-led  
June 30: Community-led

Please join us for our annual meeting and reception on June 21 at 7:30 p.m., where members in good standing can vote on new trustees to serve on the board, hear our annual report and express your wishes for the Temple's future. Bylaws require votes from 20 percent of members to conduct business. Please do your part to help TBE flourish. For instructions on how to vote by proxy, please e-mail [paul.klein@att.net](mailto:paul.klein@att.net). Refreshments served.

#### Looking Ahead

Save the date: Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. will be our Shabbat by the Sea, graciously hosted by Ken Binder and Steve Roth at 2 Bay Street. We look forward to this joyous occasion all year. We celebrate the Sabbath with a sunset view of Manhattan. Music provided by Your Band by the Sea. Prayer, song and dance prevail. Refreshment provided by the generous hosts.

**Adult Education:** TBE invites the City Island community to our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Daniella Haney (Patreesha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served after sessions. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at [kyncnc@aol.com](mailto:kyncnc@aol.com).

**Oneg sponsorships:** Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The Garden Club luncheon on Thursday, May 18, 2017, was a great success, with over 80 in attendance. Virginia Dannegger (top photo, at left) won several raffle baskets; she is pictured here with Judy Judson, club president, and Sally Connolly, who won the Maurice Folliot painting. The success of the luncheon was the result of hard work by officers and volunteers (l. to r.): Francine Alheid, chair of the luncheon; Elena Nuesslein, treasurer of the club; Melanie Benvenue, vice president and assistant treasurer; Barbara Dennis, corresponding secretary; and Judy Judson.

occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, *yahrzeit* or memorial) can be a joyful moving community celebration as we warmly invite you to sponsor a Friday night *oneg*. To sponsor an *oneg* or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For additional information, check out our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

### City Island Republicans

John Cerini will be the Republican candidate for City Council. He has been officially endorsed by the Bronx Republican party.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at the Legion Post on City Island.

Petitions will be going out. Poll workers must attend. It is important that everyone eligible sign the petitions because that allows us to get the candidates on the ballot, including for mayor.

Fred Ramftl Jr.



### Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. This season the children are studying the story of Joseph in Egypt and progressing through the story of Moses. All children are welcome to attend.

The Sunday school children are collecting donations for "Imagine No Malaria" through May. Malaria is preventable, and the

donations go to purchasing nets for families living in areas where malaria is common.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web ([www.trinityofcityisland.org](http://www.trinityofcityisland.org)), where you will find all things Trinity, including the texts of Reverend Yew's sermons.

The Budget Shop is open! Stop in and see what is new. It is open the first and third Tuesday of each month, and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

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

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

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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



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

Welcome back to the City Island Community Supported Agriculture program which begins its 2017 season with the delivery of great organic produce and products on Monday, June 5. It is not too late to register. For information e-mail [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

Remember to register now for the Summer Art Camp for children 7 to 12 years of age, featured below.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent our Main Room for family events and parties at very reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityisland-communitycenter.org](http://www.cityisland-communitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations.

#### COMING EVENTS

**Beach Blanket Bingo:** Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30.) Fun for the whole family with fabulous prizes and refreshments available.

**City Island Indivisible:** Tuesday, June 6, meeting at 7 p.m., and Sunday, June 25, at 5 p.m. for a showing of "Awake, the Dream of Standing Rock," a 90-minute documentary film about the protests in North Dakota. Indivisible is an organization of concerned citizens who discuss actions such as letter writing, marching and phoning to help preserve American ideals. For more information, visit City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**Art Camp:** July 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 7 to 12 register now for this innovative summer camp program and explore drawing, painting and sculpture. To enroll contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or e-mail [ceasardante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasardante@optonline.net).

**Dance Party Workout:** Mondays, June 12 and 26 at 7 p.m. Have fun working out to your favorite dance music. It is an unstructured dance class with Eva. For more information, call Eva at 646-954-4014.

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Enroll now for this new educational program for children at the Center beginning its second year in September. Taught by experienced school teachers, the Español Experience teaches conversational Spanish to children grades K-5 through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For more information, call 917-889-4938 or visit [www.espanolxperience.com](http://www.espanolxperience.com).

**Yoga with Ryan:** Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. In this class expect a series of yoga poses with emphasis on alignment, coordinated with breath to build strength, increase flexibility and balance, and ending with deep relaxation to integrate the practice. Good for new students or students with limited experience. For information, contact Ryan at 914-356-6673 or [ryangillyyoga@gmail.com](mailto:ryangillyyoga@gmail.com)

**Healing Service:** Francesca Vitale, Board Cert/Registered Polarity/CranioSacral and Raindrop Practitioner formerly of the NY Open Center, is offering healing. A person can heal and become empowered receiving clarity of mind and balance within. A portion of services given back to the Community Center. Visit [www.theheal-](http://www.theheal-)

[ingforce.net](http://ingforce.net). For free consultation or an appointment call 914-837-6830.

**Ballroom Dance:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Welcome the month of May with the tango and the cha cha with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

**Bollywood Dance:** Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information call 646-269-2033 or e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Irish Dance for Children:** Mondays, Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., Beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes are taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

**Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep:** For high school prep or just for fun! To enroll, call Geri Smith at 718-885-1503.

**Jill's Playgroup:** Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. Call Jill at 917-330-0922 for information.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Chess & Card Club:** Tuesday at 7 p.m. Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Join your community in action.

**City Island Community Supported Agriculture:** Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m. The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables. It will begin again June 5. For information, contact [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Mondays, June 5 and 19, at 7 p.m. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Pick up some new cooking skills as well. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Drawing Society:** Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with Deborah Weiss. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Now is a good time to join. For more information, call Emily at 718-885-3420 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com) or call 917-853-4719.

**Zumba with Julia and Lettie:** Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

**Zumba with Lettie:** Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### American Legion Auxiliary

On Saturday, April 22, Jane Gelsi, chair of the VA & Youth committee and an American Legion member along with with Greg Clancy, Boy Scout Troop leader, participated in an Earth Day community event with the Daisies, Brownies and Boy Scout troops on City Island. They cleaned up the entire avenue in spite of the rain. Cupcakes and drinks were served at Trinity Church.

National Poppy Day began on May 26. The American Legion Auxiliary has been conducting a Poppy Program for many years, and their members raise over \$6

million annually to provide support for veterans, military service members and their families. By wearing poppies on May 26, we honor every U.S. service member who has given his or her life in the name of liberty, freedom and democracy. At the same time, by wearing this simple red flower, we show our support for veterans of generations to come. Our poppy program runs throughout the year. Please be generous when donating.

Our Unit 156 was recently featured in the May issue of the ALA magazine on page 20 for our unique poppy program. Barbara Corker, Department Secretary in Albany for the Auxiliary, reached out to us and requested a hand-painted poppy portrait painted by our very own member Maggie Myers. Ms. Corker would like to display it in her office at Legion headquarters in Albany. This is what we call being noticed! Congratulations, Maggie!

