

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Oysters Made City Island, and Now City Island Will Make Oysters

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Fred Glasier and his oystering skiff on the west shore of City Island.

Oysters Then

Many City Island residents are unaware that the biggest business here in the 19th century did not involve restaurants or beaches but was centered on oyster farming. And if the community joins together to support the new oyster-planting project being developed by the City Island Drift (formerly the Viacomunity Day committee), oysters may become part of City Island's present and future as well as its history.

Because there was no bridge between City Island and the mainland until 1873, residents who tried to run businesses here could not easily get their goods to market off the Island. In 1835, for example, Peter Cooper, who later founded Cooper Union, bought land on the Island in order to establish a glue factory, but the lack of transportation made the project unworkable.

At about the same time, a shipbuilder from Connecticut named Orrin Frederick Fordham moved to City Island, and tradition has it that he brought with him a system of planting oysters on artificial beds to increase oyster growth beyond the great natural banks in Eastchester Bay. By spreading shells on the bay floor, oyster larvae or spat could be attracted to the shells and readily collected and marketed in about three years. Because oysters could be gathered and delivered to market by boat rather than over land, oystering quickly became a major industry on City Island. According to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1880, "It is safe to say...that half a hundred families derive their support from the oyster-industry in this one community. . . . The total production of East Chester bay, last season (1879-80), may be placed approximately at 55,000 bushels."

The author of the Fisheries Bureau report went on to say: "I have no doubt that, whatever was the date of its origin, the credit of first truly propagating oysters from seed caught upon artificial beds or prepared receptacles, belongs to the men of City Island. It had been a matter of common observation, that any object tossed into the water in summer, became covered at once

with infant oysters. The sedges along the edge of the marshes, and the buoys, stakes, and wharf-piles were similarly clothed. If the circumstances were favorable, this deposit survived the winter, and the next spring the youngsters were large enough to be taken and transplanted. It was only a short step in logic, therefore, to conclude, that if objects were thrown thickly into the water, on purpose to catch the floating spawn, a large quantity of young oysters would be secured, and could be saved for transplanting at very slight expense."

One of the reasons for the great success of the oyster business was the incredible popularity of the mollusk in New York City in the 19th century. According to an essay by Andrew Gardner called "The Mighty Mollusk" (2017) "restaurants thrived by offering quick meals that appealed to upper-class businessmen and workers short on time, and oysters were a perfect choice as they could be served and eaten quickly. The oyster stands that dotted the streets at lunchtime and operated in the city's markets were frequented by members of both the high and low classes of society."

Unfortunately, because of overharvesting, pollution, landfilling and bottom dredging, the oyster population in New York declined toward the end of the century, and with it the popularity of oysters with the restaurant trade. Some City Islanders caused trouble by acting as oyster pirates, as they were called by the New York Times and other newspapers, for invading the waters of communities on Long Island, but business on City Island by then had turned to ship building, and oystering was on its way out.

Oysters Now

By the turn of the 20th century, the oyster reefs throughout New York Harbor had been dredged up and covered with silt, and water quality was so bad that little marine life was able to survive. However, the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, which prohibited the dumping of waste in the harbor, made it possible for the water

to become clean enough that efforts were launched to restore the population of many species, specifically the oyster.

In 2014, the Billion Oyster Project (billionoysterproject.org) was formed with the goal of repopulating New York Harbor with oysters. This time the goal is not to feed New Yorkers but to enable oysters to clean the water by removing pollutants such as nitrogen and by building oyster reefs that can protect the city against storm surges and flooding. The project involves the participation of students in oyster restoration, and so far more than 6,000 local students have participated in the hands-on curriculum. More than 28 million oysters have been planted, 12 oyster reefs over 7 acres have been created, and more than a million pounds of oyster shells have been diverted from landfills and returned to the harbor.

Recognizing that much of this work has been the result of volunteer participation and the cooperation of city restaurants that provided the oyster shells, a newly formed group on City Island called the City Island Drift, which grew out of last year's Viacomunity Day (see the June 2018 issue of *The Island Current*), has undertaken

the challenge of restoring City Island's oyster populations, not just for the sake of improving the environment but also because oyster reefs are such a significant part of City Island's history. The Drift, headed by Maria Caruso, is planning to make this project an important part of Viacomunity Day, which this year will take place on Friday, May 10.

Paul Mankiewicz, an ecologist who resides on City Island, proposed in the early 1990s that oyster reefs and saltmarsh be used to create a living filter around the Pelham Bay Landfill. In recent years, he has successfully created reefs in southwest Florida, and is working with Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving Services to advise the group in the ways Islanders can participate in this important project.

Unlike Orrin Fordham's oyster planting scheme, the new plan does not include creating oysters to be eaten or transported to restaurants but has as its primary goal making the waters around City Island healthier and safer. An adult oyster can filter as much as 50 gallons of water a day, and in so do-

Continued on page 3

State Legislators Visit City Island

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (above, left) addressed the City Island community on Feb. 21, 2019, and answered questions about state and local issues. The town hall was moderated by City Island Indivisible members Barbara Zahm and John Doyle (seated).

As of Jan. 1, 2019, the New York State government has a Democratic governor, Senate and Assembly, and already several bills have passed, including the Reproductive Health Act and Voter Rights Reforms. In order to understand the implications of these and other issues that are being considered in Albany, the City Island Indivisible Group sponsored two town hall meetings at which Assemblyman Mike Benedetto and State Senator Alessandra Biaggi were asked to explain their positions on issues ranging from ethics and voting rights to health care and the environment, as well as local concerns.

Mr. Benedetto addressed his City Island constituents on Thursday, Jan. 24, and Alessandra Biaggi met with the community on Thursday, Feb. 21. As newly appointed chair of the Assembly's Education Com-

mittee, Mr. Benedetto was asked a number of questions about the bill he sponsored regarding education reform, which is now being deliberated in the Senate. Ms. Biaggi, as chair of the Ethics and Internal Governance Committee, was asked what issues her committee faces during the current session, which runs from January through June.

Both legislators were praised for their respective roles in helping to pass into law several positive changes with electoral reform, such as same-day voter registration, early voting and so on, as well as for their views on campaign finance reform. The Reproductive Health Act was also signed into law soon after the beginning of the term, and in response to the issue of late-term abortion, Ms. Biaggi, who was raised a Ro-

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

POET GERARD MALANGA will present a reading and book signing at the Island Gallery, 278 City Island Avenue, on Friday, March 1. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the reading will begin at 7 p.m. Copies of his latest book, "Cool & Other Poems," will be available for purchase. Gerard Malanga, who was born in the Bronx, is the author of numerous books of poetry and is also a photographer and filmmaker. He is especially known for his black-and-white portraits of fellow poets, writers, and artists, and he worked with Andy Warhol in the 1960s. The event is cosponsored by Anoosh Donahue/Early Ruth and the Island Gallery. For more information, e-mail anoosh.design.nyc@gmail.com.

ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1966 will celebrate "When the Class of '66 turns 66" on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Please call Annamarie Reilly Camella at 973-620-9276 for information and a reservation form. Reservations requested by April 1, 2019.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: On Tuesday, March 5, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

ST. PADDY'S DAY 5K RACE will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at The Clipper Café, 274 City Island Avenue, and the finish line will be at The Snug, 302 City Island Avenue. All ages are welcome and the suggested donation is \$10. All proceeds will be donated to the City Island Theater Group. For more information contact Rose Rodstrom (rrodstrom@gmail.com) or Jackie Ciarletta (Jacqueline.Ciarletta@gmail.com).

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 - RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2019:

2/7 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island female, 64, and charged her with assault on Tier Street at 7:30 a.m. The defendant arrived at her place of work as a caregiver and allegedly punched another off-Island female in the face. According to police, the two women were co-workers.

2/8 - On City Island Avenue, an un-

known vehicle struck an Island resident's parked vehicle at 10 p.m. and then fled the scene of the accident.

2/9 - At 9 p.m. on City Island Avenue, police responded to a call from the alarm company of a commercial establishment and found the front window shattered by unknown person(s) in an act of criminal mischief. Police examined video from the store's camera that showed two unknown males fighting outside the store around the time of the incident.

2/11 - Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of reckless endangerment at 9:46 p.m. on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street. They responded to a 911 call of shots fired and upon arrival found shell casings at the gas station. Police reviewed surveillance video from the scene which showed two unknown males brandishing firearms and another pumping gas at the time of the incident. Suspects fled the scene before police arrived, so it is unknown whether there were any injuries or who fired the shots.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto spoke at a town hall gathering at the City Island Nautical Museum on Jan. 24, 2019.

Legislators Visit

Continued from page 1

man Catholic, was quick to explain: “We do not celebrate abortion. The bill is about protecting the lives of women and enabling abortions at 24 weeks when the fetus is not viable.” She pointed to the bill passed in Ireland, a strongly Catholic country, that allows late-term abortions to protect a woman’s life.

Barbara Zahm and Lois Wagh moderated the meeting with Assemblyman Benedetto and asked a series of prepared questions relating to statewide and local issues before asking for questions from the floor. As Education Committee chair, he noted that the first issue he must address is allocating proper funding in the state budget, one quarter of which is for education. He is in the process of studying revisions in the ways in which teachers are evaluated, as well as the problems relating to standardized testing and the tests for specialized high schools. As a special education teacher in the Bronx for over 30 years, Mr. Benedetto also plans to review the ways in which special ed has increasingly become merged with general education. In addition, he will explore the reasons why the \$4 billion formerly allocated for public schools never reached them, including City Island’s own P.S. 175.

On the subject of transportation, the Assemblyman was pleased to announce that in collaboration with the NYS Department of Transportation, the state has launched a \$33 million plan to mitigate traffic issues on I-95 between Country Club Road and the Hutchinson River Parkway. The exit to City Island/Orchard Beach, now an exit-only lane, will be extended as a northbound travel lane, a new exit into Co-op City from the Hutch will be created and other improvements will be made to the current I-95, which now suffers with significant traffic congestion.

Moderators Barbara Zahm and John Doyle opened the town hall with Ms. Biaggi with a brief review of her experience leading up to her upset victory over longtime State Senator Jeff Klein in the 2018 Democratic primary, and her subsequent election to the Senate. Ms. Zahm told the crowd of more than 70 interested residents and off-Islanders that Ms. Biaggi was the fourth generation of her family to live in District 34, which includes City Island. She has a law degree from Fordham University and has worked for both Governor Andrew Cuomo and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, as well as the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Biaggi energetically explained the historical significance of the 2018 election. “For the first time in 100 years, the New York State Senate is controlled by Democrats.” As a result, Ms. Biaggi became chair of the Ethics and Health Committees and her commitment to change was evident. “The Ethics Committee met for only the second time in 2017 in response to complaints of corruption in Albany. I am reviving the effort for the committee to be taken seriously and oversee good government reform.” Specifically, she will hold hearings on sexual harassment and misconduct in New York State and address the issue of the influence of “dark” money in state politics. She supports the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) and believes in the need for an independent body to rule on conflicts of interest.

Both Mr. Benedetto and Ms. Biaggi were asked about the health care act advocating a single-payer system that was passed by the Assembly several times but was rejected by the Senate in previous years. “The single-payer system proposed nationally is basically the same as the New York Health Act that passed in the Assembly. It is now being taken seriously and can pass in the State Senate, but we have to make sure it is fiscally sound,” Ms. Biaggi cautioned. She described the many potential benefits, including coverage for all and savings for 98 percent of New Yorkers who currently pay for health insurance. Although the health act should eliminate additional bills, co-pays and deductibles, as well as adding additional health benefits, it is not clear how it will be paid for. It would theoretically eliminate private insurers, but taxes will have to be raised (e.g., payroll tax increase). Ms. Biaggi noted: “This has to be done carefully as a deliberative process. California and Vermont have already failed, so New York has to get it right.”

Governor Cuomo’s Green New Deal advocating environmental protection laws was also discussed, specifically in comparison to the Green New Deal proposed nationally by recently elected Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. “It’s so exciting that a New York Congresswoman is leading the charge on climate change,” Ms. Biaggi said proudly. “The governor’s proposal and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez’s plans overlap.” She explained that both plans include combinations of the following: mandates for 100 percent clean power by 2040, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent, investment in clean technology, decarbonization of the atmosphere, a carbon tax, elimination of plastic bags and straws, and storm resiliency, which specifically affects City Island.

