

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

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

Volume 52 Number 6 July-August 2023

One Dollar

## End of an Era: City Island's Oldest Boatyard Is Gone

By TOM NYE



Photos by LESLIE KYLE and courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

When Consolidated Yachts was evicted by U. S. Crane in May 2023, many residents were very upset, not only that the crane company could not even spell "yacht," but also that this eviction marked the end of the oldest boatyard site on City Island.

Many Islanders may not be aware that on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, the owner of U.S. Crane and Rigging officially evicted Consolidated Yachts from 155 Pilot Street, which had been the site of a boatyard for over 170 years. Wesley Rodstrom Jr., whose family had owned the property since 1959, was forced to leave the property, with all of his equipment and possessions, after three years of fighting the eviction.

The history of this yacht yard begins in the 19th century. By 1850, City Island, then part of the town of Pelham, already was a maritime center and a major oyster-ing, clamming and fishing community. The Island had an extensive waterfront, with deep waters immediately off some

of its shores and a well-protected harbor. It sat along a major shipping lane between New England and New York City. In short, it was an ideal location for shipyards.

A man named David Carll was among those who first took advantage of the natural assets of City Island to make his living as a master shipbuilder in the Town of Pelham. Some have said that David Carll's shipyard was the first commercial shipyard on City Island, but David Carll was not its first owner.

During the 1850s, George Washington Horton was an important City Island resident, and his family owned a swath of the Island, including a tract at the foot of the eastern end of what is known today as Pilot Street. Horton was a maritime entrepreneur of sorts, involved in a host of money-making ventures on the Island.

In 1856, Horton or members of his family apparently sensed an entrepreneurial opportunity to repair and service the many local sloops, skiffs, ships, boats and

## 2023 Graduation: The Inside Story

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

The P.S. 175 eighth-grade graduation ceremony of 2023 was held indoors after three years of outside celebrations caused by the pandemic (top photo). Heartfelt addresses were presented by students Kevin Galvez and Lizbeth Vazquez (bottom photos).

Because of the pandemic and Covid-19 restrictions, the last three P.S. 175 graduations have been outdoors. In 2020, the ceremony was virtual, followed by a parade past each student's home on City Island. In 2021 and 2022, graduation took place under a tent in the schoolyard. This year, the eighth-grade graduation at City Island's only public school returned to the traditional indoor ceremony in the school's theater area on June 22.

It was the first indoor graduation for Principal Julie Porras, who is in her fourth year as head of P.S. 175. She welcomed the 24 graduates and their families saying, "It is an honor to have served as your principal, and I am so proud of the strong friendships you have made and the memories you have created. You all have a special connection to P.S. 175 and the community."

Ms. Porras told *The Current* that she was thrilled to be able to gather inside the school this year for both the eighth-grade graduation and the kindergarten moving-up day on June 23. "Graduation is beautiful whether inside or outside," but she acknowledged the luck of moving inside

in 2023 because of the rain and inclement weather outside this year. The science teacher, Karen Heil, expressed her enthusiasm for returning to the indoor ceremony. "It feels more intimate in the theater area, and we're surrounded by our home."

At 9:15 a.m., the chords of "Pomp and Circumstance" began playing, and the teenagers marched proudly onto the stage. In front of the podium was a special sculpture of City Island locations created by the eighth-graders in their art class and dedicated to the school for all future graduations. Three representatives from the class, Kevin Galvez, Jason Reyes-Moran and Lizbeth Vazquez, gave student addresses to the audience. They spoke of the pandemic's effect on their middle-school years, since they had to complete part of their fifth- and sixth-grade classes remotely and return in person for seventh grade.

"I was scared when we returned for seventh grade. It had been isolating at home, but we stuck together as friends and we did it!" Kevin Galvez exclaimed to his classmates. Jason Reyes-Moran told the

Continued on page 5

### REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (September 2023) will be published and on sale at the end of August.

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## BRIEFLY...

**GRADUATION ANNIVERSARY:** Save the afternoon of Oct. 8, 2023, for a 65th anniversary party on City Island for the 1958 graduating classes of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and P.S. 17. For information, contact Dottie Steiner Tomsen at 718-885-0108, Jane Genovese Gelsi at 718-885-9366, Mary Fogarty Carman at 718-885-3055 or Rosetta Shandley Woods at 718-885-0926. Please pass this along to other classmates so that all may get together and share wonderful memories and make new ones.

**INSURANCE REDUCTION PROGRAM,** approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, will be held on Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. The course will be held at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway. This six-hour course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips. Those who complete the course will receive a reduction of approximately 10 percent from the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years. The cost for this class is \$30. For more information and to register, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

**BOATING LICENSE COURSE** is being offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla. We offer this in three-day and one-day courses. The next three-day boating classes will take place on Tuesdays, July 18 and 25, Aug. 1, and Thursdays, Aug. 17, 24 and 31, from 7 to 10 p.m. The next one-day boating classes will take place on Saturday, July 22, and Sunday, Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To sign up for a boating class, send us an e-mail at [uscgaux0140504@gmail.com](mailto:uscgaux0140504@gmail.com) or text "boating class" to 646-598-2671. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, you must have a boating safety certificate when operating a motorized vessel in New York State. All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025.

**WATER JUBILEE:** The City Island Oyster Reef will hold its third annual Water Jubilee on Saturday, Aug. 5. A kayak/paddleboard race around the Island will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a sailboat race in Eastchester Bay at 2 p.m. and a reception at the Morris Yacht Club at 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register, go to the CIOR website: [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org).



Photo by RICK DEWITT

Last August, the Water Jubilee sponsored by the City Island Oyster Reef attracted more than 40 kayaks and paddleboarders in a race around the Island, followed by a sailboat race and a reception at the Morris Yacht Club.

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DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni  
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Margaret Lenz  
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

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CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Stephanie Ribaldo, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika. Cartoon format originated by Russell Schaller Sr.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571  
Printed by Stellar Printing Inc., 3838 9th St., Long Island City, NY 11101  
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0760. Copyright 2023 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

## 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – FORGERY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – ID THEFT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from May 25 to June 20, 2023.

5/27 – At 7:07 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female drove to a commercial establishment. Upon leaving, she noticed that the front license plate was missing from her vehicle.

5/29 – An off-Island male told police that on City Island Avenue at 7:30 p.m., an unknown driver rear-ended his vehicle, causing damage to his car. The driver left the scene of the accident. There were no injuries.

5/29 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 37, and charged him with forgery at 7:50 p.m. on City Island Avenue. Police were conducting enforcement on City Island, and a search of the defendant's license plate yielded no results. Upon further investigation, the driver stated he bought the temporary plate from an unknown individual.

6/2 – On City Island Avenue at 11:28 p.m., an off-Island male was riding his bicycle straight ahead when a vehicle making a left turn struck him. He fell and fractured

his left arm. The vehicle left the scene of the accident.

6/9 – At 9 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island male and female reported a robbery. The victims state that while sitting in a vehicle, two unknown males approached with firearms and demanded property. The female victim handed over her chain and purse, and the male victim handed over jewelry while standing outside the vehicle. Perpetrators fled in a silver four-door sedan.

6/10 – An Island female reported an incident of petit larceny on City Island Avenue at 7 a.m. Victim states she left a bicycle unattended in the street and upon return the bike was gone. Witness states they saw a male with a hoodie take the bike.

6/12 – At 7 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island female reported an incident of grand larceny. Victim states she parked her vehicle and upon return started the car up. All the warning lights lit up on the dashboard. After taking her car to the dealership, she was informed that the wire was cut and that the car's sensor had been stolen.

6/16 – On Bridge Street at 5:30 p.m., an Island female was assaulted. Complainant states that she was walking at the location when the defendant struck her on the shoulder with closed fists, causing her pain and swelling.

6/17 – Police arrested an Island female, 24, and charged her with assault on City Island Avenue. Defendant struck another Island female, 29, with a closed fist in front of the arresting officer, causing minor injuries to her face.

6/19 – The owner of the business on City Island Avenue reported ID theft. He received a letter from the U.S. Business Administration informing him that payment regarding a loan was overdue. The loan had been applied for using the business's information. Reporter stated this loan was taken out without his knowledge or authorization.

**Cory Fontana**

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# ARTSY AVENUE



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, on June 3 and 4, 2023, featured arts, crafts and fresh food, including Italian dishes served up by the chef at the newest City Island Avenue restaurant, City Island Pizza. Many colorful booths lined City Island Avenue from Bay to Schofield Streets featuring Island organizations and businesses, as well as local artists showcasing paintings, jewelry, photography, clothing, handicrafts and more. Calendar Alert: The Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, will return on Sept. 9 and 10, 2023.

# DIVING FOR GOLD

By KAREN NANI



Islander Mike Maniotis (above center) lost his wedding ring in Long Island Sound on May 28, 2023. It was recovered by divers Jason Northgard and Scott Newman.



A City Islander's Memorial Day weekend disaster turned into a feel-good story about strangers helping each other.

Mike Maniotis, along with his wife, Maricel, and some City Island friends, went boating on Sunday, May 28, 2023. They tied up to a mooring over in Manhasset Bay near the Plandome section of Long Island and spent the day sunning and swimming. While Mike was in the water, his wedding ring slipped off his finger and sank into the mud about eight or nine feet under the boat.

Mike was devastated, because the ring had belonged to his father, Thomas, who passed away when Mike was 16 years old. "It had been my father's wedding band and was one of my prized possessions," Mike told *The Current*, and he thought the ring was gone for good.

He posted his sad story on the Facebook page City Islanders and Friends on May 30, and a helpful member of the group suggested that he reach out to dive shops around Long Island Sound to see if they had any ideas about recovering the wedding band. So Mike searched online and found the Long Island Scuba Diving group. He shared his story on their Facebook page and posted a last ditch plea for help that read, "I would appreciate any leads for someone who might be able to assist in this search and to any locals to keep an extra eye out on the beach."