The Memorial Day Parade was celebrated on Monday, May 29. Auxiliary members walked proudly for our active service members, veterans and their families. It was a wonderful day filled with family and friends, hot dogs, tradition and patriotism.

The second Quilts of Valor will be given to Buddy (Anthony) Pontecorvo, World War II veteran, legion member and long-time City Island resident. A ceremony and reception will be held at the Leonard Hawkins Post.

Our Unit President, Laura Booth, will be attending the ALA summer conference in Syracuse, NY, to gain more information on the Girls State Program, which we hope to start in September 2017. The year-end Auxiliary dinner/meeting will be held at the Morris Yacht Club on Wednesday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m. Many thanks to Michael Proietti, who always goes beyond the call of duty for the Auxiliary women.

As the year ends, nominations were made and positions accepted by Sue Michaels as our new Unit Chaplain and Harlan Sexton as our new Recording Secretary. Many thanks to Vivi McGuire and Jean D'Alessandro for their past service positions. Initiations will take place at the June 7 dinner meeting.

If you would like to become a member of the Auxiliary, please contact Doreen Wall at [americanlegionmembership156@gmail.com](mailto:americanlegionmembership156@gmail.com)

Have a great summer!

**Joanne Valletta**

#### PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org).

#### Highlights

Reserve a table! Gather five or more friends and reserve a table for lunch especially for you.

June 2, Friday: All-day van trips to Dunkin Donuts for National Donut Day

June 5: Dessert Day with peaches, pound cake and whipped cream

June 14, Wednesday: Party Express and Free Lickety Split Ice Cream

June 16, Friday: Father's Day party with entertainment

June 27, Tuesday at 12 noon: Annual luncheon at the Lobster Box. To attend the Lobster Box luncheon, you must have a ticket. Lunch will also be served at Senior

Center on this day.

**June Physical Exercise:** The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30, Balance Class at 1 p.m. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

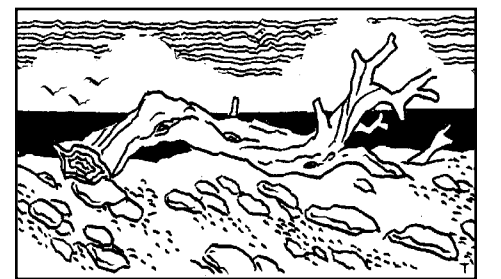
**June Programs:** Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 a.m.; June 6 and 20: Crafters Corner at 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: Board Games, Rummy Q and more 1 p.m.; Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda at 1 p.m. June 14 and 28 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party June 22 at 12:30 p.m.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance.** Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

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

**Transportation Services.** Off-island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Roe at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**



#### AARP 318

The chapter meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. On June 7, at our regular meeting, we will sign up for our luncheon on June 21, so be sure to come. On Wednesday, June 21, we will enjoy our luncheon at 12:30 at the Lobster House restaurant, near the City Island bridge. This will be our last meeting before Sept. 6 after our summer break.

**Rosetta Woods**

#### American Legion Post #156

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 4, at 12 noon. Dues are past due. They are \$50 and can be dropped off at the Post.

Thanks to Mike Jawski for everything that he does, and thanks to Mike Treat for all of his hard work managing our membership. Our gratitude goes to all those who do for Post 156.

We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and

*Continued on page 13*



### Memorable Cinematic Soundtracks

I once saw an interview with Academy Award-winning composer John Barry, and ever since I've been very aware of musical scores in movies. Barry won an Oscar for his musical score in **Out of Africa** (1985) (which won a total of seven Oscars), loosely based on the memoirs of Danish Baroness Karen Blixen, who wrote under the pseudonym Isak Dinesen. The film stars Meryl Streep as the baroness, who in 20th-century colonial Kenya is the owner of a coffee plantation and has a passionate love affair with big-game hunter Denys Finch Hatton (Robert Redford). Barry also won Best Picture for **Dances with Wolves** (1990), in which Union Army Lt. John Dunbar (Kevin Costner, who also won the Best Director Oscar), is exiled to a remote western Civil War outpost, becomes involved with the Lakota Indians and falls in love with Stands with Fist (Mary MacDonnell). Other films with his soundtracks that I found memorable were **Somewhere in Time** (1980) and **Body Heat** (1981). Barry was also the arranger of the James Bond theme and composed songs for several of the Bond movies.

Thomas Newman is the son of Alfred Newman, winner of nine music Oscars, the most ever awarded (all before 1972). Thomas himself has been nominated 14 times (without a win) and is the composer of one of my very favorite musical scores, **The Shawshank Redemption** (1994). It is the story of two men, Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) and "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman), who are serving life sentences in prison. Although this is a serious

prison drama, the film lifts one's spirits in the way that these two men become friends and survive the years together. It is based on an excellent novella by Stephen King, and much of the dialogue is taken straight from the book. The musical score by Thomas Newman is as heartwarming as the film. Other memorable Newman scores include **American Beauty** (1999) and **Bridge of Spies** (2015).

During his 40-year collaboration with director Steven Spielberg, John Williams has received 50 musical Oscar nominations. Of those, his five wins include **Fiddler on the Roof** (1972) (non-Spielberg), **Jaws** (1975), **Star Wars IV: A New Hope** (1977), **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981), **ET: The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982) and **Schindler's List** (1993). Each of the Spielberg collaborations were described last year over two columns, "Fantastical Spielberg" and "Serious Spielberg." It would be hard to imagine that my readers would not be familiar with the music from all these amazing films, and they are all worth a re-visit.

The Oscar-winning soundtrack for **Titanic** (1997), one of the most successful films in recent history, was composed by James Horner. This epic American romantic disaster film is a fictionalized account of the sinking of the *RMS Titanic*. It stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Jack Dawson and Kate Winslet as Rose DeWitt Bukater, members of different social classes who fall in love aboard the ship, much to the consternation of her abusive arrogant fiancé, Cal Hockley (Billy Zane), and her gold-digging mother, Ruth (Frances Fisher). The movie begins with an aged Rose (Gloria Stuart) recounting the tragic tale to treasure hunter Brock Lovett (Bill Paxton), with exceptional computer graphics showing a virtual sinking of the ship. Nominated for 14 Academy Awards, **Titanic** won 11, including the awards for Best Picture and Best Director, tying for most Oscars won by a single film. Other memorable Horner scores that were Oscar-nominated include **A Beautiful Mind** (2001) and **Field of Dreams** (1989).