Environmental issues were a hot topic during the town halls (all puns intended), and both legislators were supportive of efforts to promote clean air and water. On a local issue, Mr. Benedetto promised help from the Department of Environmental Conservation for a City Island project described by Civic Association officer Barbara Dolensek. “We are currently working on a project to ‘plant’ oyster populations in Eastchester Bay off City Island, to help control storm surges and to clean the water (see story on page 1). The state senator responded enthusiastically as well, saying that this fit right in with her Sustainable South Bronx plan for more greenery, clean water and storm resiliency, and promised to work with residents to help achieve this goal.

Local issues were the focus of the last minutes of the town hall meetings. Islanders pleaded with the legislators to help with the noise from the Rodman’s Neck firing range. Although it is an NYPD facility, the Rodman’s Neck range is used by state police officers as well, and both Mr. Benedetto and Ms. Biaggi were asked to look into ways that the state could contribute to the costs of improving sound abatement at the range, perhaps by funding temporary baffling that would minimize the noise level as the city’s construction project proceeds.

Both legislators were eager to hear about local concerns and made notes on issues of particular interest to City Islanders. Mr. Benedetto’s office can be reached at 718-892-2235, and the number for Ms. Biaggi’s office is 718-822-2049.

CITY ISLAND MEMORIES BROUGHT TO LIFE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Hidden for many years in an old file cabinet at the City Island Nautical Museum was a folder full of interviews with 25 City Island residents that had been recorded and transcribed in 1984. Because these interviews reflect life on City Island 35 years ago, when the Island was very different from what it is now, museum volunteers have been editing these stories and hope to bring them to life within the next few months.

The idea is to combine the interviews with images in a five-part documentary that will be on view in the exhibit rooms in the museum. Recordings of the original words will be played against images of City Island relevant to the subjects described by the interviewees. Old photographs of City Island will be supplemented by old and new videos to show how the community has changed and, in some cases, remained the same.

The videos will be available for visitors to view in the Library, the Nautical Room, the Community Room, the School Room and the Gallery. The Library will display

the segment that describes aspects of City Island history; the Nautical Room will focus on boat-building and sail-making on City Island, once a major industry on the island; the Community Room will feature growing up on the Island and its development as a residential and commercial neighborhood; the School Room will concentrate on stories that relate to the school buildings (P.S. 17 and St. Mary’s) in which the speakers went to school; and the Gallery will have a segment on influential Island residents of the past.

Three volunteers are now abridging the original oral histories and sorting them into categories; others are looking for historic photographs and videos. Putting this together will be James and Tommy Breen, two videographers who grew up on City Island and whose Facebook page “The New City Island Bridge” has been much admired and heralded as a brilliant contribution to City Island history.

Islanders who are interested in learning more about this project are invited to e-mail the City Island Nautical Museum at info@cityislandmuseum.org.



Photo courtesy of PAUL MANKIEWICZ

An example of the reef wall panels that were set up in southeast Florida in a project led by Islander Paul Mankiewicz.

Oysters

Continued from page 1

ing, they transform sediment and nitrogen into packets that end up at the bottom of the bay, where they are no longer harmful. The sediment provides food for annelids, arthropods and other marine animals, however, and the oyster beds themselves will attract other creatures, as many as 100 different species, enriching the environment on several levels.

Building an oyster reef is not an easy task, but it has been done in New York Harbor by the Billion Oyster Project and at other locations on Long Island Sound, the Hudson and Jamaica Bay. In the meantime, oyster shells must be collected and deposited in sacks on land where they can “cure,” as Dr. Mankiewicz puts it, before being placed on a reef in the water. The City Island Drift

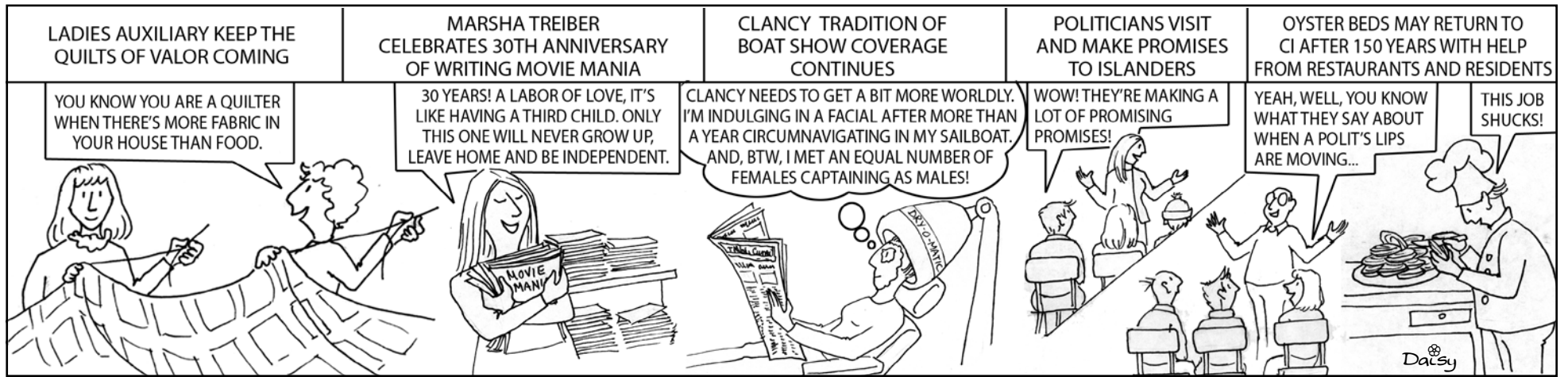
group is planning to take these first steps by arranging for the restaurants to provide shells and then asking volunteers to help put them in bags and transport them to areas on the Island where they can rest for a few months. Volunteers of all ages and skills will be needed, along with the input of community organizations, including the City Island Historical Society and the Community Center, as well as restaurants. As Maria Caruso puts it, “We hope to engage our community to work together to keep and preserve City Island’s nautical history and to promote its nautical future.”

Islanders who are interested in knowing more about this project or who would like to offer their services as volunteers or to donate funds to help cover expenses are invited to e-mail cityislanddrift@gmail.com. In the meantime, be sure to put May 10 Viacomunity Day on your calendar.

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Grateful for Support

To the Editor:

I want to convey my sincere and humble gratitude for all your kindness and offers of help during the illness of my husband, Hank Buchanan. The outreach and support was overwhelming. I especially thank the members of City Island Yacht Club, the Garden Club of City Island and the City Island Nautical Museum.

Also thanks to our wonderful neighbors on Minneford Avenue and Tier Street (where we spent two winters), our boat neighbors, the dock staff at South Minneford Yacht Club and the store owners on the avenue who fondly remembered Hank from all the years he shopped there.

The past few years have been challenging to say the least, but you all helped me and Hank through it. I wish you all the very

best of everything for 2019 and beyond.
Melanie Benvenue Buchanan

Red, White and Blue Thanks

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

Joseph Goonan
Leonard Hawkins Post 156
550 City Island Avenue
Bronx, NY 10464

On behalf of the entire congregation of Grace Episcopal Church, we want to thank you and the Legion for replacing our old and weathered American flag with a brand new one.

God bless you and all the members of Post 156.

Eileen Marcus
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A Current Review

A Few Very Good Men (And One Woman)

By BRUCE A. WEIS

On 22 February at 20:00 hours, elements of Marine Rifle Security Company Windward (MCSFCO GTMO) took control of the Grace Church stage, thereby enabling the presentation of the City Island Theater group's first production of 2019. The Marine assault was direct, to the beat of drums, and alerted the audience to the presence of a significant and timely narrative: "A Few Good Men" by Aaron Sorkin. Sorkin later wrote the screenplay for a movie version of the show, which gave Jack Nicholson one of the most memorable lines in movie history, but more about that later.

"A Few Good Men" tells the story of a court-martial at which military lawyers discover a high-level conspiracy in the course of defending two Marines accused of murder. As the play opens, finishing touches are being put in place on the legal resolution to the death of Marine Private Santiago, who had died as the result of an informal punishment, termed a "Code Red," at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay. Private Downey (Kenneth Murphy) and Lance Corporal Dawson (Greg Weiss) are on trial for the crime. The attorney assigned to the two men, Navy Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee (John Squires) isn't particularly interested in their case and actually has a history of settling cases via plea bargains. The case follows this course until Navy Lieutenant Commander Jo Galloway (Dakota Martin) appears in the story. She believes this is to be a serious case of misconduct, and Kaffee attempts to be removed from it.

The trial of the two Marines is the final step in a chain of events that started when Santiago reported a guard had illegally fired his weapon over the fence line into Cuba. Santiago saw this as a way he could leave the base, as he was unhappy there, and he hoped to barter the name of the illegal shooter for a transfer. Santiago had been a lackluster Marine at Guantanamo, and the story went that Downey and Dawson accidentally killed him during a physical assault that had been meant to motivate him into being a better Marine. How the two Marines came to administer this assault, and at whose command, is the crux of the story, as Galloway and then Kaffee relentlessly follow the story through the chain of command to Lieutenant Kendrick, Captain Markinson and ultimately Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Jessup. All the while, they battle both official deception and the Marine code of Duty, Honor, God and Country.

Interestingly, Aaron Sorkin says that he got the idea for "A Few Good Men" during a phone conversation with his sister Deborah, who was serving a three-year stint with the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. She was on her way to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base to defend a group of Marines who had nearly killed a fellow Marine in a hazing ordered by a superior officer. Sorkin ultimately wrote much of the play on cocktail napkins while bartending at the Palace Theatre on Broadway.

The City Island Theater Group's pre-

sentation was completely enjoyable and thoroughly militarized. Commands were shouted, not merely spoken. Superior officers were exclusively referred to as "SIR." Uniformed Marines snapped to attention and marched in perfect formations. The show's cast was large, especially for the small Grace Church stage, but somehow the CITG managed to jam 17 actors onto that stage very effectively. Let's start with the line personnel.

Casual and cavalier at first, John Squires' Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee stood out like a sore thumb in these strict military formations. In the course of the evening, however, he seamlessly transitioned his character from glib and unenthusiastic to driven and relentless, remaining likable all the while.

Dakota Martin as Lieutenant Commander Joanne Galloway, meanwhile, did some transitioning herself. Her Galloway started out focused and controlled, dedicated only to her job, but she blossomed as the show progressed, and by the end of the night, she had become a passionate defender of the men she had come to believe in.

Armand Paganelli as Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Jessup portrayed impeccably the guy we all wanted to hate. We all wanted to see his character brought down, yet he was still able to illustrate the dichotomy of this story—Jessup's feeling he was doing things for the good of others, regardless of how the others might feel about it.

Joseph Montano's Captain Matthew Markinson was one of the nuanced characters in the show. Trapped between superior and subordinate officers who have little respect for him, Markinson plays both ends against the middle and Matthew illustrated the character's conflict exactly.

Tom Wepler's Lieutenant Jonathan Kendrick came down with Team Jessup instead of Team Markinson with regard to the fate of Private Santiago. Kendrick couldn't be trusted with much beyond the accuracy of a biblical quotation, and Tom projected this exactly throughout the evening.

Greg Weiss's Lance Corporal Harold Dawson and Kevin Murphy's Private FC Loudon Downey were on one level the stars of the evening, as they were the points of the show: Marines on trial for murder after following orders. Even worse for them, they still believed in those orders. Greg and Kevin each illustrated the conflict that can arise from following your beliefs to a tragic end.

Robert McEvily's Captain Jack Ross just tries to keep a lid on things as an embarrassing case is disposed of, and after Daniel Kaffee's conversion, nobody seems interested in working with him. Robert's desperate twists and turns as he tried to hold a fix together were a pleasure to watch.

On the other side of the courtroom, Scott Harwood's Lieutenant Sam Weinberg was in the story throughout and ultimately part of Dawson and Downey's defense team. Scott's Weinberg calm provided an effective counterpoint to the ongoing angst



Photos by MARY McINTYRE

The cast of Aaron Sorkin's "A Few Good Men," which is being presented by the City Island Theater Group during February and March 2019 (top photo, front row, l. to r.): Phil Dante, Gary Krigsman, Dakota Martin, Scott Harwood, John Squires, Armand Paganelli, Elizabeth Paldino (director), Robert McEvily, Dennis DeLeo, Joseph Montano and Tom Wepler; (back row): Michael Sorge, Jack McGuirk, Benjamin Beruh, Kenneth Murphy, Greg Weiss, Thomas Losito and Nick Rueger. This scene from the play (bottom photo) shows Nick Rueger standing and Scott Harwood, Dakota Martin and John Squires seated.

between Chaffee and Galloway, except for the moment when he illustrated just what it was that kept him calm.