In no time, members of the group offered him help, including divers Jason Northgard and Scott Newman. Scott reached out first and said he had scuba gear and a metal detector. Jason told Mike that he had over 40 years diving experience and had written a book about wreck diving in the Sound. Scott knew of Jason and had read his book when he was younger.

So after exchanging messages for two weeks, they set up a plan to meet at the Long Island marina where Jason kept his boat. The three motored out to the spot near where Mike and his friends were moored, and they tried to recreate the location where Mike was in the water when the ring fell off.

Scott was in the water first, using what's called the "hookah" diving technique (also known as snuba diving). His tank stayed on the boat and he was tethered to the air supply with a 50-foot hose. He stayed under for about an hour

and then came out to warm up (as City Island residents know, the waters of Long Island Sound are still pretty cold when summer starts on Memorial Day weekend). Jason then took up the underwater search and eventually both went in. The wind had shifted the same way it had been the day Mike lost the ring.

Scott told Mike that they could only give the search another 30 or 40 minutes, so time was running out. But a dragonfly has landed on the air hose briefly, and Jason said that was a sign of good luck. According to Mike, "miraculously in the last five minutes of the search, Scott surfaced with the ring!"

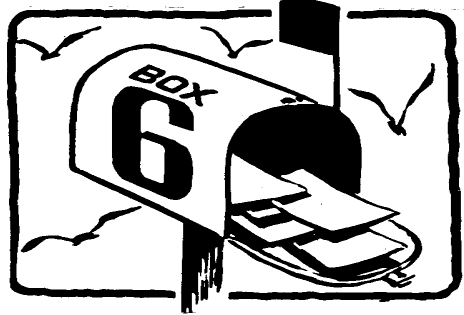
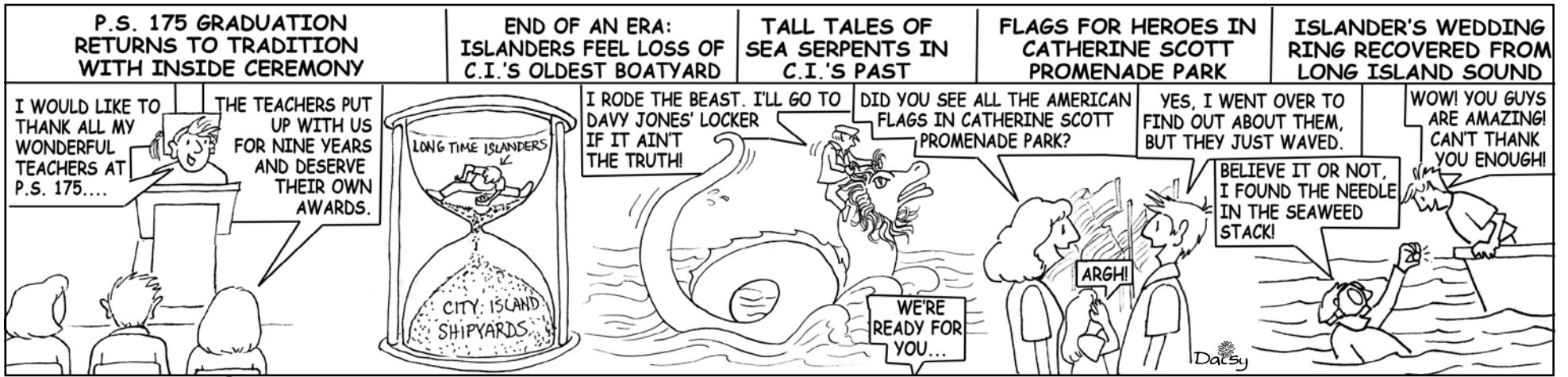
Mike was elated and expressed his thanks to the two divers and the Facebook group members who helped him. "I am speechless at this moment. I want to extend my gratitude to Scott and Jason. Nothing seems fitting enough to convey that sentiment. Thank you both from the bottom of my heart." The two divers refused to accept a reward for their ring-saving efforts, but apparently the two have eaten at the Sea Shore Restaurant on City Island. Mike is planning a dinner for them on City Island and is still trying to convince them to at least accept gas money for the boat.

Ironically, the ring was not the only underwater discovery that day. The divers also brought up an iPhone, an Apple Watch, Ray-Ban sunglasses and the keys to a Porsche!

Mike and his rescue team of divers have advice to anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation of having lost something valuable overboard. "Mark the location where you lost the item. I had taken a screen shot of my location on the maps app, but Jason told me that a simple bottle with a long string and a weight can serve as a marker in the water to return for the search."

So the next time you lose jewelry or your car keys overboard, mark the spot and hope that good Samaritan divers like Jason Northgard and Scott Newman come to your rescue.





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

**Goodbye, Rabbi**

To the Editor,  
 On June 30, City Island's Temple Beth-El said goodbye to Rabbi David Markus. Rabbi David has been at Temple Beth-El for 13 years, beginning as an intern under Rabbi Shohama Wiener, and then becoming the shul's lead Rabbi upon Rabbi Shohama's retirement. We wish him all the best as he continues his rabbinical leadership at Temple Shir Ami, in Greenwich, CT.

For the next six weeks, Temple Beth-El will hand over leadership to its lay congregant leaders, as the temple prepares to welcome their new Rabbi in mid-August.

We are extremely excited to welcome Rabbi David Levy, who will officially join Temple Beth-El on Aug. 15, 2023. Coincidentally, Rabbi Levy comes to us from the same Temple Shir Ami, having served as their interim Rabbi for the last year. Rabbi Levy, his wife and three children live in White Plains, and we encourage you to come welcome him on Shabbat eve, Aug. 18, for our Shabbat by the Sea. For information, please visit our website at [yourshulbythesea.org](http://yourshulbythesea.org).

**Rachel Stark and Shari Berkowitz**

**Love Letter to the Community**

To the Editor,  
 June 10th marked the third annual Pride Picnic on City Island. Three years ago, this event started out as a humble gathering of LGBTQ+ community members, allies, friends and family. They enjoyed a few sandwiches and lawn games, wearing bits of rainbow on a field of dreams that the generations before fought to make a reality for all. Funded by community members, legally permitted, and leaving the park cleaner than it was found, the celebration ended, and plans were set in motion for the next year.

The following June support for the Pride Picnic grew. Food was donated, tents popped up and the turn-out was larger. This became a new tradition, fitting for such a supportive, loving and proud little island.

This year, the third picnic, was the most successful yet! More food, more games, more tents and chairs, more friends, more allies and a solid understanding that our LGBTQ+ community is not only respected and welcomed on City Island but is a vital part of its buoyancy in a world of rising and turning tides. Those who are still marginalized and threatened in many parts of our country, who are seen as "the other," demonized and, in some cases, brutalized, are simply at home on City Island. Home on the sidewalks as they hold their partner's hand. Home at the Snug, whether for Monday night football or a Pride Month Drag Show (reportedly the party of the year). Home at the coffee shop, Dominic's Market, a local beach, a



City Island clergy gathered to wish farewell to Rabbi David Marcus on June 16, 2023, at the Black Whale. Above (l. to r.): Fr. John Knapp, Fr. Kevin Moroney, the Rev. David Jolly, Rabbi David and Fr. Augustus Onwubiko.

place of worship, tending their gardens, shaking their cocktails, weaving through the craft fair or sailing around our shores. The LGBTQ+ community is proud to be part of the City Island community.

This year 40 Pride flags were purchased, assembled and hung flying beneath and in unison with about one fifth of the beautiful American flags that fly above the avenue every summer, reminding us all of our freedoms and liberties that have been fought for and won.

Sadly, and most unfortunately, some person or persons on City Island took it upon themselves under the cover of night to destroy and abscond with more than half of the rainbow flags that adorned the avenue. These thefts were calculated, and methodically carried out away from the security cameras positioned in places where they might be caught in the act. This is legally considered both as a theft of property and as a hate crime, one that could result in up to four years in prison. A poor decision does not warrant such an outcome. No person wins such games of finger-pointing and retaliation.

This is not a call to action. This is a love letter to our City Island home and a statement of faith in our neighbors and ourselves: that we will all, even in the absence of understanding or agreement, defer to the acts of love and respect, which every human being deserves, instead of divisiveness and destruction.

Our flags will fly again next June. They will fly respectfully below the American flag, as they were flown this year, and they will wave proudly through the entire month until they are taken down by those who raised them. We love you, City Island!

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Photo by AMC PHOTO, INC.

Members of the 2023 graduation class of Public School 175. Front row (l.to r.): graduates Alyssa Sciara, Jasper Perry, Daniella Padagas, Grace Riordan; faculty Julie Porras, Principal, Kathie Wiehler, Assistant Principal; graduates Kevin Galvez, Lizbeth Vazquez, Vanessa Enriquez. Second row: faculty Emily Doherty; graduates John Mandarino, Olivia Tucci, Gavin Roberts, Lea Acocella, Genesis Vargas, Matylda Serrano, Angelisse Hiciano, Aniel Cruz; faculty Karen Heil, Alexandra Mazza. Top row; faculty Anthony Corona; graduates Jackson Baumann, Brendon Ryan, Ryan Liu, Angel Alvarado, Jayden Guerrero, Bryan Severino, Aaden Caraballo, Jason Reyes-Moran, Daniella Byrnes; faculty Anthony Esposito.

## P.S. 175 Graduation

*Continued from page 1*

audience that he believed they came back after the pandemic “better than before and ready to face the challenges of high school.”

Lizbeth Vazquez marveled at the quick passage of time. “I used to be asked in third grade what high school I was going to. It seemed so far away, but here we are!” She brought tears to many eyes in the audience when she described losing her father to Covid. “2020 was a hard year, but it taught me to appreciate life even more.”

Each speaker praised the teachers and staff at the school for supporting them and for providing a wonderful elementary- and middle-school experience, despite the challenges. “P.S. 175 taught me that it’s OK to do your best and be the best. This school has been a bubble for us where we always feel comfortable. Now we have to leave, but we will remember our years here,” Lizbeth explained.