French composer Eric Serra scored **Leon: The Professional** (1994), a movie I mentioned a few years ago in a column called "Unlikely Friendships." The film

stars Jean Reno as Leon, a hit man who, to his initial regret, saves the life of a stunning adolescent girl, Mathilda (Natalie Portman). She is the sole survivor when her family is executed by a group of dirty cops, led by Stansfield (Gary Oldman). The friendship that develops between Leon and Mathilda is touching indeed, but the real star of the film is the soundtrack, which is so excellent that I just couldn't fast forward over the gruesome parts, as I didn't want to miss the music.

Trent Reznor, founder of the rock band Nine Inch Nails in 1988, was the composer of the Oscar-winning soundtrack in **The Social Network** (2010). It is the story of Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), the world's youngest billionaire. While at Harvard, he and his best friend, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), begin the project that became Facebook. Much of the story is told retrospectively through the viewpoint of two major lawsuits against Zuckerberg—one by Saverin and another by Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (both twins played by Armie Hammer), who claimed that Facebook was their idea. Pacing is the outstanding virtue of the film, supported by its Oscar-winning script by Aaron Sorkin (TV's "The West Wing") and superb musical score.

Two of my favorite soundtracks by the French composer Alexandre Desplat were nominated for Academy Awards, and each won Best Picture: **The King's Speech** (2010) and **Argo** (2012). A winner of a Golden Globe for its haunting musical score is **The Painted Veil** (2007), based on a novel by Somerset Maugham. Set in the 1920s, it is the story of a scientist, Dr. Walter Fane (Edward Norton), who when he discovers his wife, Kitty (Naomi Watts), is having an affair with diplomat Charlie Townsend (Liev Schreiber) takes her to a Chinese village, where he works to contain an outbreak of cholera. The real stars of this film are the cinematography and the music.

The music of Maurice Jarre is well represented in the film **Witness** (1985), which stars Harrison Ford as John Book, a cop who takes on the case of a murder committed in a Philadelphia train station. The only witness is an Amish boy, Samuel (Lukas Haas), who is traveling with his newly widowed mother, Rachel (Kelly McGillis), to visit

her sister. When the identity of the killer is discovered, Book takes Rachel and Samuel back to their community to hide. From the opening scene—a sea of wheat blowing in the wind—to the final showdown between the bad guys and the community, with a traditional Amish barn-raising in between, the music truly underscores this beautiful and memorable film. Jarre's credits also include Oscar winners **Dr. Zhivago** (1965), **Lawrence of Arabia** (1963) and Oscar-nominated **Ghost** (1990).

My favorite Disney animated film is Academy Award-winner **Beauty and the Beast** (1992) with Alan Menken's music (and Howard Ashman's lyrics). This amazing musical team's efforts also include Oscar winners **Aladdin** (1992) and **The Little Mermaid** (1989). **Pocahontas** (1995) also won for both best score and best song, "Colors of the Wind" (with lyrics by Stephen Schwarz). These are all wonderful films for children.

Space does not permit describing all of the films whose music stays in my memory. However, if you are interested in this topic, I recommend you check out the classical themes in **2001: A Space Odyssey** (1968), featuring "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss and "The Blue Danube" by Johann Strauss. Other scores I have enjoyed include the music in **Dave** (1993) by James Newton Howard, **Poltergeist** (1982) and **Sum of all Fears** (2002) by Jerry Goldsmith, **Risky Business** (1983) by Tangerine Dream and **High Noon** (1953) by Oscar winner Dimitri Tiomkin.

As this article was going to press, I found out from my film critic cousin, Leonard Maltin, that an excellent new documentary is being released this month (June) called **Score: A Film Music Documentary**. From the film website: "This documentary brings Hollywood's premier composers together to give viewers a privileged look inside the musical challenges and creative secrecy of the world's most widely known music genre: the film score." Many of the people I have mentioned are interviewed. I can't wait to see it myself.

And until next time, happy viewing and listening...

*Cormac McEnery, Esq.*

*Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.*

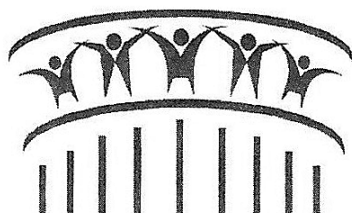
*Elder Law  
Estate Planning  
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*562 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464-1103*

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*[www.lawyers.com/mcenery](http://www.lawyers.com/mcenery)*



National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

MEMBER



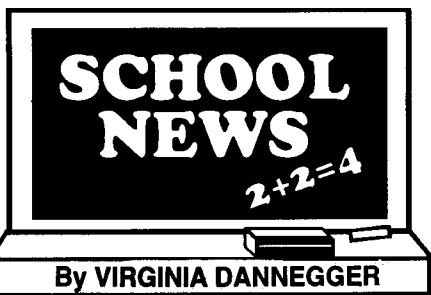
Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, Elliott Glick and Joanne Valletta sponsored a “Young Performers Night” at the Starving Artist Café, featuring 10-year-old Michael Schiavulli from Lagrangeville, NY, playing saxophone and 9-year-old Jade Anais Mejia-Pecoraro, from Bronxville, NY, dancing flamenco, accompanied by Papa Guyo and the Days of Wild Band. It was a wonderful night for the children as well as the adults.



Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

The P.S. 175 fifth grade received standing ovations when they presented “Shrek: The Musical, Jr.” on May 18 and 19, 2017, with support from the Bronx Arts Ensemble. The cast (shown above) included: Cyrus Alston, Kylie Archambault, Dilly Branch, Ryan Branch, Yzabella Padagas, Jordyn Knapp, Paul Goonan, Eric Lin, Cyrus Alston, Marcus Sipas, Denise Taclibon, Abigail Hayes, Danka Clara, Jalynn Richardson, Kelvin Bacilli, Sophia Amos, Isabella Reyes-Famous, Sonya Doyle, Michael Sanfrantello, Nicholas Sabillon, Michael Masella and Christopher Vasquez.



**Public School 175**

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders who, pending successful completion of promotion requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: **All Hallows H.S.:** Robert Samboy; **Archbishop Stepinac H.S.:** John Bernardo, Joseph Goonan, Aiden Sanchez, Cole Wiehler; **Beacon H.S.:** Angelyn Almedina, Jenna Feliciano; **Bronx Center for Science and Math:** Yu Xin Chen, Daameon Kong; **Brooklyn Latin School:** Oludotun Shodeinde; **Cardinal Spellman H.S.:** Miracle DiMartini; **Collegiate Institute for**

**Math Science:** Arjun Maystry; **Gramercy Arts H.S.:** Skyler Clifford; **High School of Contemporary Arts:** Ivonne Clara, Leslie Vasquez; **KAPPA-Knowledge and Power Prep Academy H.S.:** Praisia Ortiz; **Mamaroneck H.S.:** Francis Padagas; **Maria Regina H.S.:** Kaltrina Rugova, Isabel Whelan; **Monsignor Scanlan H.S.:** Frank Rizzo; **Montfort Academy:** Ginutis Sipas; **Mott Hall Bronx H.S.:** Emily Corova; **People’s Academy of Vermont:** Cameron Chertoff; **Preston H.S.:** Ava Ferro, Alexa Forliano; **Renaissance H.S. for Musical Theater and Technology:** Louis Almodovar; **Salesian H.S.:** Carlo Fragola Jr., Frankie Lubelli, Sebastian Rodriguez, Samuel Rosa, Joshua Rosario, Carmine Testa; **Schuylerville Preparatory H.S.:** Jaydalin Torres; **St. Raymond Academy:** Taylor Henry, Crystal Mariette, Jasmine Mariette, Leianne Taclibon; **The Ursuline School:** Maria Leni, Angelina Sciarra; **United Nations International School:** Omar Abdou; **Westchester Square Academy:** Marisol Santiago.