Gary Krigsman's often harried Captain Julius Randolph was enjoyable as he presided over the trial of Dawson and Downey (no small feat) and forcefully set up Jessup for his coup de grâce at the hands of Chaffee. Phil Dante as Commander Walter Stone successfully expressed the calculations that occur when one must choose between doing the right thing and doing what is in your best interest, and understanding just how quickly the calculations can change.

Dennis DeLeo's Captain Isaac Whitaker had seen it all and just hoped to keep things moving with the least possible anguish. Whitaker understood the talents and weaknesses of his subordinates and did his best to understand the back story as well. Jack McGuirk as Corporal Jeffrey Howard convincingly provided straightforward testimony at the trial of Dawson and Downey that illustrated the Marine Corps ethos their defense was facing.

Thomas Losito, Nicholas Rueger and Michael Sorge each donned several hats during the play, covering a number of small but key supporting roles with aplomb. Without their work, the play could not have gone on. The combined efforts of all these actors made for a fascinating production.

"A Few Good Men" opened on Broadway at the Music Box Theatre, on Nov. 15, 1989, with Tom Hulce as Lieutenant Kaffee, Megan Gallagher as Lieutenant Commander Joanne Galloway and Stephen Lang as Lieutenant Colonel Jessup. The Broadway production earned Megan Gallagher a 1990 Theater World Award and a Best Actor nomination for Tom Hulce at the 44th Tony Awards. Aaron Sorkin adapted his work into a film screenplay, which was directed by Rob Reiner in 1992. The movie starred Tom Cruise as Lieutenant Kaffee, Demi Moore as Lieutenant Commander Joanne Galloway and Jack Nicholson as Lieutenant Colonel Jessup. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture and received a Golden Globe for Best Screenplay. In 2018 NBC announced plans to broadcast a live television production of "A Few Good

Men," starring Alec Baldwin as Colonel Jessup, with a teleplay by Sorkin adapted from his original script. However, to the best of my knowledge, this show has never aired.

On a personal note, I have wondered for years about those internet stories that Jack Nicholson adlibbed the famous line "You can't handle the truth." Researching this for the review, I guess he did, but only kind of. The line in the film screenplay that Nicholson changed was "You already have the truth," but "You can't handle the truth" actually appears in the play's script. I've come to the conclusion that Aaron Sorkin changed the line when he wrote the screenplay, and that Nicholson, who would have researched the role and was doubtlessly aware of both lines, changed it back during filming. Who knows?

Costumes for "A Few Good Men" were coordinated by Carol McCabe, and I was personally relieved to find that the Theater Group rented all of the uniforms, which spared Carol and her crew the trauma of actually creating military uniforms for 17 actors. Lighting design was by Nico Pechin, and the lighting operators were Amanda Livingston Martin and Susan Rauh. The new spot and area lighting installed by the Theater Group a few weeks ago was a huge help in accommodating the large cast on the small Grace stage. Set construction was by Dan Srdoc and everyone in the group helped with set painting. Props were assembled by Barbara Dolensek, who owes special thanks to people who own handguns and handcuffs. Pam Johnston once again served as Production Stage Manager responsible for the goings on backstage, and Hannah Glick handled sound design.

Elizabeth Paldino did a magnificent job with the direction of "A Few Good Men," successfully creating a military environment on the stage of an Episcopal church. Nick Sala and Susan Rauh shared Production Manager duties.

Performances of "A Few Good Men" continue on Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 3, at 3 p.m. The City Island Theater Group will present "Auntie Mame" as its second production of 2019.

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Scavello's on the Island at 101 City Island Avenue is offering a terrific new food service called Gourmet to Go, which offers restaurant-quality food for the home. You can order semi-prepared dishes for finishing in the home kitchen, finished dishes frozen or refrigerated, as well as sauces, breads, soups and freshly made desserts, which you can order whole or by the piece. Scavello's catering service is now at this location, offering heroes, cheese trays and more. Open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 718-885-2570 to place an order, or just drop in (remember, Scavello's has its own parking lot).

Atlantic Emeritus Realty will now be doing business as **City Island Realty One**, a long overdue change. They are still at the same location, 300 City Island Avenue, with the same phone number (718-885-0088) and agents.

into the enigmatic world of album art and begins to understand how visual cues convey messages about politics and identity. Students will leave the workshop having created their own original album cover art. Wednesday, March 20, 3 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for a chance to get a head start on your homework before unwinding online! Monday through Thursday, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

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! March 1: Wii and Board Games; March 8: Online Women's History Scavenger Hunt; March 15: Wii and Board Games; March 22: Basket Weaving; March 29: Wii and Board Games.

MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

Creative Aging: Finding Your Wisdom Voice Poetry & Creative Writing Workshop: In this six-week workshop, we look at wisdom poetry and writings from ancient times until now, and from around the world, delving into universal truths. Each writer will then explore these truths, while learning how to write with their own unique wisdom voice. Led by John Maney, a workshop leader certified to lead creative writing workshops with NY Writers Coalition. Monday, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8 and 15.

City Island Calligraphy: Calligraphy is an ancient form of communication and artistic expression that has since taken

on a wide variety of styles and functions. Here at the City Island Library, patron and volunteer Regina Sanglier will teach you the basics, and hopefully get you creating your very own works of art. Session One: March: 2 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. These are the last two classes of a four-class session. Registration is required. Limited to 10 participants. A waiting list is available for future sessions.

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 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. Note: Limited to 12 participants; registration required. Thursday, March 7 and 21, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, March 11 and 25, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

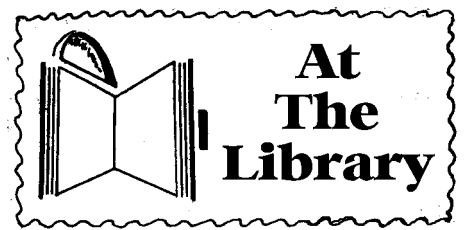
One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resumé Instruction: Stop in, or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No com-

puter? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m.: March 2: "Queen of Katwe"; March 9: "Skyscraper"; March 16: "Christopher Robin"; March 23: "Book Club"; March 30: "Ocean's 8."

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

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MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Little Irish Steppers: Little Irish Steppers is an Irish pre-dance and movement class developed for children ages 2 to 5 with a participating adult. Upbeat traditional Irish music and songs, combined with popular toddler songs, clapping, stamping, and shakers are used to explore rhythm and a variety of time signatures. Wednesday, March 20, 11 a.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. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 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.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.

MARCH TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Seeing Sounds: This workshop looks

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Boat Show 2019

By GREG CLANCY

The night before I visited the 2019 Progressive New York Boat Show, I had a remarkable dream. I dreamt that I was at the Javits Center on the show floor, but instead of finding the Boat Show staffed by salespeople and exhibitors I found it staffed by politicians. The political season never seems to end these days, so I was not surprised to find Mayor Bill de Blasio at the front door in the Progressive booth extolling the virtues of affordable boating options. I liked it, although he lost me when he quipped about the harbor patrol and how they need to stop picking on jet skiers. I don't care much for jet skis, so I decided to move on. Just behind the Progressive stand was a large engine exhibit manned by the one and only President Obama! He smiled brightly and looked very well rested as he pitched a plan to offer universal access to free engine maintenance for all mariners. Sign me up, I thought!

My spirits soared until I heard the sound of a chainsaw in the distance. Being the doughty *Island Current* reporter that I am, I ran to the sound of danger. Once there I found our new Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez carefully chain-sawing a stunning Chris Craft into hundreds of pieces. "It wasn't fair!" she explained, that only one boater could own such a yacht. She planned to distribute the many pieces to hundreds of aspiring boaters. I needed to ponder this one so I decided to go get myself a beer, but before I could get my \$15 draft Budweiser, I stumbled upon a debate in the form of a mock fishing tourney. There I found Governor Cuomo and Cynthia Nixon engaged in a "Fishing for Voters" contest.

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, I spotted President Trump standing out on the street, looking in with his nose pressed to the glass. His hair flapped in the breeze, and I think he was crying. He just couldn't get in. I'm sorry, Mr. President, I thought. But this is the Progressive New York Boat Show, after all! And besides, you can't come in here and build walls between Power Boaters and Sailors! That wall already exists, and has for eons! (This is the part of the article where my wife tells me that I'm turning into my father).

When I awoke, I was relieved to remember that the election season was over. I was even more relieved to remember that winter will soon be over. With spring impending and a Progressive New York Boat Show to attend, I decided that I had better leave the politics to my friends at the Civic Association and polish up my boat shoes instead!

I honestly don't know how many times I've attended the Boat Show, but it's at least 20 times. Maybe closer to 30. This year I attended the show with my wife, Admiral Meaghan, and my first through fourth mates, Patrick, Matthew, James and Jonathan. We all found the show to be incredibly crowded. This year (like the last) found the Javits Center packed to the gills. I begin to wonder if we may see the show grow again in coming years. That would be an incredible reversal after years of decline through the '90s and '00s.

All this crowding begs a question. Who the heck are all these people coming to the boat show? I decided to conduct a study, and I determined that the standard boat show visitor falls into five categories: BUYER, Buyer, buyer, BuYeR and Landlubber. (This is the part of the article where my fearless editors say that I'm turning into my father, a man who wrote this article for over 30 years and got zanier with each year.) I apologize in advance to editors Barbara and Karen for the tour de force of capital letters we are about to embark on! But first remember that Sally McCheap had to deal with my father's crazy articles

for decades, and she never complained. Hey, Sally, are you still out there? Parking this year was \$80! No kidding. I could buy dinner for 20 in Appleton, WI, for eighty bucks!

But allow me to get back to business. The BUYER (or Boyar if you please) is a bit of a phantom. They are the elusive 1 percenters, the exhibitor's version of that 50-inch striper you've been hunting for all your life. 90 percent of the show is designed for them, from Sailfish and Boston Whaler right on up to the queens of the show. Speaking of the queens, there were a few. Sabre, Azimut, Formula and Galeon all vied for the position. I liked the Sabre 48 Salon Express with her "down-east" lines and Navy hull, but if I'm being truthful I would have to say that the Galeon 470 Sky stole the show. Made in Poland, and a favorite of Russia's millionaires, this was Galeon's first trip to the New York Boat Show. She has Clorox bottle lines, but without the sleekness of a Tiara. She looked kind of like a Tiara who needed to lose a hundred pounds, but she still won for sheer glitz. As beamy as can be, she had a huge sky deck (flybridge), condo-like finishes and bulkheads in the aft cockpit that fold down to create more deck space. Her million dollar price tag wasn't so bad either, especially when compared to the Sabre 48, which listed closer to \$1.7 million.

The BUYER (Boyar) doesn't always go for a queen, however. Sometimes they just want a simple fishing boat. These are the half-million dollar center consoles that fill most of the show floor. These include Jupiter, Sailfish, Whaler, Grady and so on. One of the kings of this class was a 41-foot Regulator listed at \$935,855. (Pardon my use of the masculine, but fishermen like to feel manly.) This Regulator boasted quad 425-horse Yamaha outboards, an "Abaco Sky" colored hull and three seats at the center console. She could have accommodated 20 fishermen comfortably spread out along her gunwale.

Among these high-end fishing boats I noticed two new innovations that are growing in popularity: the first is the Seakeeper, a gyro-stabilizer about the size of a large suitcase that sits inside the bilge right on top of the keel and (mostly) prevents the boat from rocking, even in a beam sea. Last year I reported that I had taken an actual test ride on an Azimut with the Seakeeper gyro, and I have to say it really works. The cost of this system (for a retrofit, say) ranges from \$30k to \$200k and the system requires a huge amount of electricity, but I still think it's the best innovations in years. It stops boats from rocking, literally.

Innovation number two is less convincing. Some brands (Jupiter, for example) have eliminated switches at the helm. All switches are now just a graphic on an LED touch screen. For example, the on-off switch for running lights is no longer a switch; rather it is a faux button on a computer screen. I think this is a bad idea. "Fly-by-wire" systems are great, until they break. How offensive were switches anyway? Switches never bothered me. Helm stations without cupholders bother me (Azimut). But switches? Not so much.