The eighth-graders sang their first song, “Memories” by Maroon5, which summed up how much they cherish the friendships made at the K-to-8 school (one of the few in New York City). The song was led by Lea Acocella, Vanessa Enriquez, Daniella Padagas and Jasper Perry.

Then Ms. Porras and Assistant Principal Kathleen Wiehler awarded the diplomas and made the following presentations: The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for Highest Average was awarded to Lizbeth Vazquez, who also received the Principal’s Award for Academic Excellence. The Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was given to Jason Reyes-Moran; the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement went to Ryan Liu.

The Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* was given to Alyssa Sciara; the Alice Persteins Award for Moral Strength and Community Involvement was presented to Daniella Padagas; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for

Service and Leadership went to Vanessa Enriquez; the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort was given to Jason Reyes-Moran; Jayden Guerrero received the Lucretia Fusco Award for Perseverance.

The S.T.E.A.M. Award for Excellence in Computer Science was presented to John Mandarino; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Perseverance Award went to Grace Riordan.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: Science Award, Vanessa Enriquez; Social Studies Award, Kevin Galvez; Math Superintendent Award, Ryan Liu; Math Award, Olivia Tucci; ELA Superintendent Award, Jason Reyes-Moran; ELA Award, John Mandarino.

Regents math certificates were given to Vanessa Enriquez, Kevin Galvez, John Mandarino, Daniella Padagas, Jason Reyes-Moran, Alyssa Sciara and Lizbeth Vazquez.

The P.S. 175 Physical Education Award was given to Daniella Padagas; the P.S. 175 Service Award was presented to Vanessa Enriquez, Daniella Padagas, Grace Riordan and Genesis Vargas; the P.S. 175 Student Government Award went to Angel Alvarado, Genesis Vargas and Daniella Padagas.

Students on the honor roll were: (Gold) Jackson Baumann, Vanessa Enriquez, Jason Reyes-Moran, Alyssa Sciara, Genesis Vargas and Lizbeth Vazquez; (Silver) Lea Acocella, Angel Alvarado, Kevin Galvez, Ryan Liu, John Mandarino, Daniella Padagas, Grace Riordan and Olivia Tucci.

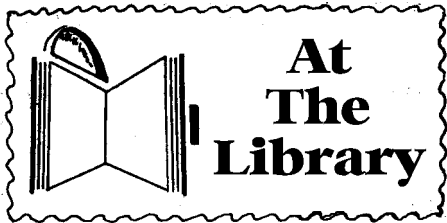
After the presentation of diplomas and awards, the entire class gave a lively performance to the music of “High Hopes” by Panic! At The Disco, bringing the 2023 graduation to an energetic close. Graduates and their families lined up to take photos of their last moments at the school and to make plans for the graduation dance later that night at the Sea Shore Restaurant.

Congratulations to the award winners and all the 2023 graduates!



An original sculpture featuring City Island landmarks was created by the graduating class of 2023 as a legacy to P.S. 175 (top photo). An ensemble music presentation of “Memories” by Maroon5 was led by Lea Acocella, Vanessa Enriquez, Daniella Padagas and Jasper Perry (bottom).





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**JULY-AUGUST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**City Island Summer Kick-off Party:** Monday, July 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Bilingual Storytime:** This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books in Spanish and English, as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Monday, July 10, at 3 p.m.

**Stories in the Shade:** Join us at Pelham Bay Park for stories and fun as part of the New York Public Library's Summer at the Library Under the Gazebo at the Playground for All Children (along Bruckner Boulevard near Middletown Road). Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

**Start with Art:** Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative!

Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

**JULY-AUGUST TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Get Moving for Your Mental Health:** Come move and relax! An hour of optional physical movement, where teens stretch, meditate and dance while listening to quintessential Hip Hop music. Wednesday, July 5, 19 and 26 and Aug. 2, 9 and 16, at 3 p.m.

**Be Your Own DJ:** Want to be a DJ? Come to the library to learn the basics of mixing and looping and get the party started! No instruments required or experience required. We will set you up with a computer, some basic gear and get you started! With a quick tutorial, the rhythm in you can shine. Monday, July 10, at 1 p.m.

**Teen Unwind:** Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. July 7:

**DJ Royalty:** Create portraits of Hip-Hop royalty—the original Bronx DJs! July 14:

**Warhol & Basquiat in the City:** Watch an interview with legendary NYC pop artists Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat, then try your hand at their unique styles. July 21:

**Express Yourself! Creative Writing Workshop:** We want to hear from you! NYPL's Teen Voices Magazine Contest is accepting submissions of writing and art; 25 winners will be published in our Teen Voices magazine and awarded \$100. Come to this session to get started on your entry and make it the best it can be! July 28:

**Mondrian's Stained "Glass":** Make stained "glass" (tissue paper) in the style of abstract artist Piet Mondrian; Aug. 4:

**DJ Your Day:** A good playlist is a magical thing. It has the power to get the party started, motivate you to get the job done, help you concentrate, lift your mood when you're down and so much more! In this program, teens will learn tips and tricks to make their playlists pop no matter the occasion; Aug. 11:

**Picasso Self Portraits:** Paint, draw or collage yourself in the famous cubist style

of Pablo Picasso; Aug. 18:

**Create Your Own Tag:** Come create your own signature tag! We'll briefly discuss the history of tagging and graffiti before creating and designing your own tag; Aug. 25:

**Music Critique 101:** What makes a good song good or timeless? What makes a certain specific cover so much better than the original track? Let's talk about it! If you are passionate about music and love nothing more than sharing that love with your peers, this is the program for you! Join us in the library to discuss everything music.

**JULY-AUGUST ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Introduction to Computers:** Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. All work will be conducted on our Library computers. Call us for details and more information. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, July 10 and 24; Aug. 7 and 21, at 5 p.m.

**Island Writers:** Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Origami for Adults:** Origami, the art of paper folding, originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it "engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination." Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

**Bronx History in Books:** A Literary smorgasbord highlighting the library's collection of Bronx-themed books which include novels, mysteries, memoirs, poems, photo books, films and more! Please register at [www.nypl.org/locations/city-island](http://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island). Monday, Aug. 21, at 3 p.m.

**Movie: "Bend It Like Beckham":**

Saturday, July 29, at 2 p.m.; Title to be announced for Saturday, Aug. 26, at 2 p.m.

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



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

The following information was collected for *The Current* by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
<b>One-Family Houses</b>		
437 Minnieford Avenue	\$570,000	5/2/23
18 Tier Street	\$590,000	5/9/23
186 Rochelle Street	\$1,200,000	5/10/23
104 Tier Street	\$430,000	5/16/23
102 Ditmars Street	\$390,000	4/11/23
<b>Multi-Family House</b>		
319 City Island Avenue	\$738,000	4/20/23
69 Tier Street	\$965,000	5/25/23
<b>Commercial</b>		
474 City Island Avenue	\$350,000	5/24/23

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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Where famous yachts and military vessels were once built and rebuilt, including *Magic* (above right), which in 1870 became the first boat to defend the America's Cup against a British challenger, one can see only huge building cranes, rigging and large trucks owned by U.S. Crane, which purchased the yard in 2020.

## End of an Era

*Continued from page 1*

all manner of local vessels that frequented the island on their way to and from New York Harbor. They arranged for a New Rochelle man named Underhill, under the supervision of George Washington Horton Jr., to construct and oversee a short marine railway at the east foot of what was known then as Pilot Avenue. At the time, a "marine railway" was a railway with a rolling cradle for hauling ships out of water onto land and returning them to the water.

The marine railway was intended to permit short-hauling, servicing and maintenance of local watercraft or vessels from elsewhere that suffered distress in the area. Underhill, however, seems to have operated this early shipyard (or simple marine railway) for only a short time and was replaced by a man named Samuel Hart, who at that time operated a shipyard in the Northport area. He was in the middle of a lease dispute with the town of Huntington, and during the long litigation found the opportunity to take over running the railway at City Island for the Hortons.

Along with another Northport shipbuilder and City Island resident named James Ketcham, Sam Hart ran a small business repairing, painting, cleaning, caulking and building vessels of a limited size on their railway. And, according to an account published in 1900, they began to do a "large business in repairing vessels injured by striking the rocks in Hell Gate or getting ashore around Hart's Island."

In 1859, David Carll, who had operated a shipyard in Northport on Long Island with his brother, Jesse since 1855, decided to leave the shipyard and explore an opportunity working with Hart and Ketcham on City Island, where he built a 37-foot sloop, *Bell*, using the Pilot Street railway. Shortly afterward, he bought the business and established David Carll's Shipyard.

During the early 1860s, David Carll worked hard to expand his newly acquired shipyard. Unaware of the fact that Benjamin Palmer had obtained from the Colonial Governor of New York a grant of land underwater on City Island in 1762, David Carll applied for and obtained from New York's State Commissioners of the Land Office a grant for 442 feet of land under water on his waterfront. The grant gave him the comfort necessary to expand the shipyard, although eventually the grant became the subject of a major lawsuit against Henry Piepgras (after he acquired the shipyard from David Carll about 1885).

In 1865, Carll was the winning bidder for the purchase of the decommissioned United States receiving ship *North Carolina*. According to one of Carll's many obituaries, "From the wood and timbers of

that ship, from the live oak timbers in the old hulk he laid the foundation of the large fortune which he afterward amassed." From the wood and timbers, he reportedly built schooners, but most importantly for City Island and the Town of Pelham, timbers from the *North Carolina* also were used to build the island's first bridge to the mainland, which opened in 1873.

During the 1870s, David Carll rebuilt *Magic*, the first defender of the America's Cup, a yacht (the *Atalanta*, 1873) and a schooner (the *Ambassadors*, 1877) for William Backhouse Astor Jr., a yachtsman, businessman and racehorse breeder. Such notable shipbuilding commissions clearly helped Carll's business and increased his influence and affluence. David Carll retired from "active business" about 1885 and sold the shipyard to Henry Piepgras, at least one source indicates that Carll retained an interest in the shipyard.