**Organization News**

*Continued from page 11*

members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Remember to play the Queen of Hearts game each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone hits. The game is open to all. Proceeds from the game helped fund the refurbishing of the flagpole out front.

Just a reminder. Please place your cigarette butts in the posted cans to help keep the Post clean.

Take time to cool off this summer by stopping by the post for a nice cold drink in a frosty glass.

Thank you to SAL members Steve and Tommy Lott for installing the light under our new awning.

Thanks also to Ray Olmeda for shining the portholes on the bar doors and cleaning the cigarette butts off the lower roof.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all ourselves anymore. Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post contact John Muhlfeld at (718) 885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

Tom McShane is currently going for rehabilitation at the NYS Veterans Home in Montrose, NY.

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

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

We are grateful to all those who took chances in the annual Memorial Day raffle. Proceeds help our local veterans.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all of your support over the past 98 years.

**John Muhlfeld**

**Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. Dues (\$30) are now past due.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates established by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative.

At last month’s meeting, we swore in several new members.

The SAL is conducting a 50/50 raffle to raise money for Bill Clancy III’s state commander campaign. Chances are \$5 per ticket or \$20 per book. Stop by the Post to pick some up. Chances will be going out to the mailboxes of all Squadron members.

Thanks to all of those who helped make the Kentucky Derby party a success. It helped Billy Clancy get closer to his campaign goal.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church**

Our monthly holy hour will be held on Friday, June 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. This will be our last holy hour before the summer months. We will resume in October.

Our monthly coffee hour will take place in the rectory on Sunday, June 11, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come join your fellow parishioners for light refreshments. This will be the last coffee hour before the summer. We will resume in October.

On Fathers’ Day, June 18, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all the Masses.

St. Mary’s Thrift Shop will be open during the month of June but will close at the end of the month for the summer. The thrift shop will reopen in September.

Have a happy and safe summer!

**Rose Dietz**

**Want to Keep Your Child Off Drugs and Alcohol? Try These Simple Solutions**

By JOHN SCARDINA

We all know the tragedy of addiction and its consequences, right here on our own small island. Many ask for guidance: how did this happen and what can we do? Here are some simple solutions that can make your family and home a place that promotes health and well-being:

Have dinner together as a family at least three times a week. Face-to-face contact, and the regular and consistent scheduling of family time, provide a framework that makes it harder for kids to “go under the radar” and get into difficulty. Make these “real dinners”: set the table, talk together about your day, and get a real sense of how each person is doing. Have a “no devices” rule in place, including the adults, and allow for at least 45 minutes.

Have a large, white board family calendar, with each family member putting down their schedule in a different color marker. Update the calendar once a week, and let your children know you will be checking up on them. “I’m spending the night at Johnny’s house” isn’t enough. Talk to Johnny’s parent and know that there will be appropriate adult supervision. Make sure the adults fill in the calendar as well. We all can plan our lives

better if we know where our loved ones will be.

Schedule one-on-one time with each family member. A simple date for a walk or a cup of hot chocolate will allow you to be aware of how things are going. This is not a time for interrogation but instead simple to share about your day and what’s been going on. Listen more than you talk; everyone needs a sympathetic ear.

Know when to seek help. All children—especially teenagers—will push back with parents at one time or another. Be “something to push against,” but keep the door open on your end. Seek professional guidance when you feel you are “over your head” with your child. Follow your gut instincts and err on the side of caution.

Childhood, like life, is a journey. Be a part of that journey in loving and thoughtful ways.

City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, school psychologist, and parent educator. Check out his website at [www.ThinkLaughLearn.com](http://www.ThinkLaughLearn.com) and join his parent support groups at the CI Community Center (usually the last Tuesday of the month).

Island Current						Tide Calendar							
June 2017						Tide Calendar							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY H 1:32A L 8:41A H 2:24P L 8:46P	MAY H 2:32A L 9:41A H 3:31P L 9:55P	MAY H 3:42A L 10:43A H 4:42P L 11:06P	MAY H 5:03A L 11:45A H 5:51P L 11:45P	L 12:14A H 6:17A L 12:47P H 6:54P	L 1:18A H 7:21A L 1:45P H 7:52P	L 2:18A H 8:20A L 2:41P H 8:46P	MAY H 1:46A L 7:47A L 2:04P H 8:13P	H 2:42A L 8:42A L 2:57P H 9:05P	L 3:34A H 9:33A L 3:45P H 9:53P	L 4:22A H 10:21A L 4:30P H 10:38P	L 5:06A H 11:06A L 5:11P H 11:19P	L 5:47A H 11:47A L 5:46P H 11:54P	L 6:23A H 12:24P L 6:11P H 12:24P
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
H 12:50A L 7:34A H 1:29P L 7:12P	H 1:15A L 7:49A H 1:50P L 7:49P	H 1:50A L 8:21A H 2:24P L 8:31P	H 2:31A L 9:00A H 3:05P L 9:17P	H 3:16A L 9:44A H 3:50P L 10:07P	H 4:06A L 10:32A H 4:41P L 11:01P	H 5:01A L 11:24A H 5:35P L 11:59P	H 6:01A L 12:12A H 6:35P L 12:47A	H 7:01A L 1:01P H 7:35P L 1:01P	H 8:01A L 2:01P H 8:35P L 2:01P	H 9:01A L 3:01P H 9:35P L 3:01P	H 10:01A L 4:01P H 10:35P L 4:01P	H 11:01A L 5:01P H 11:35P L 5:01P	H 12:01A L 6:01P H 12:35P L 6:01P
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
H 12:31A L 7:35A H 1:20P L 7:42P	H 1:29A L 8:29A H 2:18P L 8:42P	H 2:29A L 9:24A H 3:18P L 9:42P	H 3:34A L 10:19A H 4:19P L 10:44P	H 4:41A L 11:16A H 5:21P L 11:46P	H 5:46A L 12:13P H 6:20P L 11:46P	JUL L 12:47A H 6:49A L 1:09P H 7:18P	H 1:29A L 8:29A H 2:18P L 8:42P	H 2:29A L 9:24A H 3:18P L 9:42P	H 3:34A L 10:19A H 4:19P L 10:44P	H 4:41A L 11:16A H 5:21P L 11:46P	H 5:46A L 12:13P H 6:20P L 11:46P	H 6:49A L 1:09P H 7:18P L 11:46P	H 7:49A L 1:09P H 8:42P L 11:46P