Somewhere between the BUYERS and the Buyers we ran into City Island's own David Mooney, now a commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Dave is the second in command for the Coast Guard Auxiliary for all of New York City, and a tremendous resource for all of us on City Island. It was great to run into you, Dave.

Now to the Buyer (or Bourgeois). This is a real buyer, but they're just not coming to spend a half a million on an outboard. These are the folks for Glastron, Yamaha, Blue Marlin and the like. They come for the sub-\$100k brands. In fact, you can still



Photos by GREG CLANCY

These intrepid City Island boaters, the Clancy family, attended the 2019 New York Boat Show in January and met up with members of the City Island Yacht Club (top photo). They boarded and reviewed a number of different power yachts and had a great time, despite the parking bill (bottom photo).

change their own oil and rejoice at an affordable "new" boat that is less than 30 years old. The buyer plays three important parts at the boat show. First, the buyer hits the dozens of exhibits while filing up the show floor and providing camouflage for the BUYERS. Second, the buyer comes to get a sneak peek into the boat that he or she might be buying a few decades hence. I for one picked a 37-foot Sabreline Backcove in 2014. I've only got 15 years to go. Yay! Lastly, the buyer exists to fill Mr. Javits' coffers by buying beer marked up by about 6,000 percent.

Now for my last two categories of show attendee. Don't worry, I'll keep this quick. First is the BuYeR (the batty). This is an ordinary buyer who suffers from delusions of grandeur; a person who has convinced himself that he might become a BUYER, and soon. My brother Bill fits into this category. Sorry, Bill, maybe we'll get the Hinckley next year.

Last but not least we have the Landlubber (otherwise known as Ladies). I apologize to those women of the sea who fall into one of the above categories because I know there are plenty of you out there. If you are a woman and you know how to tie a bowline, then I'm not talking to you. But some of the members of the fairer sex really just don't get it. (Now, this is the part of the article where the guys at the Legion think I am turning into my dad). Let me ask you something. What lady on God's green Earth goes to the boat show to get a facial? Well let me tell you, they exist, and so did the facial booth. Who on God's green

Continued on page 14

find a 20-odd-foot bowrider for well under \$50k if you are interested. Lake boats like Rossiter and Bennington fit into this category too, though they're more for the upstate crowd. Buyers who are especially bullish can still look at the likes of Carver, which is still coming to the show year after year and which still carries flybridge cruisers for less than the price of an average home on City Island. Buyers also come to the show for other things, such as engines. Speaking of engines, Yamaha and Evinrude now have new lines of outboard V-8s going up to 425 horse power. These are the largest outboards ever created and they are now standard offerings on most of the BUYERS fishing boats. As for inboards, Mercruiser had an 8.7L inboard rated at 565 horses. The efficiency and small size of these gas engines are incredible. In the mid-1990s, for example, a Crusader or Mercruiser inboard of similar dimensions might only get up to the high 300s in terms of horsepower.

The next class of show attendee is the buyer (or bluejacket). A bluejacket is a common sailor, an enlisted man, an able seaman. This is the average joe, the rest of us who toil away on their own bottom,



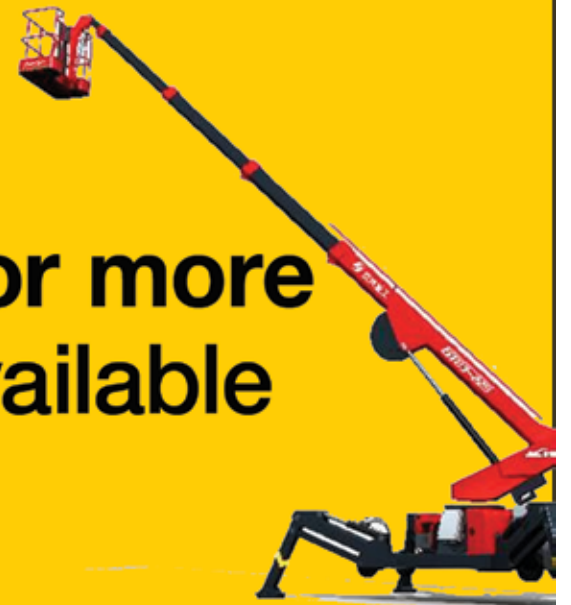
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WACKY WINTER WEATHER



Photos by MATT PANZA

It's been a weather roller coaster so far in 2019 with ice storms (top photo) followed by warm days in February that caused spring fever among Islanders who rushed to Orchard Beach (middle photo). So far, there have been no snowstorms like the ones five years ago that created picturesque winter scenes on City Island (bottom photo montage).

LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Question: What changes would you like to see take place on City Island in 2019?



Joe Burck Sr.

I like the Island the way it is, but there is always room for improvement. For instance, I'd like to see the area where the old Trader John's place was near the bridge made into a park. Old things go, new things come. That's pretty much the way life is.



Melanie Benvenue

In 2019, I would like to see the positive changes from last year continue, such as the new and improved stores on the Avenue. To keep this trend going, more Islanders shopping locally would help a great deal. I would like to see long-standing eyesore buildings demolished or rehabbed into more aesthetically pleasing structures, business or residential. I would like to see more police enforcement in response to speeding and other reckless driving on the Island.



Denise Kritikos

I love City Island. I love the small town feel, but I would like to see more police presence in the off season and something done about illegal commercial business being done on residential blocks.



Bruce Burgeson

Let's try to give more business to our City Island merchants. We don't want to lose them!



John Skinner

I would like to see more after-school programs for the young people on City Island. Programs like the PSS Senior Center should be available to children and teenagers to go to after school. The City Island library does a good job, but there should be more choices for younger Islanders. There are livelier activities like music and dance that would interest the young people that are not appropriate for the library.



Jason Breines

Illegal drugs, traffic, the MTA schedule, noise from the firing range, and infrastructure all remain issues on City Island. I would like to see more done by all Islanders in conjunction with the City Island Civic Association to resolve these issues. I would also favor term limits for officers of the Civic Association.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MARCH

Tues., March 5, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

Sat., March 9, **St. Paddy's Day 5K Race**, 11 a.m. start at Clipper Café, 274 City Island Avenue. All proceeds go to the City Island Theater Group (see *Briefly* this issue).

Tues., March 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

APRIL

Sat., April 6, **Temple Beth-El Gala Dinner Dance**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

Fri., April 12, **Scout Fundraiser for Trinity United Methodist Church**, 7 p.m., Morris Yacht Club.

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. The dues for 2019 (\$30) are now 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.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

Peter Booth

City Island Republicans

Thanks to all of the poll workers for their hard work during the special election. Petitions are being circulated because we need signatures for the November ballot and to qualify the Party's status as an official political party. Please sign if someone comes to your door.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Garden Club of City Island

At the Garden Club's March 4 meeting, our committees will work on plans for the coming months. The Program Committee is considering future presenters and field trips. The Publicity Committee will continue to report club activities to the media as they take place. The Membership Committee will encourage new membership and post pertinent information. Of course, the Hospitality Committee will continue to serve goodies and refreshments at the monthly meetings, and the Sunshine Committee will continue to attend to members in need of special cheer and encouragement.

The Beautification Committee is organizing our annual fund-raising campaign and will deliver letters in April requesting donations from City Island residents and businesses. Funds collected will be used for the seasonal plantings in the planter boxes along the avenue, holiday wreaths for our public spaces, special beautification projects and payments to CJS Property Care for cleaning tree pits and grassy areas on City Island Avenue.

This winter the Garden Club contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to fertilize, compost and mulch the city-owned trees between Bay and Carroll Streets along City Island

Avenue. The work has been completed. This care is especially important for trees surrounded by hardscape which receive less water than trees in lawns and are more subject to stress. Unlike forest trees that are fertilized and mulched by falling leaves and other dying plant matter, they receive very little fertilizer. Bartlett Tree Experts is certified by New York City and is able to get permits to work on city trees. The Garden Club hopes to use money donated by Island residents and businesses to do the same work for trees on other blocks in the coming years.

Our Annual Luncheon Committee is finalizing the venue and cost details of the Garden Club's May 16 event. This year's theme is "Daisies are Forever." Our annual luncheon, open to everyone, features a raffle that includes gift baskets created by members, as well as gift certificates and special items. Please join us for this very special event.

The Garden Club of City Island meets monthly, except August. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. Meetings conclude with home-baked goods and refreshments served by our hospitality committee. The Garden Club's April 1 and May 6 meetings will be club business meetings, with no speakers scheduled.

Sharynne Wilder

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 3, at 12 noon. Dues (\$55) are past due for 2019. Please drop them off at the Post, and be sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

The following are dates of upcoming events:

March 10, St. Patrick's Day Parade at 12 noon. This event starts at East Tremont and Lafayette Avenues and marches down East Tremont to Harding Avenue.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day Dinner from 2 to 6 p.m. This event will be hosted by Legion Auxiliary Unit 156; Cost \$30 per person; \$10 for children 6-12; younger children free. Please sign up at the Post.

Save the Date! As the American Legion prepares to observe its 100th anniversary, Post 156 is preparing to celebrate its own 100-year legacy on Nov. 23, 2019 with a Centennial Serviceman's Dinner Dance at Scavello's On The Island, 101 City Island Avenue. We are asking the City Island community to provide copies of records or photos of patriotic events or memorial observances in our community and assist us in recording these special events for posterity. I would like to hear from all people whose lives have been touched by the American Legion Family in our community of City Island.

Please remember the following Legionnaires who have gone before us: Edward Watkins, Post 156 Member Vietnam Era Veteran, 14-year member, and Edwin Shipp, Post 156 Honorary Life Member, Vietnam Era Veteran, 36-year member.

Thank you to the entire City Island com-



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

City Island's American Legion Unit 156 Hosted a Valentine's Dinner Dance on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019. Many thanks to Legionnaires above—Peter Booth, Peter Zvara, and Bobby Salerno (Chef), who assisted with set up and dinner preparation.

munity for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Many thanks to all who attended the Valentine's Dinner Dance on Saturday, Feb. 16, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 and chaired by Laura Booth, president. A special shout-out to Bobby Salerno for his cooking expertise, and to the SAL, Legion and Auxiliary members who volunteered their time with set up, decorations and preparation. It was a fun evening, and we appreciate the community support for our veteran programs.

Our next event will be our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Sunday, March 17. Flyers and further information will be posted shortly. Please, mark your calendars for our Veteran's Spring Bingo on Friday, April 12, at the Post. Reservations are required. For more information, please contact Regina Murphy, chair for donations, at reginamurphy8@gmail.com.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation National Sew Day was Feb. 2. ALA Unit 156 participated in its sixth annual nationwide event, chaired by Harlan Sexton at the Leonard Hawkins post. Our group, Quilters by the Sea, has almost completed the next QOV quilt to be presented to a Korean war veteran. Our group is growing and all are welcome to participate.

Many thanks to Vikki Weidemann, Troop Leader of Girl Scout Troop 1165, who gathered donations for Support the Troops in Afghanistan. CARE packages were sent to our troops in Afghanistan through the Theodore Korony Post in Throggs Neck just in time for Valentine's Day. They did a great job!

The Auxiliary Unit welcomes all new members. If you'd like further information on eligibility, please visit ALAFORVeterans.org/join or e-mail our membership chair, Viki Trifari, at wik99@me.com.

Joanne Valletta

Temple Beth-El

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

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

March 1: Congregation-led

March 8: Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David; oneg sponsored by Jodie Sadovsky and Phillis Maucieri

March 15: Congregation-led

March 22: Rabbi David; oneg sponsored by Violet Smith

April 5: Congregation-led

Other activities:

March 5: Rabbi David's first of three classes on Passover, followed by three classes on Shavuot.

March 13: Rabbi Shohama's second of three online Healing Programs during lunch hour, 12 to 1 p.m.

March 17: Purim play, open to all at TBE followed by dinner at the Black Whale; \$40 per person. RSVP and prepayment required.

SAVE THE DATE: April 6: Temple Beth El's 85th Anniversary Dinner/Dance at Pelham/Split Rock, honoring Arnold Wile, Miracle Minyan founding member and architectural advisor, and Skip and Louise Giacco for their ongoing commitment to our City Island community. Details will be on our website: www.yourshulbythesea.org.

TBE invites the City Island Community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. 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 served afterwards. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

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

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

Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials). To sponsor one or to find out more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

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

Paul Klein

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Watch out for our End of Season Sales! We will be closed from March 21 through March 30. On April 4 we will reopen with our spring collection.

The shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Arlene Byrne



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

Thank you to the 90 people who renewed or joined the center for 2019. We are grateful for your support. Remember membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

We would like to offer more programs for youth and ask you to share your thoughts and ideas on how best to do this.

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.

NEW

AA Meeting: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome.

City Island Knitting Club: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy knitting with others. Beginners and all levels welcome. For information or to register, contact Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or cdcaton@gmail.com.

Feldenkrais Class: Mondays at 6 p.m. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information to improve the way your body feels and functions. No class Feb. 18. For information, please contact Julie Kavee 347-266-6247 or [juliekavee@gmail.com](mailto:julikavee@gmail.com).

Introductory Meditation Talk: Wednesdays, March 13 and 27, 7 p.m. If you've ever considered meditation or practiced in the past, join Sherry Steel for a free informative class. For more information, call or text Sherry at 718-864-2963.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Friday (NEW DAY) at 6 p.m. for teens and adults. Join Lalitha Cosme at this new time, 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.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For day and time or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for more information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

NEW CLASS. Spanish Classes for Children: Thursdays from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Additional class on Mondays beginning in April. Did you know that NYC's Conversational Spanish program for kids offers classes right here on City Island. Children in grades K through 8 of all skill levels are welcome. Visit espanolexperience.com or call 917-889-4938 for information on both classes.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

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

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: Register for late spring 2019

weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. To join or for information, contact the new coordinator Jessica Sinclair at 914-625-7440 or jessicasinclair78@gmail.com.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, March 4 and 18, at 7 p.m. The theme for March is Irish cooking. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information and meeting dates, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or "Like" City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of the Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions, which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to CICC. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or to make an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a new leader, Alex Sokoloff. New members are always welcome. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: Saturdays, 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: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. (new time). Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Wednesday, March 6, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses.

All are welcome to attend our monthly coffee hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, March 10.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m.

The Thrift Shop will hold its Spring Collection on Thursday, April 4. Come and see all our spring bargains!

Rose Dietz

PSS Senior 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 and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

March 1, 12:30 p.m.: Nutrition Presentation and Food Tasting by Mt. St. Vincent Interns

March 4, 1:15 p.m.: Charades, popcorn, hot cocoa, prizes

March 8, 12:30 p.m.: Recognizing Signs

and Symptoms of Depression, VNS
March 11, 1:15 p.m., Scrabble Tournament

March 18, 12:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Party, Lunch and Entertainment

March 21, 1 p.m.: Close. Lunch served 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

March 25, 12:30 p.m.: Birthday Party with DJ

March 28, 1:30 p.m.: Concert by Singing Group; theme: Through the Years

March 29, 1:15 p.m.: Fall's Prevention Presentation

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10:15 a.m. Card Games and Canasta

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints

11 to 12 noon. Blood Pressure Screening, first and third Wednesday of the month

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy

1 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesday of the month: Haircuts by Brenda for \$10. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m.: Singing group with Napat; theme: Through the Years

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life: Vigorous cardio and toning

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's, and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information and for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

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. All children are welcome to attend.

Morning Prayer is held in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. Come in to pray, read the Bible or have Pastor Dave pray with you or for you. A few minutes of quiet devotion can change your day.

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser was a huge success. The monetary donations are still being counted, but the children collected more than 120 food items! All proceeds go to City Harvest.

The children and teens are now planning a used-book and bake sale, set for March 23, 10 a.m. to noon, with proceeds split between the Trinity UMC Youth Group and Imagine No Malaria.

Save the date: Scout Fundraiser for Trinity UMC is set for April 12 at 7 p.m. at the Morris Yacht Club. Dinner tickets are \$50 each, payable to Boy Scouts of America. Contact Margaret Lenz for tickets at margci@aol.com, or call 718-885-1636.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for Trinity's Newsletter and/or to receive Pastor Dave's e-mail "Thought of the Day,"

or for prayer requests, please send an email to Pastor Dave at david.jolly@nyac-umc.com.

The Budget Shop is open and bursting at the seams! Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. We will have a regular meeting on March 6. On March 20, we will hold our annual St. Patrick's/ St. Joseph's day luncheon. There will be traditional corned beef and cabbage, with Italian pastries for dessert. The cost is \$18 per person, and you must sign up by March 6. In the event of bad weather, members will be notified if we have to cancel a meeting.

Carroll Reid



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 during the month of March: All Sunday services including Lenten Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite I. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: On Tuesday, March 5, the night before Ash Wednesday, a traditional pancake supper will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, and hot and cold beverages. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; \$2 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

The Ash Wednesday service will take place on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, takes place every other Sunday after service during coffee hour.

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 led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 13 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 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry: The Grace Church choir will participate in Evensong at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday, March 2, starting at 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Meanwhile, the GraceTones are beginning their fourth year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they usually perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, but this month, they've been invited to sing right here on the Island at The Starving Artist, March 3, starting at 3 p.m. If you'd like to sing with the GraceTones, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have 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.

Sandy Dunn



The Best Films of 1989 part I

March marks the 30th anniversary of *Marsha's Movie Mania*. Therefore, I thought it might be interesting, timely and fun to present reviews, in alphabetical order, of 30 films from 1989, when I started writing the column.

The Abyss (available as a DVD for sale only via Amazon) is an American science fiction film written and directed by James Cameron (best known for the *Alien* and *Terminator* series). It is the story of a civilian diving team in search of a lost nuclear submarine. The team leaders are formerly married petroleum engineers Virgil "Bud" Brigman (Ed Harris) and Dr. Lindsey Brigman (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio), who were drafted to assist a gung-ho Navy SEAL Lieutenant Hiram Coffey (Michael Biehn) in this top-secret recovery mission. In a race against Soviet vessels to locate the submarine, the crew encounters an alien aquatic species. The Oscar-winning special effects are mesmerizing. The theatrical version was 145 minutes, but a much longer special edition of 171 minutes, released in 1993, fleshes out many of the characters and changes the ending into a political statement.

Tim Burton's **Batman** (available via Cablevision on-demand rental) is a live-action comic-book superhero film, which was the highest-grossing film of the year. Having witnessed his parents' brutal murder as a child, millionaire philanthropist Bruce Wayne (Michael Keaton) fights crime in Gotham City disguised as Batman. When a deformed madman, who calls himself The Joker (Jack Nicholson), seizes control of Gotham's criminal underworld, Batman must face his most ruthless nemesis while protecting both his identity and his love interest, reporter Vicki Vale (Kim Basinger).

Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (available via Amazon Prime or rental; or on Hulu) is a 1989 American science fiction comedy in which Bill (Alex Winter) and Ted (Keanu Reeves) are high school buddies starting a band. However, they are about to fail their history class, which means that Ted would have to be sent to military school. Rufus (George Carlin), a time traveler from a future where their band is the foundation for a perfect society, comes to save them. With the use of Rufus's time machine, Bill and Ted travel to various points in history, returning with important figures to help them complete their final history presentation. The leads are just goofy enough to make this silly time-travel adventure work.

Born on the Fourth of July (available via Cablevision on-demand rental) is the second of director Oliver Stone's Vietnam War-era trilogy of films, including *Platoon* (1986) and *Heaven & Earth* (1993). It is a biography of real-life veteran Ron Kovic (Tom Cruise) a patriotic, all-American small-town athlete who shocks his family by enlisting in the Marines to fight in the Vietnam War. Suffering a dreadful injury that leaves him paralyzed from the chest down, he returns home and spends an appalling, horrendous stay in a Bronx Veterans' Hospital. He further suffers a troubling reintroduction to society and becomes a staunch anti-war and pro-human rights political activist. The film, Tom Cruise and Oliver Stone were all nominated for Oscars, with only Stone securing a win as Best Director. Many consider it Stone's best work and Cruise's

best performance.

Nominated for Best Screenplay, Director, and Best Supporting Actor (Martin Landau) was Woody Allen's philosophical dramedy **Crimes and Misdemeanors** (available on HBO). The ensemble cast includes Allen as filmmaker Cliff Stern, who falls for TV producer Halley Reed (Mia Farrow) while shooting a documentary about arrogant comedian Lester (Alan Alda). Another plot concerns the respected ophthalmologist Judah Rosenthal (Martin Landau), whose mistress Dolores (Angelica Huston) threatens to tell Judah's wife, Miriam (Clare Bloom), about their affair. Riddled with guilt, he turns to his Mafia-connected brother Jack (Jerry Orbach) for help. Then there is Judah's patient Ben (Sam Waterston), a Rabbi who is slowly going blind, which is symbolic of the blind eye that people need to assuage a guilty conscience. Allen uses flashbacks to establish the childhood of both Rosenthal brothers, whose father solemnly promised them that God saw everything and that, even if he didn't, a good man could not live happily with an evil deed on his conscience. This film is a fascinating investigation of the truth of that statement and is one of Allen's best.

In **Dead Poet's Society** (available via Amazon rental) Robin Williams stars as John Keating, an outstanding unconventional prep school teacher who introduces his students to the wonders of poetry and attempts to inspire them to think for themselves. This is not appreciated by Headmaster Nolan (Norman Lloyd) of Welton Academy, who believes that 1959 is not a time for free-thinkers. Outstanding performances are given by Robert Sean Leonard as Neil Perry, a sensitive and intelligent young man who is cursed with a completely overbearing and controlling father (Kurtwood Smith); Josh Charles as the hopeless romantic Knox; and Ethan Hawke as Todd Anderson, Neil's shy, new-to-the-school roommate, who flowers under Keating's tutelage. The film was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Williams; it won one, for Tom Schulman's original screenplay.

Do the Right Thing (available via STARZ rental) is the third (and breakout) feature film for African-American writer/director Spike Lee (who also stars as the pizzeria's delivery boy Mookie). Based on real-life events, this controversial, thought-provoking film depicted an explosive conflict and relations between Italian- and African-Americans, Koreans and white law-enforcement in a multi-ethnic Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood block during a stifling hot summer day. The multi-ethnic cast of the film provided three-dimensional characters and featured the early career work of Samuel L. Jackson (as local black DJ Mister Senor Love Daddy providing commentary) and Rosie Perez. The tension began to escalate in this slice-of-life film because of a complaint by a militant patron named Buggin' Out (Giancarlo Esposito) that there were no pictures of "brothers" on the "Wall of Fame" in a white-operated, Italian pizza restaurant owned by Sal (Danny Aiello). A boiling point is eventually reached in this street-wise landmark film. Film critics wrongly feared Lee's film was a call to revolution and would cause and incite similar responses from black urban-dwellers.

Driving Miss Daisy (available via Cable on-demand rental) stars Jessica Tandy as Miss Daisy, an elderly southern woman whose son, Boolie (Dan Akroyd), is concerned for her safety. He hires widower Hoke Colburn (Morgan Freeman) to drive her car. Thus begins the 25 year friendship from the 1940s to '70s of a black man and a Jewish woman. The cast also boasts Patti LuPone as Boolie's snobby wife, Florine, and Esther Rolle as Miss Daisy's cook and housekeeper. The richness of the acting is exquisite. The film

won four Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Actress (Tandy), Screenplay, and Makeup.

The Fabulous Baker Boys (1989) stars real-life brothers Jeff and Beau Bridges in the title roles as Jack and Frank Baker. Both musical prodigies, they have long been teamed as a twin-piano act, with the less talented Frank coasting on the skills of his brilliant younger brother. When their lounge act declines in popularity, they hire the gifted and gorgeous Susie Diamond (Michelle Pfeiffer) as their singer. This is one of Jeff's best roles as an enigmatic man who has stifled his real talents for his entire career.

Kevin Costner's love of baseball is evident in the 1989 fantasy **Field of Dreams** (available on Hulu or via Amazon rental), in which he portrays farmer Ray Kinsella who hears a voice that says, "Build it and they will come." So he builds a baseball diamond in the middle of his Iowa cornfield, with the full support of his wife, Annie (Amy Madigan). Ray receives several other messages from a disembodied voice, one of which is "Ease his pain." He realizes that his ballfield has been divinely ordained to give a second chance to people who have sacrificed valuable aspects of their lives. The outstanding supporting cast includes James Earl Jones as Terrance Mann, a reclusive writer; Burt Lancaster as a doctor who as a young man chose a career in medicine over baseball; Ray Liotta as Shoeless Joe Jackson; and Timothy Busfield as Annie's disbelieving brother-in-law.