Henry Piepgras was a talented and masterful shipbuilder and ship architect. He brought the art of iron and steel ship construction to City Island after having become an expert in crafting lead keels and building hollow masts for such ships while working as a shipbuilder in Germany and, later, in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. One of the earliest ships built at the Piepgras Shipyard that attracted a great deal of attention was the *Titania* built for C. Oliver Iselin. The *Titania* was a magnificently outfitted 82-foot steel sloop. Like a number of the launches of new ships when the shipyard was owned by David Carll, the christening and launch of the *Titania* on May 14, 1887, was attended by about 2,000 spectators.

Henry Piepgras sold the yard to Robert Jacob in 1900, and the yard brought in some of the most famous boats in the world, among them Vincent Astor's *Nourmahal*, J. P. Morgan's *Corsair*, Thomas Lipton's *Shamrock* and several of the America's Cup defenders and challengers.

An interesting side story is that the Jacob yard served as the location for many silent movies that were made in the Bronx during the 1910s and 1920s. In 1924, when the famous film maker D. W. Griffith sold his studio in Mamaroneck, the huge building that had played a role in "Orphans of the Storm" (1921), an epic story set during the French Revolution, the Jacob yard was in need of a bigger and higher shed than the one that had been built by Henry Piepgras in the early 1890s. Large boats under construction had to be built to the deck of the hull and then hauled out to the yard to be completed with cabin houses and superstructures. In 1926 the Jacob yard bought the studio and had it partially dismantled in Mamaroneck and moved by barges down the Sound to City Island, where it was reassembled on the footprint of the old shed.

During the Great Depression, the con-



struction of large yachts declined, and the yard shifted its focus to building smaller vessels. During World War II, however, the yard built 24 Nevins-designed minesweepers, along with many other military vessels, such as harbor tugs, PT boats and subchasers for the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard.

In 1946, seeing the last of government contracts and the trend toward smaller yachts with less maintenance, the Robert Jacob yard was sold to Consolidated Shipbuilding. Consolidated had been established in the 1890s and had operated for many years out of the Morris Heights area on the East River. The yard was famous for building power yachts up to and over 200 feet. During a two-year period Consolidated relocated to City Island and continued to build yachts mostly in the 39-foot to 60-foot range.

In 1959 the Consolidated Yard was bought by a syndicate headed by Wes

Rodstrom Sr., who at the time operated a boat yard at the City Island Yacht Club at the west end of Pilot Street. At first he ran both yards but eventually gave up the yacht club yard. The Pilot Street yard became known as the Rodstrom Shipyard and then in 1961 became Consolidated Yachts, Inc. When Wes Rodstrom Sr. retired after 40 years on Pilot Street, Wes Rodstrom Jr. and his partner, Michael Piparo, operated the yard from 1999 to 2017, when the property was sold to JEK Communications, which leased the Consolidated yard to Wes Rodstrom.

Although the yard had been owned by his family since the 1950s, Wes sold it in 2017 to Joseph Briody, owner of JEK Communications, who sold the property three years later to U.S. Crane, which officially closed the yard in May 2023, thus ending an important chapter in City Island's nautical history.

## FLAGS FOR HEROES



On Flag Day, June 14, 2023, members of the Rotary Club of the Bronx (including Islanders Maria Sipas, Monica Glick and Rev. David Jolly), gathered at Catherine Scott Promenade Park to implement the first annual Flags for Heroes display. Flags for Heroes is a nationwide Rotarian project in which anyone can honor someone who has been a personal inspiration or hero for them. The Bronx Club planted 23 flags, which were in place for two weeks. Each flag has a laminated medallion that has the name of the honored person on it. At the end of the display, the donors received their medallions as a keepsake. The club hopes to grow the project each year into a veritable forest of glory.





Photo by KAREN NANI

New York City, including City Island (above), experienced poor air quality on June 7, 2023, as the result of smoke and haze from wildfires in Canada. An Air Quality Health Advisory was in effect for all five boroughs that lasted throughout the weekend.

# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings! We had so much fun in June with our barbeque theme. Besides the usual potato salad and burgers, we also had a six-foot charcuterie board and a broccoli slaw with buttermilk dressing and plenty of grilled chicken and hot dogs.

June also marked the end of our season as we break for the summer, so we had our annual dinner at the Sea Shore, which is always happy to see our group. A great time was had by all.

The fun is not over, however. On July 15 we will be having a Kids Culinary workshop for children ages 7 through 12 at the City Island Community Center from 12 to 3 p.m. The kids will learn how to make a chocolate mug cake along with other fun and easy recipes.

Until September, then, happy cooking to all. Here is a recipe for a Fresh Berry Lemonade, which is so refreshing on those hot summer days.

### Fresh Berry Lemonade

#### Ingredients for simple syrup

1 pound strawberries

1 cup sugar

#### Ingredients for the lemonade

2 cups of the simple syrup  
1 1/3 cups fresh lemon juice  
Sliced strawberries and lemons, for serving

#### Directions

Step 1: In large saucepan, combine strawberries, sugar and two cups of water. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar.

Step 2: Reduce heat and simmer until the berries turn pale and the liquid is red, about 10 minutes. Skim off and discard any foam that has risen to the surface.

Step 3: Let syrup cool in saucepan for an hour. Strain through fine-mesh sieve and let it cool completely (discard berries or save for another use). Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

Step 4: To serve the lemonade, combine the syrup with the lemon juice and mix well. Garnish with strawberries and lemon slices.

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- Junior Sailing Programs for kids and teens
- Waterfront dining April - October
- Award-winning chef
- Active racing program on water
- Social events ashore

If you would like to plan a visit, contact Membership Chair Anthony Rosco at [membership@hyc.org](mailto:membership@hyc.org) or call our office at 718-885-3078.



# GRACE CHURCH'S 'FATHERS'

By KAREN NANI

The following history was presented on Father's Day, June 18, 2023, by Elsa Moroney, a member of the Sunday School at Grace Church. Historical information was provided by Evyonne Baker and Barbara Dolensek.

This year on Father's Day members of the Church School presented a history of and tribute to the many fathers of Grace who helped to build it and who made it possible for worship to continue for over 175 years.

Ironically, it was a woman who supervised the construction of Grace Episcopal Church in 1863, the church's mother and founder, Adele Bolton. The white marble plaque in her memory is on the north wall near the church entrance. But the land on which the church now stands, at the southeast corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, was a gift of George Washington Horton Jr., who was the son of one of City Island's earliest settlers and who served as church warden for 41 consecutive years, from 1866 to 1906. The builder of Grace Church was the founder of the first major boatyard on City Island, which was established in 1862 by David Carll, who served as a vestryman of Grace Church for 24 consecutive years, from 1866 to 1889. The stained-glass window over the altar depicting the Trial of Christ was created by Adele's brother John Bolton and was installed in 1863 as a gift to the new church. Hanging above the altar are two wooden square-rigged ships, one donated about 1931 by City Island sailmaker George Ratsey and the other by Island shipbuilder Robert Jacob. Indeed, the early Grace baptismal records reflect the names of many families rooted in City Island's early history, such as Horton, Hawkins, Carll, Jacob, Reynolds, and Ulmer, to name a few. You can find many of these names on street signs along City Island Avenue.

The names of Grace Church's spiritual fathers, the clergy who have led worship on City Island and in this building, are listed on a brass plaque behind the organ. The plaque includes Reverend Cornelius Bolton, son of the rector and founder of Christ Church in Pelham Manor, who came to City Island in 1849. He found a population of 800 souls "almost entirely neglected and destitute of the means of grace, offered them a Sunday afternoon service, every second Sunday, which was



readily accepted and largely attended." In 1851 he was transferred to Maryland, where he remained until 1855, when he returned as rector of Christ Church Pelham, following in the footsteps of his father. Cornelius's two sisters, Nanette and Adele Bolton, were intensely interested in the work of the church and the spreading of the gospel. Adele is said to have rowed by boat from the mainland every Sunday to City Island as there was no bridge at the time.

In 1862, the Reverend M. M. Dillon, then pastor of Christ Church in Pelham, reported that "a church is in process of erection" on City Island and that \$1,353 had been contributed for the purpose by the young ladies of Pelham Priory. In 1863, Adele Bolton herself collected \$944, and City Island residents contributed \$600 for Grace Church, the total cost of which was \$3,000. Reverend Dillon led worship on City Island from 1861 to 1864, during the Civil War, and in 1863, Reverend Samuel S. Chevers, an assistant priest of Christ Church in Pelham, was made missionary-in-charge of Grace Church. On May 1, 1865, Reverend William V. Feltwell was officially called as rector of the parish, and a few weeks later, the congregation decided to apply for complete independence from Christ Church. The parish was incorporated on June 7, 1880, and gained admission into the Diocese of New York. The Reverend Joshua Morsell led Grace from 1874 to 1884; a plaque in his memory is above the choir pews, and



Photos courtesy of the GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The founding pastor of Grace Church was Cornelius Winter Bolton (upper left). Three of the priests who followed him in the 20th and 21st centuries are Fr. Henry R. Coleman and Fr. Kevin Moroney (upper row, l. to r.) and Fr. Lester Martin (lower left).

his grave is in Pelham Cemetery on City Island.

During the 20th century, information is scant until 1933, when the Reverend Lester Martin joined Grace to serve as priest until 1944. He was followed by the Reverend Henry R. Coleman, and it was in his memory that the stained-glass window in the back of the church, "Jesus Calms the Seas," was dedicated after his death in 1967. Father Coleman was followed in 1972 by Reverend Richard Upsher Smith, who led the effort to construct affordable senior housing on City Island, and Pilot Cove Manor behind the church thrives to this day thanks to him. Father Douglas Coleman served from ---- to ----, later joining the staff of Pilot Cove Manor, and in the 21st century, the church has been blessed by the presence of Reverend John Covington, who led Grace through the pandemic, and Reverend Kevin Moroney, who is the 25th priest to lead this parish. (It must be mentioned that there were two mothers of Grace in the line of clergy during the 21st century, Reverend Patricia Alexander and Mother Ruth Ann Garcia, and Father Wilfredo Benitez has also lent a caring hand in recent years.)