Tide Calendar by Tom Smith

Yellow = optimal swimming time

Island Current						Tide Calendar							
August 2017						Tide Calendar							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
L = Low Tide H = High Tide Yellow = optimal swimming time		L 2:05A H 8:07A L 2:16P H 8:30P	L 2:58A H 9:00A L 3:07P H 9:21P	L 3:48A H 9:50A L 3:55P H 10:08P	L 4:33A H 10:36A L 4:37P H 10:50P	L 5:14A H 11:18A L 5:14P H 11:25P	L 1:46A H 7:47A L 2:04P H 8:13P	H 2:42A L 8:42A L 2:57P H 9:05P	L 3:34A H 9:33A L 3:45P H 9:53P	L 4:22A H 10:21A L 4:30P H 10:38P	L 5:06A H 11:06A L 5:11P H 11:19P	L 5:47A H 11:47A L 5:46P H 11:54P	L 6:23A H 12:24P L 6:11P H 12:24P
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
H 4:26A L 10:32A H 4:46P L 11:23P	H 5:24A L 11:11A H 5:46P L 11:23P	H 6:21A L 12:10P H 6:49P L 12:10P	H 7:21A L 1:01P H 7:50P L 1:21P	H 8:21A L 2:01P H 8:55P L 2:21P	H 9:21A L 3:01P H 9:55P L 3:21P	H 10:21A L 4:01P H 10:55P L 4:21P	H 11:21A L 5:01P H 11:55P L 5:21P	H 12:21A L 6:01P H 12:55P L 6:21P	H 1:21A L 7:01A H 1:41P L 7:41P	H 2:21A L 8:01A H 2:41P L 8:41P	H 3:21A L 9:01A H 3:41P L 9:41P	H 4:21A L 10:01A H 4:41P L 10:41P	H 5:21A L 11:01A H 5:41P L 11:41P
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
L 4:36A H 10:42A L 4:38P H 10:49P	L 5:11A H 11:13A L 5:11P H 11:10P	L 5:39A H 11:31A L 5:40P H 11:32P	L 6:03A H 11:52A L 6:14P H 11:32P	L 6:32A H 12:12A L 6:32A H 12:12A	L 7:06A H 12:36A L 7:06A H 12:36A	L 7:41A H 1:01A L 7:41A H 1:01A	L 8:16A H 1:36A L 8:16A H 1:36A	L 9:01A H 2:11A L 9:01A H 2:11A	L 9:46A H 2:56A L 9:46A H 2:56A	L 10:31A H 3:41A L 10:31A H 3:41A	L 11:16A H 4:26A L 11:16A H 4:26A	L 12:01A H 5:11A L 12:01A H 5:11A	L 12:46A H 5:56A L 12:46A H 5:56A
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
H 2:58A L 8:53A H 2:58P L 9:39P	H 3:35A L 9:11A H 3:30P L 10:04P	H 4:17A L 9:48A H 4:09P L 10:38P	H 5:16A L 10:34A H 4:59P L 11:35P	H 6:34A L 11:28A H 6:05P L 11:35P	H 7:47A L 12:28A H 7:18P L 12:28A	H 8:55P L 1:01A H 8:55P L 1:01A	H 10:08P L 2:11A H 10:08P L 2:11A	H 11:21P L 3:24A H 11:21P L 3:24A	H 12:36P L 4:37A H 12:36P L 4:37A	H 1:41A L 5:42A H 1:41A L 5:42A	H 2:56A L 6:57A H 2:56A L 6:57A	H 4:11A L 8:12A H 4:02A L 8:28P	H 5:26A L 9:27A H 5:17A L 9:43P

Tide Calendar September 2017

Yellow = optimal swimming time

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

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

JUNE 2017									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0014	0.48	0617	7.43	1247	0.12	1854	7.60	Thu 01
02 Fri	0118	0.46	0721	7.35	1345	0.27	1952	7.74	Fri 02
03 Sat	0218	0.34	0820	7.36	1441	0.34	2046	7.89	Sat 03
04 Sun	0313	0.18	0914	7.39	1532	0.38	2136	8.02	Sun 04
05 Mon	0404	0.02	1004	7.43	1619	0.42	2223	8.09	Mon 05
06 Tue	0451	-0.07	1050	7.44	1703	0.49	2306	8.09	Tue 06
07 Wed	0535	-0.10	1133	7.41	1742	0.59	2345	8.03	Wed 07
08 Thu	0615	-0.05	1214	7.35	1816	0.72			Thu 08
09 Fri	0020	7.92	0651	0.07	1250	7.26	1839	0.84	Fri 09
10 Sat	0042	7.81	0720	0.21	1319	7.18	1846	0.89	Sat 10
11 Sun	0050	7.78	0734	0.32	1329	7.16	1912	0.88	Sun 11
12 Mon	0115	7.82	0749	0.35	1350	7.24	1949	0.87	Mon 12
13 Tue	0150	7.85	0821	0.36	1424	7.36	2031	0.87	Tue 13
14 Wed	0231	7.84	0900	0.38	1501	7.47	2117	0.89	Wed 14
15 Thu	0316	7.77	0944	0.41	1550	7.57	2207	0.89	Thu 15
16 Fri	0406	7.64	1032	0.45	1641	7.67	2301	0.86	Fri 16
17 Sat	0501	7.49	1124	0.47	1735	7.79	2359	0.76	Sat 17
18 Sun	0559	7.35	1220	0.45	1833	7.94			Sun 18
19 Mon	0105	0.57	0702	7.28	1320	0.37	1933	8.13	Mon 19
20 Tue	0220	0.27	0808	7.31	1424	0.23	2035	8.36	Tue 20
21 Wed	0340	-0.15	0915	7.42	1531	0.03	2136	8.59	Wed 21
22 Thu	0447	-0.59	1021	7.60	1639	-0.18	2235	8.77	Thu 22
23 Fri	0546	-0.95	1123	7.77	1743	-0.35	2333	8.86	Fri 23
24 Sat	0641	-1.16	1222	7.89	1843	-0.43			Sat 24
25 Sun	0031	8.81	0735	-1.19	1320	7.95	1942	-0.39	Sun 25
26 Mon	0129	8.64	0829	-1.06	1418	7.93	2042	-0.25	Mon 26
27 Tue	0229	8.35	0924	-0.80	1518	7.85	2142	-0.04	Tue 27
28 Wed	0334	8.00	1019	-0.45	1619	7.75	2244	0.20	Wed 28
29 Thu	0441	7.65	1116	-0.07	1721	7.67	2346	0.40	Thu 29
30 Fri	0546	7.37	1213	0.27	1820	7.63			Fri 30
JULY 2017									
01 Sat	0047	0.52	0649	7.18	1309	0.54	1918	7.65	Sat 01
02 Sun	0146	0.56	7.47	7.09	1404	0.72	2013	7.70	Sun 02
03 Mon	0242	0.52	0842	7.08	1457	0.82	2105	7.78	Mon 03
04 Tue	0334	0.43	0933	7.12	1545	0.87	2153	7.85	Tue 04
05 Wed	0422	0.35	1021	7.19	1630	0.89	2238	7.89	Wed 05
06 Thu	0506	0.28	1106	7.24	1711	0.91	2319	7.90	Thu 06