The fact-based, critically acclaimed American Civil War film **Glory** (available for rent via cablevision on-demand or Amazon) is the story of one of the first black regiments, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The infantry is led by the 25-year-old son of white abolitionists, Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick), and the script is based on his letters. The exceptional cast also includes Denzel Washington, in his Oscar-winning role as Trip, an escaped slave; Andre Braugher as Searles, the black Boston-bred intellectual; and Morgan Freeman as born leader Sgt. Major John Rawlins, the regiment's philosopher and conscience. It garnered five Academy Award Nominations, including Best Art/Set Decoration, Best Film Editing, and three wins: Best Supporting Actor (Denzel Washington), Best Cinematography (Freddie Francis), and Best Sound Editing.

In **Honey I Shrunk the Kids** (available via HBO or Amazon rental), absent-minded inventor Wayne Szalinski (Rick Moranis) leaves his latest creation, a shrinking ray, unattended in his attic. However, it is accidentally triggered by his teenage daughter and son, Amy (Amy O'Neill) and Nick (Robert Oliveri), thus shrinking them and two other neighborhood teens, Russ Jr. (Thomas Wilson Brown) and Ron (Jared Rushton), to the size of insects, much to the horror of his wife, Diane (Marcia Strassman), and their disbelieving neighbors, Rus (Matt Frewer) and Mae (Kristine Sutherland) Thompson. When the miniaturized kids, now a quarter-inch tall, are tossed out with the trash, they must survive the long journey across the lawn to make it home, in this fun fantasy-adventure.

In a fascinating foreign film, Italian writer-director-actor, Maurizio Nichetti, created a parody of the 1949 film "The

Bicycle Thief" in **The Icicle Thief** (available for sale on Amazon from third party sellers). He plays a dual role as both the star and the director of the film within the film. Nichetti is supposed to be the director of an excruciatingly painful art film, which is to be shown on commercial television. He is horrified as his black-and-white masterpiece is edited and interrupted by commercials. We even see a family watching this at home. Eventually, characters in the film and commercials inexplicably switch places, with the meshing of color and black and white. This captivating film is better when seen after the film it parodies.

For those who like action-adventure films, there is **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** (available on Netflix). This quest is for the Holy Grail, Jesus' cup from the Last Supper. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is assisted in this by a perfectly cast dad, Sean Connery, as Professor Henry Jones. In 1938, after Indiana's grandfather Professor Henry Jones Sr. goes missing while pursuing the Holy Grail, Indiana Jones finds himself up against Adolf Hitler's Nazis again to stop them from obtaining its powers.

Lean on Me (available at the City Island Library) is a dramatized biopic starring Morgan Freeman, loosely based on the story of Joe Louis Clark, a real life inner-city high school principal. Since it is considered the worst school in New Jersey, it will lose control to the state unless students improve their test scores, and Clark is reluctantly hired by Mayor Bottman (Alan North), though recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, Frank Napier (Robert Guillaume). Clark resorts to some unconventional methods to save the school, such as expelling 300 students suspected of drug dealing and by breaking fire code regulations by chaining the doors shut so the expelled students cannot break in to harm other students. This was Freeman's first leading role and sent him on the road to stardom.

And until next time, happy viewing . . .

Organization News

Continued from page 11

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

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Photo courtesy of JOHN DOYLE

Island resident David Diaz (back row, third from left) hosted a "meet and greet" for New York City Public Advocate candidate Ben Yee (back row, center) at his home on Jan. 12, 2019. The special election was held on Feb. 26, 2019 (results will be in the April issue of *The Current*).



Public School 175

Although it is a short month, February has been quite busy. Our arts program is in full swing with fifth-graders busy working with our drama teacher, Steve Bloom, and classroom teachers on their May performance of "Space Pirates." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! In addition, our music teacher, Joan Schwartz, has been working with the Glee Club and instructing students on singing and playing the recorder. Mrs. Schwartz is also working with all the teachers and students in preparation for our Black History Month Assembly, which promises to be a wonderful experience for all of our students.

The P.S. 175 tradition in which the sixth grade goes to Camp Greenkill will continue this May, but it may be a little different, as we will be going to Frost Valley. Our seventh-graders are also gearing up for a fun and educational trip to Philadelphia that will take place in March and will tie in with what they are learning in social studies.

Our eighth-grade students are working hard to be ready for their momentous June event. This month they held a Valentine's Day bake and candy-gram sale, which provided an opportunity for their schoolmates to purchase Valentine's Day goodies for their family members. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, DC.

Our NYEdge after-school program (formerly known as Sports & Arts) has been in full swing, with students participat-

ing in a variety of activities. They also had a wonderful vacation program during the February break. For parents/guardians of students in the fifth to eighth grades, please keep a look out for a flyer about the summer NYEdge program, which will take place in July. We hope you will consider sending your child to participate.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day, as well. Families living on City Island with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019, should pre-register their children for kindergarten immediately using the online tool if they have not already done so. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 21, at 9 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place that evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 p.m. The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

January Citizens-of-the-Month were Isla Delaney (kindergarten); Jackie Chen (first grade); Thora Treiber and Matthew Cullen (second grade); Alexia Alarcon and Samantha Kokaj (third grade); Kevin Galvez and Jake Penny (fourth grade); Kylee Garcia (fifth grade); Mekayala Alvarez-Middleton and Dyzir Fitzroy (sixth grade); Eric Lin (seventh grade); Gebriel Roberson and Max Wiehler (eighth grade).

February Citizens-of-the-Month were Ethan Stoltze (kindergarten); Jackie Chen (first grade); Alyssa Lestyne and Ashlee Lestyne (second grade); Lili Lakatos and Edwin Miranda (third grade); Anthony Ramos and Lea Acocella (fourth grade); Jenna Rugova (fifth grade); Matthew Desantis and Mikayla Murphy (sixth grade); Jhanelise Galvez (seventh grade); Fiorela Miria and Raena Quiles (eighth grade).

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THE CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS LISTENING

By JOHN SCARDINA

I recently visited a school where there were some challenging social dynamics among a group of second graders. I know this must be familiar to parents of school-age children: the rise of social media and early exposure to our culture through the Internet has created a complex social hierarchy amongst our youngest students. Clothes, possessions, vacations, cell phones, who's playing what games and gossip are the social currency—a mirror of our adult world, no? Even the political debates of our times, such as immigration, taxes, climate change, gun control, are woven into our children's conversations.

I am not advocating overly protective parenting: kids will get numerous messages no matter what we do. I am advocating that we as parents model the traits that will lead to greater understanding: listening, tolerance where possible, agreeing to disagree and the willingness to find common ground with everyone we meet:

- **Listening:** Do we allow ourselves to hear one another? Do we truly listen without simply formulating our next response? Do we provide eye contact, body language that is open and accepting, and a willingness to be present with another person? This is essential with our children and also essential with one another.

- **Tolerance:** Many of us have been engaged in political arguments that only refute others' points of view. We have seen religious intolerance, racial intolerance, ethnic intolerance, gender intolerance and social-class intolerance played across all media. Can we model tolerance of others' experiences when their points of view do not threaten or limit our free expression of our experiences?

- **Agreeing to disagree:** Can we have a loving truce with our friends and fami-

lies? Can we show our children that "being right" is not the only important facet of a relationship?

- **Finding common ground:** Can we find the places where we agree and work from there? A love of Italian food, a shared passion for the Mets or a soft spot for country music may be all we come up with, but it's a start.

Back to those second graders. One student shared that there was a playdate coming up and only Suzie and Jake were invited, with three other classmates standing right there. Meanwhile, outside of school at pick-up time, two parents go on and on about the trip they are about to take next weekend, with other parents within easy earshot and unwitting participants in this conversation. The same thing, no?

Children are always listening, not just when we are telling them what to do but also when we are driving, talking on the phone with our own parents about our siblings and chatting with our friends. (How many times have we said "Be nice to your brother!" while we badmouth our own siblings in front of the kids?) Can we choose to be loving, capable, compassionate and tolerant individuals when the kids are around? Or even when they aren't around, just for the good of everyone?

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Boat Show

Continued from page 7

Earth goes to the boat show to get a facial? I am astounded at the accessory booths at the boat show that have absolutely nothing to do with boating—backyard furniture, fidget spinners for the kids and eyeglass accessories abound. Where are the ropes and the bilge pumps? Hidden behind the booth offering a home gutter-cleaning service, that's where. I was overwhelmed by these booths, though I did find two happy ports of call when I meet the valiant crews of both the Harlem and City Island Yacht Clubs manning their own two booths respectively. I think I saw Harlem member Pete Green in the beer line more than at his booth, but I could hardly blame him for that. As for the CIYC crowd, it was a pleasure to meet Ed Woolsey, Frank Palmieri, Bob Dyer and Merima Nokic proudly manning their booth.

Well, that's it for this year folks. It is still February and it's snowing as I write this, but show me one sunny day with the mercury over 60 and you will find me out tearing the cover off my boat. Until then, I wish you all fair winds and following seas!

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City Island Yacht Club

2019 WINTER-SPRING EVENTS

Open House
 10:30-3:30: Sat 2/23, Sat 3/16, Sat 4/13

Come and learn about sailing opportunities at CIYC! American Sailing Association (lessons), Junior Sailing Summer Programs, CIYC Club Boat Program, Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs, City Island Power and Sail Squadron.

2019 Winter-Spring Seminars

Wednesday Nights
 Seminars begin at 7:30pm, Cash bar/dinner available at 5pm. Please RSVP: (718) 885-2487 or email: cluboffice@cityislandyc.org

CIYC Meet-N-Greet
 March 20 7:30pm
 This informative and friendly evening is all about learning to sail: Lessons, Junior Sailing, Club Boats, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs, and City Island Power Squadron.

DIY Boat Maintenance
 March 27 7:30pm
 Everything you need to know to get your boat ready for the water. Systems checks: battery/electric, engine, bilge, and more.

City Island History
 April 10 7:30pm
 Local historian Tom Nye will regale the audience with his comprehensive knowledge of City Island, especially its sailing history.

Cruising
 April 17 7:30pm
 Tips on cruising, anchoring, getting ashore, and not getting lost!

Racing Seminar
 April 24 7:30pm
 Regatta Chair Tom Delaney explains all of CIYC's races, for all ages and experience!

Speed & Smarts: Sailing Downwind
 Sat, March 23 9am-4pm
 Half day: \$50 (without lunch)
 Full day: \$95 (with lunch)
 Brad and Dave Dellenbaugh created a series of tactical strategies for racers and will be at the Club for a lively presentation. This is a great entry to their program.

Get Sailing Expo
 Sun, April 28 12-5pm
 This annual event brings Club and area skippers and crew members together. Industry professionals present their information. There is something for everyone--armchair sailors, racers, cruisers, and circumnavigators.




City Island Junior Sailing 2019
 Full Day Program 9am-4pm

- Classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, grouped according to skill.
- All instructors are certified by US Sailing, the national organization of sailing, and have First Aid/CPR training.
- For children, ages 8-16.
- Swimming proficiency required.