Hundreds of parishioner "fathers" also served in tireless ways during the 19th and 20th centuries, and many appear in the photographs that hang on the walls in

the parish hall. Some parishioners served for over 20 consecutive years as wardens of Grace, including Jacob Ulmer, Louis Herbert, James Horton, Victor Anderson and Frederick Gauss. During the second half of the 20th century, senior wardens included Joe Wilhelm, Bill Stuttig, Herbert Sergison and Philip Gauss, whose names are inscribed on beautiful chairs on the altar; Charles Dill, whose name is on the plaque beneath the stained-glass window to the right of the altar, led the Vestry.

I hardly need to mention the fact that choir directors, vestry members, wardens, bell ringers, ushers and buildings and grounds chairs have donated years of service to Grace Church, having accepted the inheritance of this parish with the firm belief that it will continue to serve as a spiritual voice in the community. Reverend Smith noted in his remarks celebrating the 125th anniversary of Grace that since the church was founded, there had been the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, two World Wars, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, great scientific and technological development, the dawn of the nuclear age, and alternating prosperity and depression. Yet the church is still standing! It is because of such fathers (and mothers) who are remembered and honored on Father's Day that the Grace Church parish can look to the future with confidence.

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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.

### Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) are how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

After worship, we are having "More Love, Joy and Peace in God's Words" Bible Study.

On Wednesdays at Trinity, at 4:30 p.m., Youth Group for all children in 5th through 12th grades. At 6 p.m., there will be a Community Supper of soup and bread followed by a time of prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday's Budget Shop is preparing to close for the summer. When the donation bin is closed, please hold your donations for the fall.

If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845-532-3378.

**Rick DeWitt**

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this COVID period, our offerings are either on Zoom only, or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, meditation, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is recommended. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

#### !SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

On June 30, Temple Beth-El said goodbye to our wonderful Rabbi, spiritual leader and friend Rabbi David Evan Markus. Rabbi David has been guiding us through our religious, spiritual and personal lives for the past 13 years. Teaching classes, leading trips, celebrating holidays, establishing relationships with other houses of worship on City Island and providing personal pastoral care are some of the many roles he has played in those memorable years. To say we will miss him is an understatement of biblical proportions.

We wish Rabbi David the best of everything as he moves on to his new congregation in Greenwich, CT, and we hope to be in continuous communication and collaboration with him in the months and years ahead.

Beginning Aug. 15, we welcome Rabbi David Levy to our shul. We invite all to meet and greet Rabbi Levy on Aug. 18 for our special Shabbat by the Sea. The weather will be perfect, and the stars will shine and Rabbi Levy will begin to take us on a new spiritual and enlightened journey.

The following events are scheduled for

July 2023:

Shabbat Services:

July 7: with Stu and Leslie (Zoom only; 7:30 p.m.)

July 14: with Shari and Monty (Zoom only; 7:30 p.m.)

July 22: Saturday Morning Service with Shari and Stu (at TBE and online, 10 a.m.)

July 28: with Shari and Monty (a playful Shabbat; place TBD)

July 29: Lights and Flicks Havdalah (Zoom; 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday Morning Deep Dive: Torah study led by congregants of TBE (Zoom; 10 a.m. start). No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

Hebrew Reading Crash Course, with Shari Berkowitz. This five-week free class will be fun and interactive. Class runs for five Thursdays, beginning June 29. (You can still register. To receive the free digital materials and attend the class, go to [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org), click on calendar and scroll down for course information and registration.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We'd be happy to host you.

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

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

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

**Rachel Stark, President;**  
**Shari Berkowitz, Vice President**

### City Island Nautical Museum

The Museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. through the fall. Stay tuned for special events by following us on social media and reach out if you would like to schedule a group tour by calling 718-885-0008.

Our reception at the opening of Liz Alderman's exhibition of paintings was a great success on June 11, with over 150 visitors. Her work will be on view through the summer.

Visitors will also be able to check out our oral history video project and hear stories about our boat industry, schools and community from Skippy Lane, William Clancy, Elisa Gilbert Kroepke, Fay Jordaens, Herb Hild and more!

The Museum shop features beautiful nautical-themed gifts, but if you can't get to the Museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (at its new location 271 City Island Avenue, just south of the Black Whale) has some Museum gifts for sale.

The best way to visit and support the Museum is by becoming a member. For the 2023 year individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45 and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit the Museum for free and to get a 10% discount at the gift shop, as well as exclusive events and communications. Single day tickets are \$8 per person, with



The Archdiocese of New York Catholic Committee on Scouting had its annual Scouting Eucharistic Celebration on May 7 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, with Bishop John O'Hara. The Ad Altare Dei emblem was presented to Scouts Matteo Ciccone, James Clancy, Owen Delaney, Robert Delaney, John Paul Hickey and Christopher Matos. The Pope Pius XII emblem was presented to Scouts Matthew Clancy and Thomas Riordan. A thank-you to Greg Clancy and Jim McGaughan and sincere love and gratitude to Thomas McMahon Sr. for helping these young men in earning these emblems.

children under 12 free.

Check our website and Facebook page for special events this summer.

**Lauren Nye**

### American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 10, at 12 noon, when we will be conducting our first meeting back after the summer break. As in past years, the first Sunday is part of Labor Day Weekend, so we have moved the meeting to the following Sunday. Dues for 2024 are \$55.00; please drop off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and 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. Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

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

As the heat increases, it is time to cool off this summer at City Island's Unofficial Cooling Center. Please feel free to stop by the Post for a cold drink and avoid the heat.

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

A special recognition to Vice Commander Greg Clancy and members of Troop 211 who devoted their time, and labor to ensure the Veterans Memorial Triangle (Legion Triangle) was beautified for Memorial Day. And Vice Commander Greg Clancy, who led the Flag Stewards in posting flags along City Island Avenue. And additional thanks to the City Island community, which always stands ready to support all our events.

The American Legion Family of Post 156 honors and reflects on Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or

Freedom Day. It is now a national holiday that commemorates the announcement on June 19, 1865, of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the United States of America. Our Legion Family joined with our community and beyond in recognizing the struggle of African Americans and all people of color in our nation both before and after emancipation.

Additionally, we welcome and support Gay Pride Month. I can reflect on the many contributions made by members of the military who identified as being LGBTQ+. They performed in the advancement of our military although they were not permitted to express their thoughts or feelings until the repeal of "Don't ask, Don't tell."

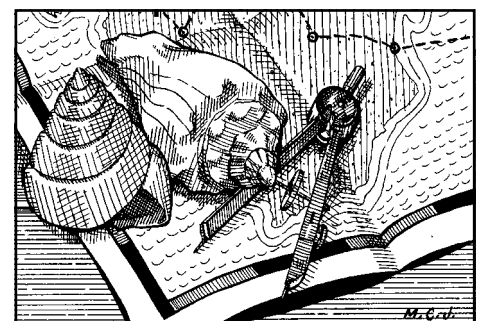
The following are dates and upcoming events:

July 4: Independence Day  
July 27: End of Korean War (1953)  
Aug. 2: Operation Desert Shield (1990)  
Aug. 4: U.S. Coast Guard birthday  
Aug. 5: Gulf of Tonkin (1964)  
Aug. 7: Purple Heart Day  
Aug. 15: V-J Day (1945)

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

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 104 years. It is our honor to be your community partner.

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**



### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will have its end-of-the-season sidewalk sale on Thursday, June 29, and Friday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hope to see you there!

**Arlene Byrne**





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

Summer is here. Our Culinary Club is launching the new Culinary Kids Club on July 15. We welcome kids to the Center to learn all about food and cooking from the club members.

Our schedule of offerings continues through the summer:

**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly at 914-262-4517.

**Children's Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga & Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

**Melissa Cebollero**

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

There will be no monthly Holy Hour during the summer months. We will resume in October.

Registration information for the 2023/2024 Religious Education Program will be e-mailed to all parents as soon as it is available. We wish everyone a safe and blessed summer and hope to see you at Mass.

On Tuesday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation, and we encourage everyone to join us at one of our Masses that day. Masses are at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Thrift Shop will be closed for the summer months and will reopen in September. Watch for our opening date!

**Rosette Dietz**

### U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary City Island Flotilla

Boating season is officially here! Our members are active and out at various marinas and yacht clubs during the weekend to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. You may have already seen our members walking the avenue, advertising our boating safety courses or on the docks conducting vessel exams. Our unit continues to grow with two more new members joining our ranks, which brings our membership up to 49. Over the past month, we have been able to qualify four new vessel examiners, bringing our total up to 13 qualified Vessel Examiners. Our members strive for professional development so we can better serve you!

Our next flotilla meetings will take place on Tuesday, July 11; Tuesday, Aug. 8; and Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our command staff and officers are available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests.

Our next three-day boating class will take place on Tuesdays, July 18 and 25 and

Aug. 1, and Thursdays, Aug. 17, 24 and 31, from 7 to 10 p.m. Our next one-day boating classes will take place on Saturday, July 22, and Sunday, Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interested in joining our unit or taking a boating class? Send us an e-mail at [usc-gaux0140504@gmail.com](mailto:usc-gaux0140504@gmail.com).

**David P. Mooney**

### City Island Oyster Reef

We have started up this season's shell recycling program, in which we collect oyster shells in preparation for use in seeding oyster reefs in the waters of the Long Island Sound. Luna Placchi, CIOR's Community and Education Engagement Coordinator, oversees the collection of shells from Seafood City, Sea Shore Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Johnny's Reef, and Tony's Pier. To help out, reach out to her at [luna.placchi@cioysterreef.org](mailto:luna.placchi@cioysterreef.org).

We have a lot going on this season, starting with the monitoring of water quality in the waters around City Island for 10 sessions, and the upcoming dates are June 24, July 8 and Aug. 12, September 9 and 23. The upcoming monitoring of Billion Oyster Project's oyster cages will take place on July 1 and 22, Aug. 19, and Sept. 2. Come check out the biodiversity that we find like skillets, cunner fish and multiple varieties of crabs. If you are interested in coming out with us on the skiff, please e-mail [info@cioysterreef.org](mailto:info@cioysterreef.org).