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

John Sheridan gave a fascinating talk about City Island's historic streets at the Nautical Museum to an enthusiastic audience on Sunday, April 30, 2017, and answered many questions about the origin of the streets as well as their names.

**Our Presentation at the Nautical Museum, Part I**

On April 30, at the Nautical Museum on Fordham Street, we had the privilege of presenting some of the things we have learned about the streets of City Island. Not wanting to merely retell the stories John McNamara told so well in his definitive work on the origins of Bronx street names, "History in Asphalt," we made an appointment with the librarian at the New York Historical Society (NYHS) in Manhattan. We knew we would not be disappointed at NYHS, as it is the home of the Benjamin Palmer papers.

Most City Islanders with a penchant for history can tell you that Benjamin Palmer was the man with the plan to turn City Island into a center of trade in the late 18th and early 19th century. The name City Island, in fact, comes from that plan (actually New City Island was what Palmer himself called it). Before that, the island went by any one of a number of names. The name referred to most often in the collection at NYHS is Great Miniford Island.

Because Palmer began his venture when New York still belonged to England, it was protocol of the time to request the Crown's permission before making the sorts of improvements that Palmer had in mind. A bridge, for instance. Among Palmer's papers at NYHS are drafts and copies of numerous examples of official correspondence with New York's colonial

legislature on the matter of building a bridge. There is also a copy of that body's approval of the project.

On the subject of City Island streets, our favorite find at NYHS was the following:

What it says is "... and order the streets of said Island to be opened and to give names to the streets...." We can be reasonably sure that even then, in the 1760s, City Island had at least one street—Main Street, what we call City Island Avenue today. Of course, it looked a lot different then, although the changes that took place on City Island did not happen as quickly as Benjamin Palmer would have liked. Another fascinating item of the collection at NYHSA is a handwritten account of the minutes of some of the meetings of the principal investors in Palmer's plan for City Island. Even the most cursory glance of the document reveals an appetite less than hearty for the rapid development of City Island. Mostly they talked of fences and animals encroaching on the property rights of others.

Eventually, development was to come, but Palmer wouldn't see it. He was dead and buried by the time the first bridge was built in 1873. In next month's column, we will share more of what we learned about City Island's development. Those who can't wait should consider a visit to the Nautical Museum, where they have a good collection pertaining to this subject and many, many others relating to City Island.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Mayor Bill de Blasio hosted the opening ceremony for Orchard Beach on May 26, 2017, and announced that the landmarked pavilions, which have been deteriorating, will be restored, thanks to \$40 million in funding provided by New York City, the Governor of New York State, the State Assembly, and the Bronx Borough President. Joining him on the podium were Representative Joe Crowley, State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver. Also in attendance were Assemblyman Mike Benedetto, Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez Rosa and the Bronx Borough Commander of the NYPD.

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# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Sally Holmes rose

## The Poet's Garden

On City Island there is a little blue house. Within it, purple oxalis that have bent toward the light leave tiny white flowers pressed up against the window. Pressed flowers and a cavalcade of books remind me of Vita Sackville West's long library at Sissinghurst in England, where the garden sneaks into the house amidst imagined lively conversation.

Outside the blue house a bower of pyracantha spreads its arching arm around the pane, leaving the garden framed in leaf, flower and thorn. The cutting garden is ready for seeding, right on cue, for it is June. The beautiful rose Sally Holmes is opening its ivory flowers punctuated with saffron-colored stamens. Beside this blooms a yellow David Austin rose called Celebration, which is cupped and full.

This is not a stately garden. It is wild and scattered with odds and ends. Gnomes, dinosaurs and rubber snakes live here, as do cast-iron ducks, which protect an old mulberry stump. Weeds are allowed, as are the plastic frogs.

For years, I have tried unsuccessfully to British it up, but there will be no straight hedges, topiary or tidy borders here. No. Everything must be left as is, and one must garden around the bric-a-

brac. Yet I have come to truly appreciate its style. For this is what quixotic gardening can be, an expression of a person's unique stamp of creativity.

This is a poet's garden, where friends are treated with loving care. Flowers, verse and mirth accompany candlelight dinners. A refuge for artists, careworn and down at heel. A house filled with love and learning. What better reward after a day of work than to walk down a lane that still feels so quaint in 2017 and enter a world that one can call friend.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. www.theartistgardener.com.

*Remember June's long days, and wild strawberries, drops of wine, the dew.*

Adam Zagajewski, a Polish poet

**Psychotherapy for Loss and Other Challenges**

**Nancy Dereksen, LCSW**

1 West Avenue, Ste 208, Larchmont, NY 13876

914-588-1683

ndereksen04@earthlink.net



Photos by MATT PANZA

Two sad-looking empty storefronts on City Island Avenue, one at the corner of Carroll Street (above) and one at 414 City Island Avenue, north of the Sunoco station. Neither building is listed as being for sale or rent.

## CI Old & New

Continued from page 1

the front office, which will eventually move next door to 632 City Island Avenue when work there has been completed. These shops are leased from 630-636 City Island Avenue, a firm owned by John Ciafone, an attorney in Queens, who owns several other properties on City Island, which are listed as LLCs.

### New Construction

A large new building is being constructed at 435 Hunter Avenue, which is adjacent to Seafood City and under the same ownership. The building, which will contain a sit-down restaurant on the first floor and a series of catering rooms on the second, raised some eyebrows in the community when the architect's design was posted on the Civic Facebook page. Although the architect, Edward Weinstein, has done a great deal of work on waterfront properties in the city, the rendering of the building made it appear very stark, more like an industrial facility than a waterfront restaurant. Councilmember James Vacca, concerned that this did not seem to reflect the nautical character of City Island, called a meeting with the owners, the architect and two representatives of the Civic Association, one of them an architect, Andrew Blackman. Mr. Weinstein expressed willingness to work with Mr. Blackman on aspects of the design that can make the building somewhat more appealing visually. The owners also noted that there would be an additional exit from the property onto City Island Avenue be-

tween Bowne and Ditmars Street.