2019 Session Dates

Session I	June 25 - June 28
Session II	July 1 - July 12
Session III	July 15 - July 26

All sessions at:
City Island Yacht Club
 63 Pilot St.
 City Island, NY 10464

Contact us at:
City Island Junior Sailing
www.cityislandyc.org/JuniorSailing
city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com
 (347) 692-0696 (Junior Sailing Office)

Find out more at the CIYC Open Houses
on Sat 2/23, Sat 3/16, Sat 4/13 from 10:30-3:30



CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard 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

MARCH 2019										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET		
01	Fri	0209	0.82	0817	7.29	1447	0.28	2046	6.85	Fri 01
02	Sat	0301	0.72	0908	7.44	1536	0.20	2134	7.08	Sat 02
03	Sun	0348	0.59	0955	7.56	1619	0.14	2218	7.27	Sun 03
04	Mon	0430	0.47	1036	7.62	1658	0.12	2258	7.38	Mon 04
05	Tue	0507	0.37	1113	7.60	1731	0.15	2331	7.42	Tue 05
06	Wed	0537	0.30	1141	7.52	1755	0.19	2353	7.42	Wed 06
07	Thu	0555	0.23	1153	7.45	1803	0.19	2359	7.49	Thu 07
08	Fri	0611	0.12	1209	7.44	1821	0.12			Fri 08
09	Sat	0021	7.64	0640	0.02	1239	7.43	1852	0.08	Sat 09
All times are Eastern Daylight Time beginning Sunday, March 10										
10	Sun	0054	7.78	0817	-0.01	1416	7.37	2030	0.12	Sun 10
11	Mon	0233	7.86	0858	0.06	1459	7.24	2112	0.25	Mon 11
12	Tue	0317	7.84	0945	0.21	1547	7.03	2200	0.46	Tue 12
13	Wed	0406	7.74	1037	0.42	1640	6.80	2252	0.70	Wed 13
14	Thu	0501	7.58	1137	0.61	1741	6.62	2352	0.90	Thu 14
15	Fri	0603	7.44	1251	0.68	1851	6.60			Fri 15
16	Sat	0103	0.94	0714	7.42	1435	0.46	2013	6.82	Sat 16
17	Sun	0236	0.70	0833	7.58	1550	-0.01	2134	7.27	Sun 17
18	Mon	0403	0.15	0952	7.89	1647	-0.52	2235	7.78	Mon 18
19	Tue	0505	-0.46	1056	8.21	1739	-0.93	2328	8.22	Tue 19
20	Wed	0600	-0.98	1150	8.41	1827	-1.19			Wed 20
21	Thu	0016	8.51	0651	-1.30	1241	8.43	1914	-1.24	Thu 21
22	Fri	0103	8.62	0741	-1.40	1330	8.28	1959	-1.08	Fri 22
23	Sat	0149	8.54	0831	-1.25	1420	7.98	2045	-0.74	Sat 23
24	Sun	0237	8.30	0922	-0.90	1512	7.58	2132	-0.26	Sun 24
25	Mon	0328	7.94	1017	-0.43	1610	7.16	2224	0.27	Mon 25
26	Tue	0426	7.54	1117	0.08	1714	6.80	2325	0.78	Tue 26
27	Wed	0535	7.20	1219	0.51	1820	6.61			Wed 27
28	Thu	0032	1.16	0645	7.01	1321	0.78	1924	6.60	Thu 28
29	Fri	0137	1.33	0749	6.99	1420	0.88	2022	6.75	Fri 29
30	Sat	0237	1.30	0847	7.10	1513	0.86	2115	6.99	Sat 30
31	Sun	0330	1.14	0938	7.26	1601	0.76	2203	7.24	Sun 31
APRIL 2019										
01	Mon	0418	0.92	1025	7.41	1644	0.64	2246	7.45	Mon 01
02	Tue	0500	0.68	1107	7.50	1721	0.55	2324	7.58	Tue 02
03	Wed	0536	0.47	1143	7.51	1752	0.48	2355	7.64	Wed 03
04	Thu	0607	0.29	1210	7.47	1812	0.41			Thu 04
05	Fri	0009	7.70	0628	0.12	1222	7.45	1825	0.31	Fri 05
06	Sat	0021	7.85	0648	-0.04	1242	7.48	1851	0.20	Sat 06



CITIZEN SCIENTIST, REPORTING FOR DUTY

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) took place last month. It is a free and fun annual event for birders of all stripes from all over the world. Here's how it works: over a four day period in February, registered participants commit to at least 15 minutes of actual birding. It can be as easy as drawing the curtain and counting birds from the warmth of one's own home to really roughing it outdoors. If it works for you, you can bird both, indoors and outdoors. You can even miss a day or two or three.

The goal isn't conformity; it's information. Identified species are submitted via electronic checklists at gbbc.bird-count.org. There the data is processed by the good folks at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and shared, as they like to say, "in real time." Sometimes they prompt participants for more information. For example, when we submitted 130 greater scaup, we were asked "if we were sure." It probably had something to do with our living on an island, which most participants don't. So we answered a few additional questions about our birds and were good to go. At last check, 101,464 checklists had been submitted to the website for a total of 16,754,577 birds.

The term "citizen science" is a relatively new one. A quick check of Wikipedia has it added to the definitive Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2014. The concept of citizen science, however, goes back a lot farther. In 1714, for example, the British Parliament passed the Longitude Act. Among other things, it estab-

lished prizes for anyone who could create a kind of timepiece for finding longitude at sea. John Harrison was a carpenter in the county of Lincolnshire who repaired and built clocks in his spare time. His marine chronometer ultimately won the top prize, but not before an embarrassing display of resistance from establishment scientists who couldn't fathom Harrison's citizen science. Fast forward to the present and the way that organizations such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Audubon Society are enlisting the help of the general public in the collection of data—important data that can be used to monitor wildlife populations as they adapt to the ever-changing environment.

The Christmas Bird Count is another example of citizen science at work. For the last count, the Audubon Society's 119th, we witnessed something new. It didn't start that way, though. Up high in a tree, where we hoped to see owls, we saw instead a raccoon, asleep in a crotch. The surprise came soon after. Up high in a nearby pine tree, there were more raccoons, about a dozen this time, huddled close together for warmth as they slept. We have read before about certain birds that will come together for warmth while they sleep but never raccoons. A family of raccoon maybe, a mother and her young. But this was no family, or if it was, it was a very extended one.

If citizen science is something that interests you, the National Geographic Society may be the place for you. They have a variety of projects listed on their website that may stir you to action. One of our favorites was the call for pictures from the mountains of the Appalachian range. You can't top that now, can you?

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY

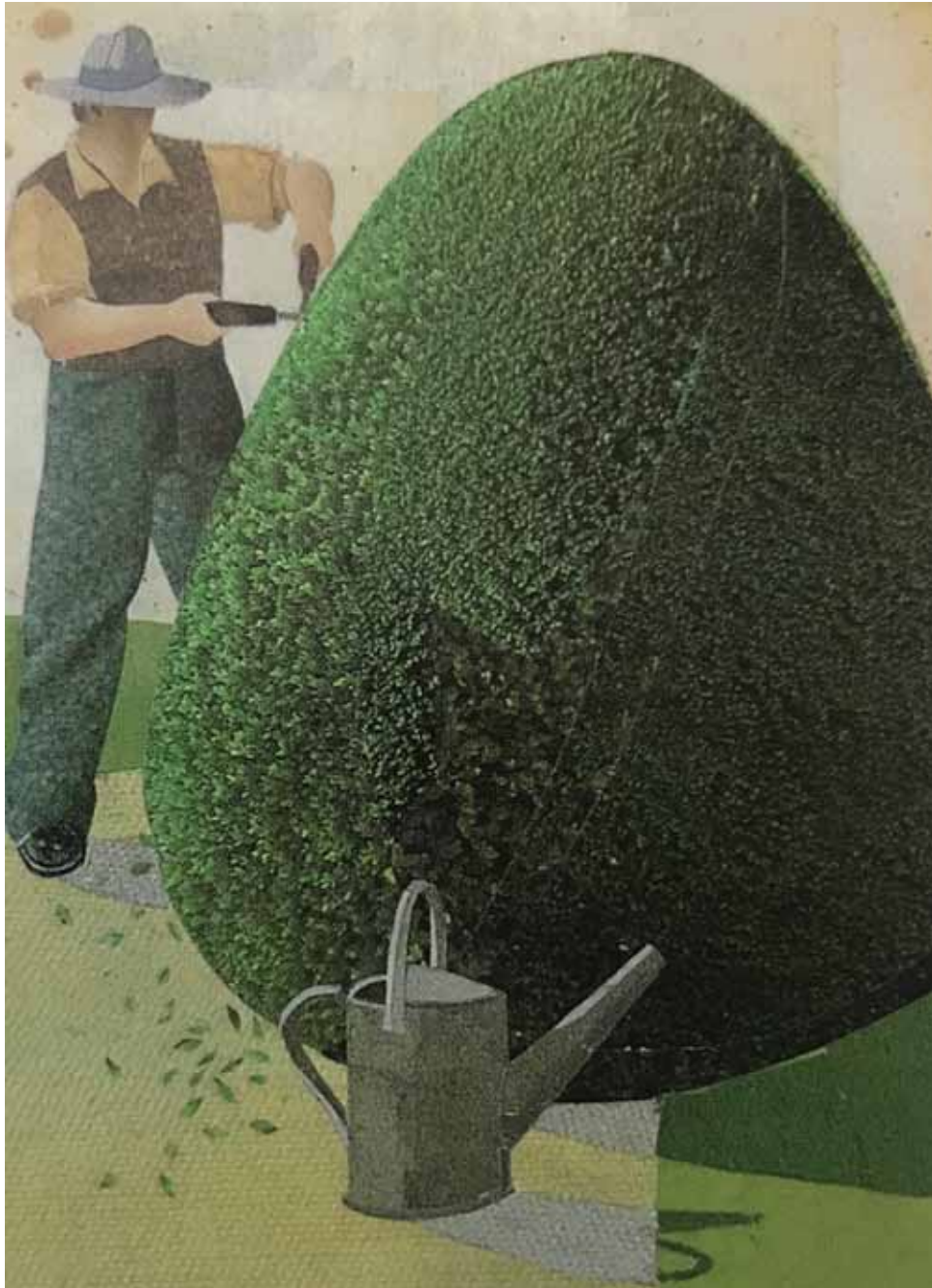


Image courtesy of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Trimming time

Plants are hungry in March after their long winter rest, and all plants need nourishment. The best way to feed a garden is with organic compost or well-rotted manure layered on top of the soil. In addition, you can also apply Plant Tone and Holly Tone twice a year. The three basic ingredients that plants need are NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium). Nitrogen promotes strong growth; phosphate promotes strong roots; and potassium ripens fruits and produces bigger blooms. If you are unsure of what NPK ratio you need for what you are growing, choose Plant Tone for perennials and Holly Tone for evergreens, azaleas and rhododendrons. Manure should be at least two years old, so that it doesn't burn the plants. You can feed also with a chemical all-purpose fertilizer at the same time, as this will act quickly giving the plants an extra boost. Do all this before adding the mulch, and then the garden is dressed and ready to go.

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

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

be pruned out. Leave your hydrangeas for July as you would cut off the blooms if you cut them now; even in July, you will be forfeiting some blooms, but this is the only way to get them under control. Trees should be thinned out by removing unnecessary branches instead of just topping them, as topping only produces a bushier uglier tree or shrub. If you have forsythias, bring your cuttings inside and they will open up quickly. Dividing your iris after they bloom will increase your supply, and you will have aided the health of your crop. This is true of most perennials, which benefit from division once every three years.

I am in love with self-sowing plants, or volunteers. These plants give a garden a lived-in look as the plants seed themselves into places we would not have thought of. It is up to the discerning gardener to decide whether to leave them to grow or not. Many are ephemeral like forget-me-nots, which can provide ground cover for tulips and other bulbs. Scatter seeds of campanula posharskyana "stella" and erigeron karvinskianus in cracks or gaps in paving and walls. Annual poppies, centranthus ruber, teasel and ferns all self-sow, as does verbena bonariensis. This verbena will either blanket your garden or peter out in a season, but clouds of purple will reward you on wiry stems, so it is worthwhile to try it until it takes. A weed by definition is a plant in the wrong place, but when do we decide where the wrong place is? Controlling volunteer plants is a fine art, and a balance can be fashioned that makes a garden a beautiful place, enhanced by serendipity.

The months of March and April are the time for many chores, but fiddling is part of it all, and puttering about is a solitary exercise in doing almost nothing. You

clip, weed, stand back and peruse the garden. You prune a bit and then, with hands behind your back, you look and access your work. Gardening so engages the eyes that without this seemingly wasteful activity it would all be laborious. Idling by the window is not to be underestimated either as a lovely pastime. Still dreaming to be in the thick of it, I know that the branches are swelling their buds, sap is beginning to run and the little green noses of bulbs are winking above the soil. It is exciting to be in a happy state of apprehension once again. Be on the lookout for the skunk cabbages at the bend of the first circle by Shore Road. They are the first to turn fat and green. If you look close, you will see their brownish, purple, speckled tusks emerging. Everything quickens. No stopping now. Spring is here!

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Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Ethel Lott was one of the Quilters by the Sea, the ALA group that participated in the Quilts of Valor Foundation National Sew Day on Feb. 2, 2019. The next QOV quilt will be presented to a Korean war veteran.

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

Tax Tips for Older Americans

Everyone wants to save money on their taxes, and older Americans are no exception. If you're age 50 or older, here are six tax tips that could help you do just that.

1. Standard Deduction for Seniors. If you and/or your spouse are 65 years old or older and you do not itemize your deductions, you can take advantage of a higher standard deduction amount. There is an additional increase in the standard deduction if either you or your spouse is blind.