We will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, July 19, at 7 p.m. on the history of oystering in New York, specifically City Island. You can access the webinar through our website, [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org).

Our annual fundraiser, the Water Jubilee, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 5 with a kayak/paddleboard race around City Island at 10 a.m., a sailing race at 2 p.m. in Eastchester Bay, and a reception at the Morris Yacht Club at 4:30 p.m. Please go to our website to register.

We are also repeating our successful Malcolm Campbell Summer Film Series at 89 Horton Street on July 22 and Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. Visit our website for more details or e-mail [info@cioystereef.org](mailto:info@cioystereef.org) to be added to our e-mail list so that you can be sent notices of our events and activities.

And mark your calendar for our annual environmental festival, Viva la Sound, which will be held at Ambrosini Field on Saturday, Sept. 30.

For more information about CIOR, go to our website at [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org) or join one of the volunteer sessions described above. Restoring oysters to Long Island Sound and educating the community about our environmental efforts are key to our mission. All this work cannot be done without community involvement, and we encourage volunteers to join us for any or all of our activities.

**Sally Connolly**

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street.

Our priest, Fr. Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services since last August and has also been very active in the Island community. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

**Bible Reading over Coffee and Tea:** Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service around 11 a.m. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, the next Bible reading is scheduled for July 9, when we will read the Book of Tobit.

**Sunday School:** Members of Grace's

Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in the fall this year. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

**The GraceTones:** We are happy to announce that we have resumed singing at area nursing homes and rehab centers. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfx@gmail.com](mailto:accentfx@gmail.com) or send a text to 917-566-1296.

**Sandy Dun**

### PSS City Island Center

Summer is here! Discover the many exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer in July and August.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning. He will be offering a series of classes on android phones at 11 a.m. and iPhones at 1 p.m. Both classes will begin on Monday, July 3. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the center at 718-885-0727.

### July-August Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, July 11, at 11 a.m., Fruits and Vegetables: Half Your Plate with Weill Cornell Medicine Virtual Education Programs

Wednesday, July 12, at 11 a.m., Everything You Need to Know about OTC Hearing Aids (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)—call for link or visit <https://pssusa.org/events/>.

Tuesday, July 18, 7 to 8 p.m., Meet the Author: Former NFL Pro Hank Bjorklund Uses Creativity to Cope with Brain Trauma Aids (see PSS Life! University)

Wednesday, July 19, at 11 a.m., Cooking Live with NYC Aging: Cold Peanut Sesame Noodles (virtual presentation—call for login information or pick up center calendar)

Wednesday, July 19, 1 to 2 p.m., Chat with the Expert Series: Keeping You and Your Home Safe from Scams and Deceptive Loans (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Thursday, July 20, 1 to 2 p.m., Aging and Cognition and the Brain Fog Phenomenon (PSS Life! University)

Tuesday, July 25, 7 to 8 p.m., Tapping: How to Release Stress and More (PSS Life! University)

Friday, July 28, 12:30 p.m. Birthday Party with Entertainment by Mark Doyle

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 10 to 11 a.m., Medicare Update (PSS Life! University)

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 11 a.m., Cooking Live with NYC Aging: Red Borscht (virtual program)

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1 p.m., Singing Group Concert directed by Napat—Com-

munity is invited.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1 to 2 p.m., Medicare Update 2024 and Beyond (PSS Life! University)

### The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified. The Orchard Beach Walking Group meets midweek in the afternoons depending on the weather.

#### Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)  
10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)

9 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

11 a.m. to 12 noon Android Smartphone classes

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays  
1 to 2:30 p.m. iPhone classes

#### Tuesday

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

12 noon In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat (except July 4 and 25)

#### Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Beginner Broadway Dance (remote and in person)

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)

#### Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)

10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

#### Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance (in person and remote)

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote only)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Bingo or Mahjongg

We will be closed on the Fourth of July.

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips with a donation, which is needed to keep this service at City Island. We will be making trips to the Farmers Market and should be receiving Farmers Market coupons sometime in July. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot.

Stay safe and healthy. Please stop by the Center when you have a chance!

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

### Garden Club of City Island

Garden Club members met the first week of June to install summer flowers in the containers on City Island Avenue and at the Post Office—red and blue vinca as the “filler,” dracaena as the “thriller” and alyssum as the “spiller.” The new plants should grow to fill the containers.

The Post Office garden is beautiful with the oak-leaf hydrangea starting to bloom and the perennials filling in. CJS Property Care installed mulch, making the garden look very neat. We continue to stop by frequently to make sure that weeds are pulled and trash is removed. We have had very little rain in the last few weeks, so members, Helping Hands and Post Office employees have been busy watering the garden. This includes the new street tree in front of the Post Office, planted as part of Bill Clancy's tree project. We hope that everyone is helping to keep these new trees well watered so that they can get established.

We thank all of you who donated to our Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a Helping Hand for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting that is open to the public will be Monday, Aug. 7, and our September meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 11, both at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Have a great summer!

**Judy Judson**





### British Royalty

With the recent coronation of King Charles III and many of us waiting for the next season of **The Crown**, it seems a fitting time to look at films and TV series about British royalty.

#### Films

In **A Man for All Seasons** (1966), the highly respected British statesman Sir Thomas More (Paul Scofield) refuses to pressure the Pope into annulling the marriage of King Henry VIII (Robert Shaw) and his Spanish-born wife. This clash with the monarch increases in intensity. A devout Catholic, More stands by his religious principles and moves to leave the royal court. Unfortunately, the King and his loyalists aren't appeased by this, and press forward with grave charges of treason, further testing More's resolve. The film won six Academy Awards, including Best Actor for Scofield, Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Cinematography and Costume Design.

Although Dame Judi Dench began acting in 1960, she didn't get her first leading role in a film until **Mrs. Brown** (1997), when she was 63 years old. In that film, for which she received her first Academy Award nomination, she starred as Queen Victoria, who is inconsolable after the death of her beloved husband, Albert, with whom she had nine children. The court appoints one of Albert's former servants, John Brown (Billy Connolly), to help her recover from her grief. Brown's eccentric ways delight the Queen, and he becomes her sole confidant. However, their closeness causes rumors about the nature of their relationship.

**Elizabeth** (1998) is the first of Australian actress Cate Blanchett's two movies as Queen Elizabeth I of England. This biographical film dramatizes the early years of her reign. The young Protestant Elizabeth was crowned Queen upon the death of her Catholic half-sister Mary I in 1558. The role won Blanchett a Golden Globe and a BAFTA in 1998 and the film received seven Oscar nominations. Joseph Fiennes, Christopher Eccleston, John Gielgud, Geoffrey Rush and Richard Attenborough also star.

In **Elizabeth: The Golden Age** (2007) Blanchett reprises the role of Queen Elizabeth I and was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards. The Queen faces threats to her rule from abroad and at home. Determined to restore England to Roman Catholicism, Spain's King Philip II (Jordi Molla) dispatches his armada. Sworn to her country body and soul, Elizabeth must resist her love for charismatic seafarer Sir Walter Raleigh (Clive Owen) and deal with a plot involving her cousin Mary Stuart (Samantha Morton) uncovered by her trusted adviser Walsingham (Geoffrey Rush).

**The Queen** (2006) is a drama about the British Royal Family at the time of the death of Princess Diana. Dame Helen Mirren is remarkable in her Oscar-winning role as Queen Elizabeth II, who preferred to keep the family's grief private, which made the populace believe she didn't care. Mirren was even invited to dinner at Buckingham Palace by the Queen after its release.

**The Young Victoria** (2009) focuses on the early years and reign of Queen Victoria and her marriage to Prince

Albert. As the only legitimate heir of England's King William, teenage Victoria (Emily Blunt) gets caught up in the political machinations of her own family. Victoria's mother (Miranda Richardson) wants her to sign a regency order, while her Belgian uncle schemes to arrange a marriage between the future monarch and Prince Albert (Rupert Friend), the man who will become the love of her life.

Truly the best picture of 2010 (12 nominations, 4 wins including Best Picture, Director, Actor and Screenplay), **The King's Speech** contains the stunning performance of a lifetime with Colin Firth as the tortured stutterer who might be King. In the 1930's, Britain's King Edward VIII (Guy Pearce) takes up with a much-married woman, Wallis Simpson (Eve Best), and the country is on the brink of war with Germany. Meanwhile, Edward's younger brother, the Duke of York, called Bertie by his family, struggles with his stammer. Throughout Bertie's struggle to overcome his impediment, there is humor provided by his unconventional speech therapist, Lionel Logue (the amazing Geoffrey Rush), recruited by Bertie's loving wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter), who has a profound effect on her husband.

In the first **Downton Abbey** film (2019), set in 1927, when word is sent that King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (Geraldine James) intend to visit Downton during their royal tour of Yorkshire, the Crawley family and their valiant staff must prepare for the most important moment of their lives. The film is an extension of the TV series, which was the most popular British program ever aired on American television. The film features the same characters, including Sir Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham (Hugh Bonneville) and his American wife, Cora (Elizabeth McGovern), their daughters Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) and Lady Edith (Laura Carmichael), and their widowed son-in-law, Tom Branson (Allen Leech). The scene stealer of the aristocrats is the Earl's mother Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham (Dame Maggie Smith). The house is run by butler Thomas Barrow (Rob James-Collier), but to his dismay, former butler Charles Carson (Jim Carter), with the help of housekeeper Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan), is asked to leave retirement for this important visit. Other prominent staff include Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle), the Earl's valet; his wife (Joanne Froggatt) Anna, who is Lady Mary's personal maid; Mrs. Patmore (Lesley Nicol), the cook;

and Daisy (Sophie McShera), the scullery maid.

**The King** (2019) is set before, during and after England's war with France and includes the famous Battle of Agincourt in 1415. Netflix's feature-length movie stars Timothée Chalamet in the title role as the reluctant Prince of Wales, who later becomes King Henry V of England. When he inherits the crown, he opts for peace and conciliation with his father's many adversaries, despite the fact that his actions are seen as weakness. He tries to avoid conflict when taunted by the Dauphin (Robert Pattinson) of France, but he is ultimately forced into war with his long-time friend Sir John Falstaff (Joel Edgerton) at his side. The final battle scene is quite spectacular.