Mr. Weinstein is now in the process of designing five private homes for Haim Joseph, who received a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to build in what has traditionally been called the Tier Street wetlands, between Tier and Ditmars Streets. No date has been set for construction, as the drawings have not yet been submitted to the Buildings Department, but Mr. Joseph assured *The Current* that the homes—four of them two-family houses and one for one family—would have a nautical character. DEC's permit requires Mr. Joseph to build a section of William Avenue north of Tier Street, currently mapped but not built, in order to provide access to a private road above the wetlands, from which the new houses will face Eastchester Bay.

At the corner of King Avenue and Sutherland Street, a new house is being constructed to replace a house that once belonged to Tony Amato (of the Amato Opera) but suffered severe storm damage beginning in 1992. Although neighbors are happy to see that the old house is gone, since it was abandoned and vandalized over the years, they are concerned that the flood zone building requirements will force the owner to create a virtual skyscraper in its place.

There are only a few unsold units at On the Sound condominium at the west end of Fordham Street, and it is hoped that the remaining buildings will be completed by the end of year. Perhaps in time for the opening of the new bridge if you believe the contractors!

**CRAB SHANTY**  
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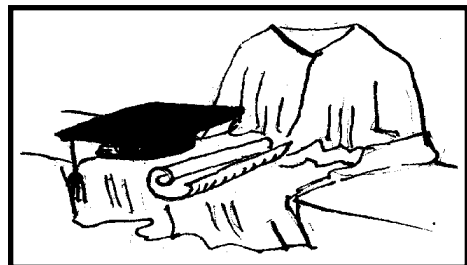
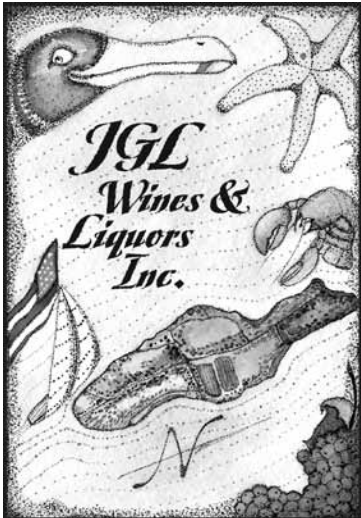
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**BLUE & GOLDEN!**



*Photos by ANN-MARIE GOONAN*

The 2017 Troop 211 Boy Scout Blue & Gold Ceremony was held on May 7 at the City Island Yacht Club, and many troop achievements were recognized. Eight boys "crossed the bridge" from Webelos into the Boy Scouts during the Arrow of Light ceremony (top photos) including Peter Hickey, Patrick Clancy, Paul Goonan, Michael San Frantello, Cassius Walker, Brendan Best, Marcus Sipas and Alex Persteins. The troop proudly showed off their first place trophy from the Klondike Derby Sled Race (middle photo). This year, City Island was picked to pilot a new program, called the Lions, consisting of kindergarten-age scouts. Led by Rene Matos, the young troop includes Chris Matos, Thomas McAnerny, Matthew Dellacerra, Joseph Colon and Lucas Sipas. The Wolves, led by Brendan Delaney, also joined in the ceremony (bottom photo): Malcolm Walker, Robert Delaney, Jake Penny, Joseph DeSantis, Matteo Ciccone, Norman Stewart and Oisin Daly.

# Obituaries

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

## Anthony Italiano

Anthony Italiano, known to everyone as Tony, passed away on April 13, 2017, at the age of 87.

He was born to Anthony and Mary (Tripaldi) Italiano on City Island on June 22, 1929, and lived here all of his life. His father had been born in 1904 in Manhattan but the family moved soon afterward to City Island.

Tony graduated from P.S. 17 in 1943 and attended Christopher Columbus High School. In 1947, he joined Ratsey and Laphorn Sailmakers, where three of his uncles—Dom, Jimmy and Paul Tripaldi—worked. On Jan. 8, 1950, Tony married Joan Mehner, and they raised two sons, James and Greg, on Fordham Street. In 1974, the family moved to the Mehner family home on Hawkins Street, where his two sons still reside.

When Ratsey's closed its City Island loft in 1983, Tony went to Hild Sails, and when Hild sold to Doyle in the 1990s, he went to U.K. Sailmakers, from which he retired in 2014. Over those 67 years as a sailmaker, the business changed dramatically, but Tony's specialty doing custom-made bench work remained much the same.

In addition to his career, Tony was an avid bowler, often competing three times a week, first in Larchmont and then in White Plains.

Tony was predeceased by his brother, Billy, and his sister, Anita, and is survived by Joan, his wife of 67 years; his two sons; and numerous nieces and nephews, several of whom visited City Island only a few days before he died, enjoying his tour of the community, including the Nautical Museum, where sails on which he worked are on display.

He was buried in Pelham Cemetery in the family plot.



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

## 10 Important Things to Do after Filing your Taxes

Too many people file their tax returns and go on with their lives. Now is a perfect time, however, to take some concrete steps and make next year's tax season a smoother process.

1. Make sure that the records used to do your 2016 taxes are complete. File them with your hard copy tax return in a folder or in an external hard or thumb drive. It's not wise to keep tax information on your computer. NEVER on a laptop. If you keep paper records, invest in a fire box.

2. Shred or destroy old tax returns. Your accountant, or your town or city will take your old documents and shred them. Never put them in a dumpster or out on the curb as garbage. There is a confusing array of times suggested for keeping tax records, so I'll simplify it for you. Keep your tax records for at least three years but seven years is better. Keep cost basis records for as long as you own the asset, and for three to seven years after disposition.

3. Resolve to improve your record keeping for the 2017-18 tax season. One

way to do this is to get a dedicated credit card for deductible expenses. This is especially true if you have a business on the side. At a minimum, you should load apps that track your expenses. A good one is called Mint.Com, but there are others. These apps can track your spending so you can easily segregate your deductible expenses.

4. Don't congratulate yourself for getting a large refund. Review your withholdings with your payroll department or employer. Whatever the difference between what you were receiving and your new net should be put into an automated savings plan.

5. Don't waste your tax refunds on frivolous things. No one needs a vacation or a party or a new car when savings aren't substantial enough to justify the expense. It's tough being an adult, but here's your chance. Deposit the money into an emergency savings account, or a retirement account, or your kid's 529 plan. Replace all of your light bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs. Do anything that can help improve your financial position.