2. Credit for the Elderly or Disabled. If you and/or your spouse are either 65 years or older—or you are under age 65 years old and are permanently and totally disabled—you may be able to take the Credit for Elderly or Disabled. The credit is based on your age, filing status and income.

You may only take the credit if you meet the following requirements:

a. Your income on Form 1040 line 38 must be less than \$17,500 (\$20,000 if married filing jointly and only one spouse qualifies), \$25,000 (married filing jointly and both qualify), or \$12,500 (married filing separately and lived apart from your spouse for the entire year).

b. And if the non-taxable part of your Social Security or other nontaxable pensions, annuities or disability income is less than \$5,000 (single, head of household or qualifying widow/er with dependent child); \$5,000 (married filing jointly and only one spouse qualifies); \$7,500 (married filing jointly and both qualify); or \$3,750 (mar-

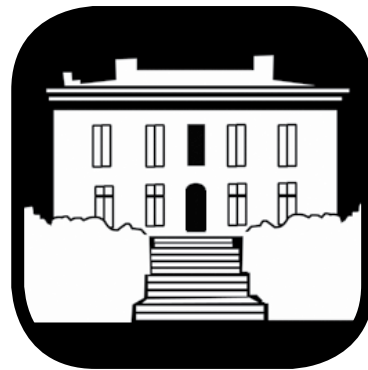
ried filing separately and lived apart from your spouse the entire year).

3. Retirement Account Limits Increase. Once you reach age 50, you are eligible to contribute (and defer paying tax on) up to \$24,500 in 2018 (\$25,000 in 2019). The amount includes the additional \$6,000 “catch up” contribution for employees age 50 and over who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government’s Thrift Savings Plan.

4. Early Withdrawal Penalty Eliminated. If you withdraw money from an IRA account before age 59 1/2 you generally must pay a 10 percent penalty; however, once you reach age 59 1/2, there is no longer a penalty for early withdrawal. Furthermore, if you leave or are terminated from your job at age 55 or older (age 50 for public safety employees), you may withdraw money from a 401(k) without penalty—but you still must pay tax on the additional income. To complicate matters, money withdrawn from an IRA is not exempt from the penalty.

5. Social Security Benefits. Americans can sign up for social security benefits as early as age 62 or wait to receive full benefits at age 66 or 67 (depending on your full retirement age). For some older Americans, however, Social Security benefits may be taxable. How much of your income is taxed depends on the amount of your benefits plus any other income you received. Generally, the more income you have coming in, the more likely it is that a portion of your social security benefits will be taxed. Therefore, when preparing your return, it is advisable to be especially careful when calculating the taxable amount of your Social Security.

6. Higher Income Tax Filing Threshold. Taxpayers who are 65 and older are allowed an income of \$1,600 more (\$2,600 married filing jointly and both spouses are 65 or older) before they need to file an income tax return. In other words, older taxpayers age 65 and older with income of \$13,600 (\$26,600 married filing jointly) or less may not need to file a tax return.



Bartow-Pell Events

On Sunday, March 3, at 2 p.m. join American classical furniture dealer and Bartow-Pell board member Carswell Rush Berlin for a discussion of “why the Bartow-Pell Mansion is important.” He will put the Bartow-Pell Mansion in historical perspective and explain how it serves as a teaching tool. Registration requested. Cost: Free with museum admission.

Bartow’s Literary Elevenes take place on Saturday, March 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Museum Educator Karen Lambdin as she leads an historical-fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Visit our website 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 required. Cost: Free.

The Bronx Opera Company will be at Bartow-Pell on Sunday, March 10, at 3 p.m. Here’s your opportunity to enjoy an afternoon celebrating an art form that has withstood the test of time. Michael Spierman, Artistic Director of the Bronx Opera Company, has put together a wonderful program featuring three members of the

Bronx Opera Company accompanied by solo piano. Registration requested. Cost: Free with museum admission.

On Thursday, March 14, at 3 p.m. bring your friends to Bartow-Pell’s conservatory for conversation, light refreshments and, of course, tea. Find out the difference between high and low teas, fun etiquette facts, and why this afternoon ritual began. Because of limited space, registration is required. Cost: \$30.

“There’s Good in Every Bunny”: A Children’s Reading and Activity Hour will take place on March 23, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Educator Angela Parrino, PhD, owner of Honey Tomes, LLC, a publishing company dedicated to wellness materials for children and adults, will be reading from John Potestivo’s book “There’s Good in Every Bunny,” illustrated by Jamie Forbes. Children will receive a copy of the book to take home. Registration requested. Cost: \$15 per family.

On Sunday, March 24, at 3 p.m., Megan Elias, food historian and author of “Lunch: A History,” will discuss her most recent title, “Food on the Page: Cookbooks and American Culture.” Registration requested. Cost: Members: \$10; Not-Yet Members \$15.

An open call to artists to participate in “A Feast for the Eyes,” an exhibition curated by Mary Colby and Alison McKay. This exhibition featuring contemporary art on the material culture of food and drink will be on view at Bartow-Pell from May 11 through May 26. The registration deadline is Friday, March 15. Artwork does not have to be literal or tradition, but the theme of food and drink should be used as a creative launching point.

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.



Fay Jordaens

Native City Islander Fay Jordaens died in New Jersey of respiratory failure on Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, at the age of 89.

Fay Schmahl, daughter of the late Frederick and the late Ruth (Frombach) Schmahl, was born on July 27, 1929, on a houseboat anchored off the Robert Jacob Shipyard (now Consolidated) before her father built a house on Earley Street. Later, the family moved to a barge moored in Eastchester Bay called Big Tom after the famous rock nearby. Fay and her brother had to row from the barge to school at P.S. 17, which was often difficult when the weather was bad.

Fay met Frank Jordaens at the local canoe club, which later became the Island Boat Club. Fay, who was the first woman international canoe sailor in America, and her husband, who died in 1982, owned and operated Grants Boat Club on City Island from 1956 to 1989. Grant's was the home port of the international canoe sailors.

Fay and her best friend, Ruth Cronk, who died in October 2018 (see the November issue of *The Current*), were the driving force in the creation of the National Barbie Doll Convention. Fay wrote four self-published books, one of which, "Love Letters to City Island," is in the library of the Nautical Museum. She was also a painter, and her stories and pictures can be found on the website of the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook, Brooklyn: www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

Fay also wrote several articles for *The Island Current*, and *The Current's* editor at the time, Sally McPherson, recalls: "Fay was very special to me. I met her in the mid-1960s when we moved to City Island, and she was my mentor when I became

involved in community affairs. A few years ago I was able to return the favor when I helped her with her book on City Island. God bless her!"

Fay is survived by her son, John, and his wife, Denise; her sister, Lynne Connelly; her three grandchildren, Jessica, Justin and Jillian; and her dearly beloved nieces and nephews.

Donations in Fay's memory may be made to Autism Speaks at <http://act.autismspeaks.org/goto/fayjordaens>.



Photo by RON TERNER

Edwin Shipp

Edwin Shipp, a longtime City Island resident, died on Feb. 15, 2019.

He was born on July 5, 1947, in Germany. He came to the United States in 1957 and settled in the Bronx. He was a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School and attended CUNY.

From 1964 to 1966 Ed served in the U.S. Army. Then he went to work for AT&T and retired from Verizon after 35 years of service as a field manager.

Ed is well known on City Island for his active service at American Legion Post 156. He was a past Post and Bronx County commander, and until recently he was the Post Vice Commander of Americanism.

He is predeceased by his wife, Lisa Gerosa Shipp, who passed away in 2016. He is survived by his brother, Keith, and sister-in-law, Peggy Shipp, of Beacon, NY; his sister, Sonia Hentnik, of Kill Devil Hills, NC, and several nieces and nephews.

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Easter 1987, Age 5



Easter 1988, Age 6



Easter 1989, Age 7



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

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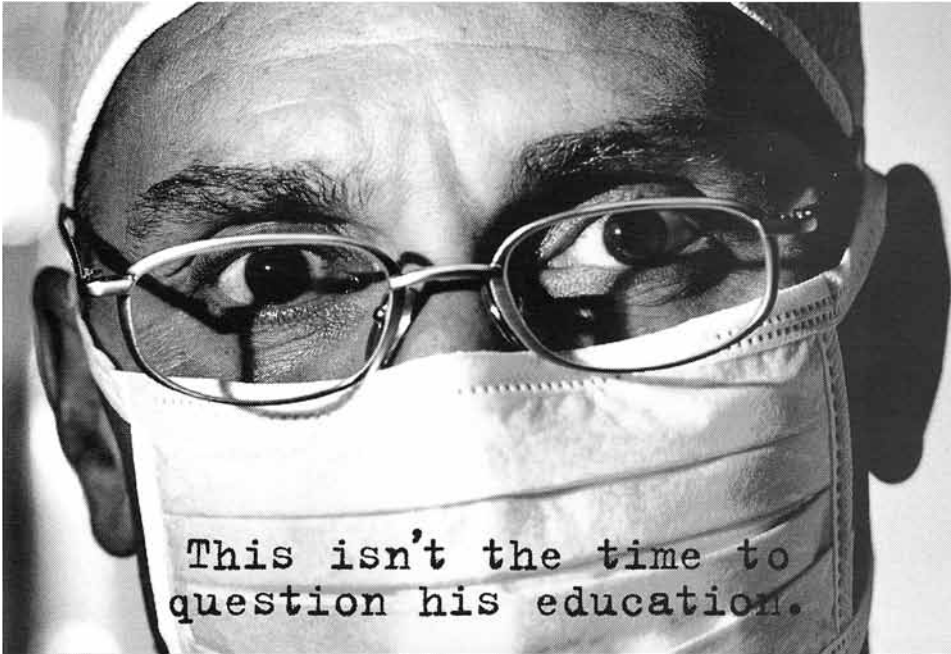
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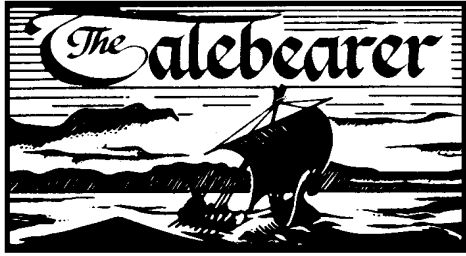
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Photo courtesy of NANCY LOTRIONTE Islanders Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack welcomed their son Wyatt Joseph, born on Feb. 14, 2019.

It's a boy! Welcome to City Island's newest clamdigger, Wyatt Joseph, born on Feb. 14. Proud parents are Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack; thrilled grandparents are Nancy and Nick Lotrionte and Bruce and Mary Pollack of San Clemente, CA, who look forward to meeting their grandson really soon. Aunts Jillian and Briana are over the moon with joy!

Lots of birthday happiness in the Doyle



Photo by MATT PANZA Marsha Treiber is celebrating the 30th anniversary of her *Movie Mania* column.

and Butterworth families. Belated birthday greetings to Hailey Nelson on Feb. 23. Happy birthday wishes to Christopher Butterworth on March 8, Joseph Nelson on March 10 and Joe Nelson on March 28.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Anne and Scouse McIntyre, who will celebrate their anniversary on March 28.

"Two Thumbs Up" to Marsha Treiber, who is celebrating the 30th anniversary of her Marsha's Movie Mania column for *The Current*. Love, Dan, Reina, Waverly and Thora.

Kudos to Dr. Jed Berman, DDS, who generously offered free emergency dental work to government employees during the recent government shutdown.

Former Islanders Bette and Ed Heben announced the birth of their fourth grandson, Noah Benjamin, born on Feb. 15 and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Proud parents are clam digger Ben Heben and his wife, Lisa, who now live in Mountain View, CA. Congratulations to all.

March happy birthday wishes go out to Judy McCormick (March 18), Barbara Stiene (March 31) and Brian Moore (March 30). Hope you have a great day!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BEN HEBEN Noah Benjamin Heben was born on Feb. 15, 2019.

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Illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, holding strings of balloons. The boy is on the left and the girl is on the right. They are standing on a grassy area with some plants. The balloons are black and white. The text 'SU-SU BALLOONS • 885-1834' is written vertically on the left side of the illustration.



Photos by RICK DeWITT On Feb. 3, 2019, Trinity United Methodist Church hosted Scout Sunday for worship and lunch. More than 80 Boy and Girl Scouts and their leaders and families attended, with many of the scouts taking an active part in the worship service.

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