#### Television

**Elizabeth I** (2005) is a two-part TV PBS mini-series in which Dame Helen Mirren stars in the title role, which won her an Emmy. The docudrama reviews the last 24 years of her nearly 45-year reign. Part 1 concerns the final years of her relationship with the Earl of Leicester, played by Jeremy Irons. Part 2 focuses on her subsequent relationship with the Earl of Essex, played by Hugh Dancy. Mirren is the only actress to have played both Elizabeths I and II.

**Wolf Hall** (2015, 6 episodes) stars Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis as Thomas Cromwell and King Henry VIII, with Claire Foy as Henry's second wife, Anne Boleyn. This historical drama chronicles Cromwell's meteoric rise in the Tudor court—from blacksmith's son to the King's closest advisor, trapped between his desire to do what is right and his struggle to survive. The series was a critical success and received eight Emmy nominations and three Golden Globe nominations, winning for Best TV Miniseries.

**Victoria on Masterpiece** (2016–19, 25 episodes over 3 seasons) features an all-star cast including Jenna Coleman as a young Queen Victoria and Tom Hughes as Prince Albert. The monarch's life is chronicled as the story begins with the death of King William IV in 1837, her accession to the throne at the young age of 18 and her relationships with the influential forces around her. With the advice of the Prime Minister Lord Melbourne (Rufus Sewell) and the support of her husband, the young queen flourishes and establishes herself in her newfound role. As the series continues, true historical events are portrayed, such as the Chartist movement demanding voting rights

for working men and the revolution in France in 1848, showing the complexities involved in how Victoria deals with them.

Set in 16th-century England, **The Tudors** (2007–10, 38 episodes over 4 seasons) is the PBS rendition of the story of Henry VIII and his six wives. It stars Jonathan Rhys-Meyers as the King; Henry Cavill as his best friend, Charles Brandon; Sam Neill as Cardinal Woolsey, and James Frame as Sir Thomas More. His wives included Maria Doyle Kennedy as Catherine of Aragon, Natalie Dormer as Anne Boleyn, Annabelle Wallace as Lady Jane Seymour, Joss Stone as Anne of Cleves, Tazmin Merchant as Katherine Howard and Joely Richardson as Catherine Parr. Court intrigue permeates the entire four years.

Although not British, **Game of Thrones** (2011–19, 73 episodes over 8 seasons) is an extremely popular medieval epic fantasy about royalty, which received a record setting 58 Emmys, winning Outstanding Drama in 2015, '16, '18 and '19. The primary plot is the quest to sit on the Iron Throne to rule the Seven Kingdoms. There are two principal royal houses: one led by Lord Eddard "Ned" Stark (Sean Bean) and his wife, Catelyn Tully (Michelle Fairley), and their five children: Robb (Richard Madden) the eldest, followed by Sansa (Sophie Turner), Arya (Maisie Williams), Bran (Isaac Hempstead-Wright) and Rickon (Art Parkinson). The other is led by Lord Tywin Lannister (Charles Dance), whose daughter Cersei Lannister (Lena Heady) is unhappily married to the King, Robert Baratheon (Mark Addy), and all her children have been fathered by her twin brother, Ser Jaime Lannister (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). A key figure throughout the series is the twins' younger brother, the dwarf Tyrion (Peter Dinklage). The King's death triggers war among the noble dynasties with a claim to the throne. In a key subplot of increasing importance, Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) is the rightful heir to the original ruling dynasty and is determined to win back the throne with the help of her husband, Khal Drogo (Jason Momoa), leader of the nomadic Dothraki (their language was specifically created for the series). Another plot follows the Night's Watch, a brotherhood defending the realm against the legendary evil creatures living north of the Great Wall, with Ned Stark's illegitimate son, Jon Snow (Kit Harington), and his friend Samwell (John Bradley) taking the oath to serve.

And until next time, enjoy your summer, stay healthy and happy viewing...

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**SCHOOL NEWS**  
*2+2=4*

By **VIRGINIA DANNEGGER**

**Public School 175**

Julie Porras, Principal of P.S. 175, announced that members of the eighth-grade graduating class of 2023 will be attending the following high schools: AECI Charter High School, Anne Hutchinson Honors Program at Herbert H. Lehman High School, Astor Collegiate Academy, Bronx River High School, Bronxdale High School, Bronx Theater High School, Cardinal Spellman High School, High School of Economics and Finance, Iona Preparatory Upper School, Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, Mount Saint Michael Academy, Monsignor Scanlan High School, Preston High School, Saint Barnabas High School, Salesian High School, the Ursuline School, St. Catharine Academy and Washingtonville High School.



Photos by **VIRGINIA DANNEGGER** and **BARBARA DOLENSEK**

The City Island Little League season's closing ceremony was held on June 24, 2023. Dom Esposito, president, led the presentation of the trophies to players from all the teams, including T-ball, Junior Minors, Minors and Majors. It was a joyous celebration of the season, but more volunteers are needed to keep the sport going into 2024. Special kudos to the Minors team who won the league championship on June 14, 2023 coached by Michael Cautillo and Turo Mazzeo (photo above).



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The City Island Little League Majors, coached by (back row, l. to r.) Alex Linzer, René Mattos, Brendan Delaney and Dom Esposito, received their trophies on Saturday, June 24, at the Morris Yacht Club, where the ceremony was held because of inclement weather. Luke Curtis (not pictured) was named rookie of the year; Gus Esposito most improved and Owen Delaney most valuable player.

**City Island Arts & Crafts Fair**  
Sat. & Sun. September 9th & 10th

Clam chowder contest Sunday Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. in Hawkins Park  
Sponsored by Councilperson Marjorie Velazquez



11am to 7pm

Live Music Gifts Great Food Face Painting

Candle Makers Folk Art  
Wood Working Antiques  
Photography Jewelry  
Galleries Fine Art  
Stained Glass & More



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The Little League T-Ball players, coached by Rachel Dennehy, lined up against the wall at the Morris Yacht Club awaiting the presentation of their trophies.



The Junior Minors received their trophies along with their coaches, Rachel Dennehy (back row center), Sean Dennehy, Jay Wirtz and Stephen Iuso.





Island resident Hyonok Kim received an award grant of \$5,000 from the Bronx Council on the Arts as part of its Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) program for individual Bronx artists who create works in the literary, media, visual and performing arts on the basis of artistic excellence. Winners complete a one-time public service activity known as Artists for Community Enrichment (ACE), an essential component required of all BRIO recipients, to be completed within a year of receiving the award. ACE provides artists with additional visibility and demonstrates to the community the wealth of artistic talent available in the Bronx.



City Island Rising has had a busy spring of 2023. On May 22, they hosted the third Narcan training class at the City Island Community Center led by Sarah Canfield, NYC Department of Health Trainer for Overdose Prevention. On June 3, they had a table at the Arts and Crafts Fair and distributed face masks and Covid tests (above l. to r.): Millie Perez, David Diaz, John Doyle and Luisa Benedetto.

## Traditional Wisdom for Parents: The Four Agreements

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Don Miguel Ruiz, a traditional wisdom teacher from Mexico, is the author of the book “The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom.” I find these four statements to be valuable for everyone in all aspects of life, but especially for parents today who are trying to navigate in a world full of misinformation and polarization.

Here are the agreements and a brief synopsis of how this philosophy applies to being a parent:


- Be impeccable with your word: Our children rely on us to tell the truth. They watch and listen when we speak with other adults. They pay attention to how we value personal integrity and pursue rigorous honesty. Are we good role models here?
- Always do your best: This can be a bit dicey at times—“perfection” can be a cruel taskmaster—but putting in a good effort and maintaining high standards are valuable lessons for our children to witness. Hard work, a plan for growth and success and a commitment to excellence can see all of us through difficult times. Children need to know that it takes effort to do well.
- Don't take things personally: When

your toddler says “I hate you!” or your teenager says “I wish you weren't my parent!” take a deep breath and try not to react right away. Everything can be about ourselves—bad weather when we plan a cook-out, dirty towels on the floor when we walk into the bathroom, or an empty milk carton in the fridge—and we can have our day ruined by our children's missteps. We are responsible for how we feel, what we think, and when we take action. Silence and a calm demeanor are acceptable responses, as are postponing a comment and walking away to take a breath.

• Don't make assumptions: Often we ascribe a motive or an attitude to our children when in fact that may not be the case. Check on what you think you see and hear (“what did you mean when you told me you didn't have homework yesterday?”); you may be surprised that you simply got things wrong (“the assignment wasn't due until Friday.”). Transparency and inquiry are good life tools.

Clearly these agreements can work in all parts of our lives. Why not give them a try with our children and those we love?