6. If you got hit with a large tax bill, have a conversation with your tax preparer. If you have a side business and are constantly facing a large tax bill in April, open a savings account and with every check received in receipt of goods or services, deposit 25 percent directly in this dedicated account. Make your quarterly estimated tax payments with this money.

7. Keep a notepad in your car. Mileage records are surprisingly useful when preparing your taxes. The IRS allows you to deduct mileage for medical trips to and from your provider, mileage dedicated to performing charitable deeds (e.g., dropping off food at a charity drive, providing a senior a ride in an organized "wheels for seniors" program, driving to and from a charity event). If your employer sends you some place other than your regular place of work on an assignment, or maybe you're sent to another city and use your personal car, this mileage allowance is deductible on a "cents" per mile basis, but only if documented. That's where your notepad comes in. Jot down the mileage, date and purpose of the trip. It adds up.

8. Invest in yourself. Your tax return is a sobering look at how much (or little) you're making. Make the conscious decision to take classes to improve your skills; the cost of these classes is deductible. Make the effort to look for a new work situation. Job hunting expenses are also tax deductible. These include résumé preparation fees, networking events (entrance fees, mileage or transportation expenses to and from) and subscriptions to trade magazines.

9. Start a side business. Not only does this position you to have an alternative stream of revenue, but there are many deductions available to the entrepreneur. Monetize a hobby. The IRS draws a sharp distinction between a hobby and a business. The distinctions, however, are a relatively low threshold. Your primary interest is to make a profit. To that end, the IRS expects you to keep careful business records (not a shoebox of receipts, but accounting software or a spreadsheet). The IRS expects you to actively market and promote your business, so get business cards, create a web page and open a PayPal account in order to process payments.

10. Bunch your medical expenses. The threshold for deducting medical expenses is 10 percent of your adjusted gross income. Say you make \$60,000. This would mean that anything over \$6,000 is deductible. As you start approaching this threshold, it makes sense to go past it. Get that long delayed dental work. Advance order prescriptions. Order a new pair of eyeglasses. If the threshold is too high for you, there's another advantage to having a side business. It allows you to deduct your insurance premiums as a self-employment insurance

deduction.

I have covered a lot of ground here, so use some common sense. Not everything in this article applies to your personal tax situation, since everyone's tax picture is unique. One thing is true for everyone, however: if all your tax preparer does is prepare your taxes, you should con-

sider using an accountant, someone with a broader view of your finances and the tax laws. A good accountant will prepare your taxes. A great accountant will work with you to help reduce your legal tax obligation.

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Photo courtesy of JIM ROMEO

Bronx Rotarians enjoyed visiting P.S. 175 on a project site visit in May. When the club learned of the need for books to fill the library shelves at the school, members rose to the challenge and donated \$3,000, so that the school could buy what it needed. During the site visit, Rotarians invited four students, Kaltrina Rugova, Emma Kushnirsky, Johanna Doyle and Christina Lachman, to join them for lunch and to help place bookplates in all of the books indicating that they had been presented to the City Island School by the Rotary Club of the Bronx. Principal Amy Lipson is pictured standing at the center with Rotary President Amir Asadi to her left and President-Elect Sandy Wolstein on her right.


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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.



Briana Lotrionte

Birthday greetings to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, who will celebrate his big day on June 23.

Congratulations to City Island's own Joe Goonan, who was honored by Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. at the Annual Veterans' Breakfast in April. Joe has been a proud member of the Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post 156 for 45 years.

Happy belated 25th birthday to Briana Lotrionte. We love you to the moon and back. Hope it's a great year. Mom, Dad, Nicolette, Andrew, Jillian and Stella Rose.

Shared birthday wishes on June 7 to The Island Current's Karen Nani and Margaret Lenz and to Ginger Dannegger and Rose Kolb on June 4.

June is a busy month for the Ribaldo family. Happy birthday wishes to our two

lovely daughters-in-law, Meredith Ribaldo on June 3 and Danielle Ribaldo on June 15. Enjoy your day! All our love, Mom and Dad Ribaldo.

Happy anniversary on June 21 to Anthony and Meredith Ribaldo, who are celebrating nine years of happiness.

Happy birthday to Debra G. Erickson, who celebrates on June 19, with love from Mom, Elzie and Ken.

Special birthday wishes on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld.

June birthday greetings to Judy Rauh and her brother, John Wright, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday on June 29 to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Belated mutual happy birthday wishes on May 9 to my cousin, Genie Jones, of Oceanside, CA. Good health, wealth and happiness (and perhaps a date with Tom Selleck of "Bluebloods")! Love, cuz Barbs (Barbara Haas Lynch).

Congratulations to Briana Lotrionte on her graduation from New York Medical College and receiving her doctorate in physical therapy. We are all so proud of you for all your hard work and dedication. Best of luck to you in your career as a physical therapist. With love from Mom, Dad, Nicolette, Andrew, Jillian and Stella Rose.

Lots of happy birthday greetings to Barbara Haas Lynch's special pal, Carolyn Foley Peters, of Huntsville, AL, on June 21. Their friendship goes back to Mrs. Berg's first-grade class in P.S. 17. She wishes her dear friend a happy and healthy year, and says hi to all of their graduating class of 1952 from P.S. 17.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Justin and Nicole Rodstrom, who will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on June 17.

Happy 50th Birthday to my much older brother, James Goonan! With love from your fabulous much younger sister, AMG.

And a very happy Father's Day on June 18 to all our dads and grandfathers. Enjoy!

Maria Swieciki



Photo courtesy of MARY CARMAN

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School's class of 1958 gathered once again, to share family news and stay in touch, at the Lobster House on Sunday, April 30, 2017. It has been nine years since the 50th anniversary celebration of their graduation and the beat goes on; (l. to r.) Mary Fogarty Carman '58, Patricia Wennberg DelGiudice '58, John Neuner '58, Joe Gelsi, Frank Giacovelli, Carol "Bunny" Sullivan Giacovelli '58, Jane Genovese Gelsi '58, William Mueller '58, Angela Mueller, Barbara Harrison, Darrell Smith, and Charles Carman.



Photo by ROSEMARIE FRIED

Islander Johanna Paciullo was in Saratoga, NY, to applaud her granddaughter, Talia Grace Fried (third from the left), at her ballet recital on May 7, 2017.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Island Current board members Ginger Dannegger, Emily Leni and Judy Rauh, celebrated Maria Swieciki's 300th column as the Talebearer with a plaque presented on April 25, 2017. The Current's art director, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, created the plaque, which features Maria's first column in March 1987 alongside her 300th column in March 2017. Congratulations to Maria on 30 years of City Island tales!

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Subscriptions form for The Island Current. Includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip and a section for gift subscriptions.



Photo courtesy of AMERICAN LEGION POST 156

Longtime Legion member Joe Goonan (second from left) was honored at the Annual Veterans' Breakfast in April hosted by Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. (third from left).

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