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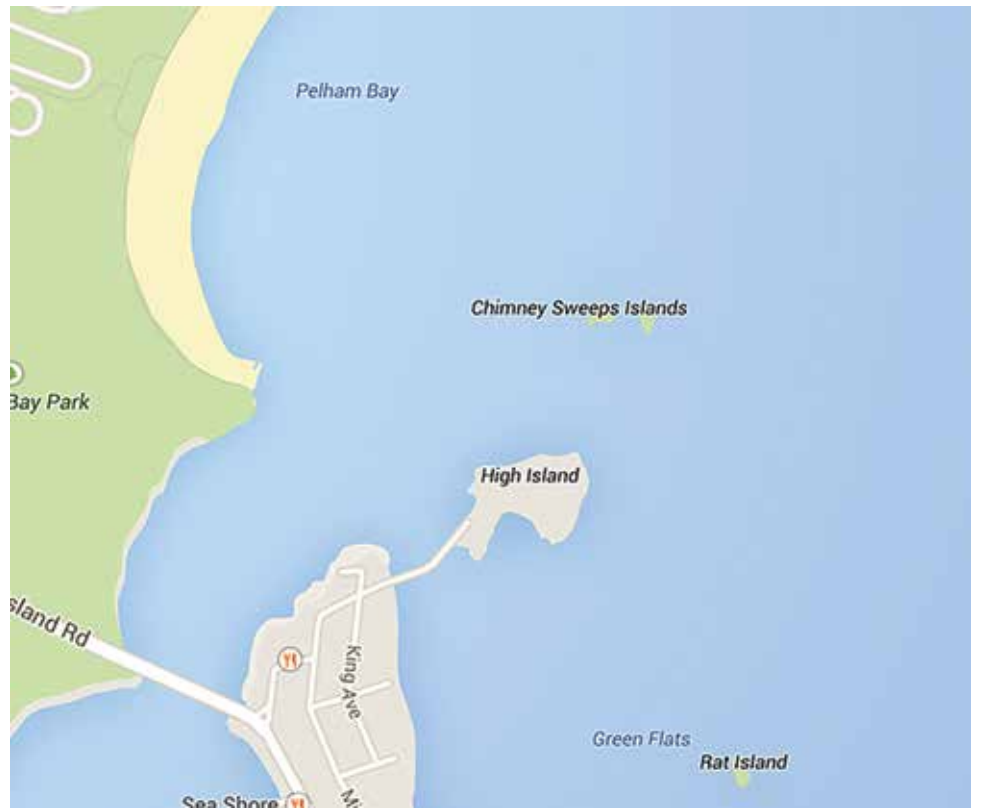
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**CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK**  
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)  
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with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

JULY 2023									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0420	0.24	1003	6.86	1603	0.69	2210	8.27	Sat 01
02 Sun	0518	-0.11	1059	7.11	1701	0.49	2304	8.48	Sun 02
03 Mon	0612	-0.39	1153	7.37	1800	0.31	2358	8.60	Mon 03
04 Tue	0704	-0.57	1247	7.59	1900	0.18			Tue 04
05 Wed	0053	8.59	0757	-0.63	1342	7.76	2000	0.12	Wed 05
06 Thu	0150	8.43	0850	-0.57	1439	7.84	2103	0.12	Thu 06
07 Fri	0250	8.15	0946	-0.40	1539	7.86	2210	0.16	Fri 07
08 Sat	0356	7.79	1044	-0.17	1644	7.83	2319	0.20	Sat 08
09 Sun	0510	7.43	1144	0.08	1750	7.81			Sun 09
10 Mon	0027	0.20	0624	7.15	1246	0.31	1855	7.81	Mon 10
11 Tue	0132	0.14	0731	6.99	1347	0.47	1956	7.85	Tue 11
12 Wed	0234	0.05	0832	6.92	1446	0.57	2054	7.92	Wed 12
13 Thu	0331	-0.06	0928	6.94	1541	0.62	2148	7.98	Thu 13
14 Fri	0424	-0.12	1021	7.00	1632	0.65	2238	8.03	Fri 14
15 Sat	0514	-0.13	1109	7.09	1720	0.69	2324	8.03	Sat 15
16 Sun	0559	-0.06	1154	7.17	1803	0.76			Sun 16
17 Mon	0006	7.98	0641	0.08	1235	7.22	1841	0.84	Mon 17
18 Tue	0044	7.88	0718	0.27	1313	7.24	1912	0.94	Tue 18
19 Wed	0116	7.74	0748	0.47	1345	7.24	1933	1.00	Wed 19
20 Thu	0137	7.60	0806	0.63	1405	7.24	1952	1.00	Thu 20
21 Fri	0157	7.49	0818	0.70	1423	7.28	2024	0.98	Fri 21
22 Sat	0227	7.38	0844	0.72	1452	7.35	2102	0.98	Sat 22
23 Sun	0304	7.25	0920	0.75	1529	7.42	2145	1.00	Sun 23
24 Mon	0346	7.07	1001	0.82	1611	7.46	2232	1.04	Mon 24
25 Tue	0433	6.86	1047	0.93	1657	7.50	2324	1.09	Tue 25
26 Wed	0525	6.66	1136	1.05	1749	7.54			Wed 26
27 Thu	0022	1.10	0623	6.52	1231	1.14	1846	7.61	Thu 27
28 Fri	0128	1.01	0727	6.49	1331	1.16	1947	7.76	Fri 28
29 Sat	0247	0.79	0835	6.64	1437	1.06	2050	7.98	Sat 29
30 Sun	0405	0.40	0944	6.94	1548	0.81	2154	8.24	Sun 30
31 Mon	0507	-0.03	1048	7.33	1658	0.46	2255	8.49	Mon 31
AUGUST 2023									
01 Tue	0602	-0.42	1145	7.73	1802	0.08	2354	8.66	Tue 01
02 Wed	0652	-0.69	1238	8.06	1901	-0.22			Wed 02
03 Thu	0050	8.69	0742	-0.81	1330	8.28	1957	-0.40	Thu 03
04 Fri	0146	8.55	0831	-0.76	1422	8.35	2055	-0.43	Fri 04
05 Sat	0243	8.25	0922	-0.55	1516	8.28	2154	-0.31	Sat 05
06 Sun	0343	7.84	1015	-0.21	1615	8.11	2256	-0.10	Sun 06
07 Mon	0449	7.40	1113	0.19	1719	7.90			Mon 07
08 Tue	0002	0.13	0558	7.04	1215	0.57	1826	7.73	Tue 08
09 Wed	0107	0.31	0705	6.82	1319	0.86	1931	7.66	Wed 09
10 Thu	0210	0.39	0808	6.77	1421	1.02	2032	7.68	Thu 10
11 Fri	0308	0.40	0906	6.85	1519	1.05	2128	7.77	Fri 11
12 Sat	0402	0.36	0959	7.03	1612	1.01	2219	7.88	Sat 12
13 Sun	0451	0.33	1048	7.22	1659	0.94	2306	7.96	Sun 13
14 Mon	0535	0.34	1132	7.39	1742	0.88	2347	7.97	Mon 14
15 Tue	0614	0.38	1211	7.50	1819	0.84			Tue 15
16 Wed	0024	7.91	0648	0.47	1246	7.54	1849	0.82	Wed 16
17 Thu	0053	7.80	0714	0.57	1311	7.54	1908	0.78	Thu 17
18 Fri	0110	7.67	0725	0.62	1323	7.56	1926	0.70	Fri 18
19 Sat	0126	7.59	0740	0.59	1342	7.65	1955	0.63	Sat 19
20 Sun	0155	7.52	0809	0.57	1412	7.76	2031	0.61	Sun 20
21 Mon	0231	7.40	0845	0.61	1449	7.82	2113	0.67	Mon 21
22 Tue	0313	7.22	0926	0.73	1532	7.83	2159	0.80	Tue 22
23 Wed	0359	6.99	1011	0.93	1620	7.78	2250	0.98	Wed 23
24 Thu	0452	6.75	1103	1.16	1714	7.69	2350	1.13	Thu 24
25 Fri	0552	6.58	1201	1.35	1814	7.64			Fri 25
26 Sat	0101	1.17	0701	6.56	1307	1.41	1922	7.68	Sat 26
27 Sun	0237	0.97	0819	6.77	1426	1.25	2036	7.86	Sun 27
28 Mon	0355	0.51	0937	7.21	1553	0.81	2149	8.17	Mon 28
29 Tue	0454	0.00	1040	7.73	1702	0.23	2254	8.47	Tue 29
30 Wed	0545	-0.44	1133	8.21	1800	-0.30	2351	8.67	Wed 30
31 Thu	0634	-0.73	1222	8.55	1853	-0.68			Thu 31
SEPTEMBER 2023									
01 Fri	0043	8.69	0720	-0.83	1309	8.72	1945	-0.85	Fri 01
02 Sat	0134	8.52	0806	-0.73	1357	8.70	2037	-0.79	Sat 02
03 Sun	0226	8.19	0853	-0.44	1447	8.51	2131	-0.53	Sun 03
04 Mon	0321	7.75	0942	-0.01	1541	8.20	2230	-0.14	Mon 04



**The Common Terns of Chimney Sweeps**

Not even John McNamara could be sure about the origin of the name “Chimney Sweeps” for the tiny pair of islands off the Orchard Beach shoreline, just north of High Island. And he wrote the book about the origins of Bronx street and place names: “History in Asphalt.”

Because Chimney Sweeps Islands are close to both Orchard Beach and City Island, they have always been a popular destination for swimmers and all kinds of boaters. Historian Blake Bell wrote about two swimmers who in 1913 escaped their imprisonment on Hart Island, swam to the Chimney Sweeps, stole a rowboat and found freedom again on the mainland. In the 1930s and, no doubt, in recognition of their ideal location, Robert Moses made the owner of the islands an offer he couldn’t refuse so that they could be used for fireworks displays.

These days, Chimney Sweeps Islands is also a popular destination for common terns, a species of bird that finds itself on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s list of threatened species. There are a variety of reasons why this is so, some natural and some not so natural. For example, on Chimney Sweeps a small colony of common terns has had its breeding cycle disrupted by people who probably don’t realize that they are being

disruptive. Here is one concerned kayaker’s account:

Repeated heavy stepping all over the island by people (mainly fishermen) landing in small motorized crafts have taken its toll [on the young terns]. But definitely the death blow has been the release of (unleashed) dogs on the island....

Some of the youngest terns have had to be rescued from their nests. Part of the problem is that terns build nests on the ground that don’t look like nests, which makes their young especially vulnerable to visitors and their pets.

So far the solution has been piecemeal. There have been instances when people who know better and who happen to be nearby have been able to explain the situation; and usually that is all it takes for others to move on. But not always. And sometimes there aren’t people around to explain the situation. That’s where City Island’s own birdman, Jack Rothman, comes into the picture. He wrote a letter to Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez, who passed it on to the NYC Parks Wildlife Unit. In response, Parks has conducted an investigation of its own and is preparing to “remedy the situation.”

A sign would probably be a good place to start. But extra eyes and ears will probably have a role to play as well. So if you see or hear about something, say something. After all, one good “tern” deserves another.

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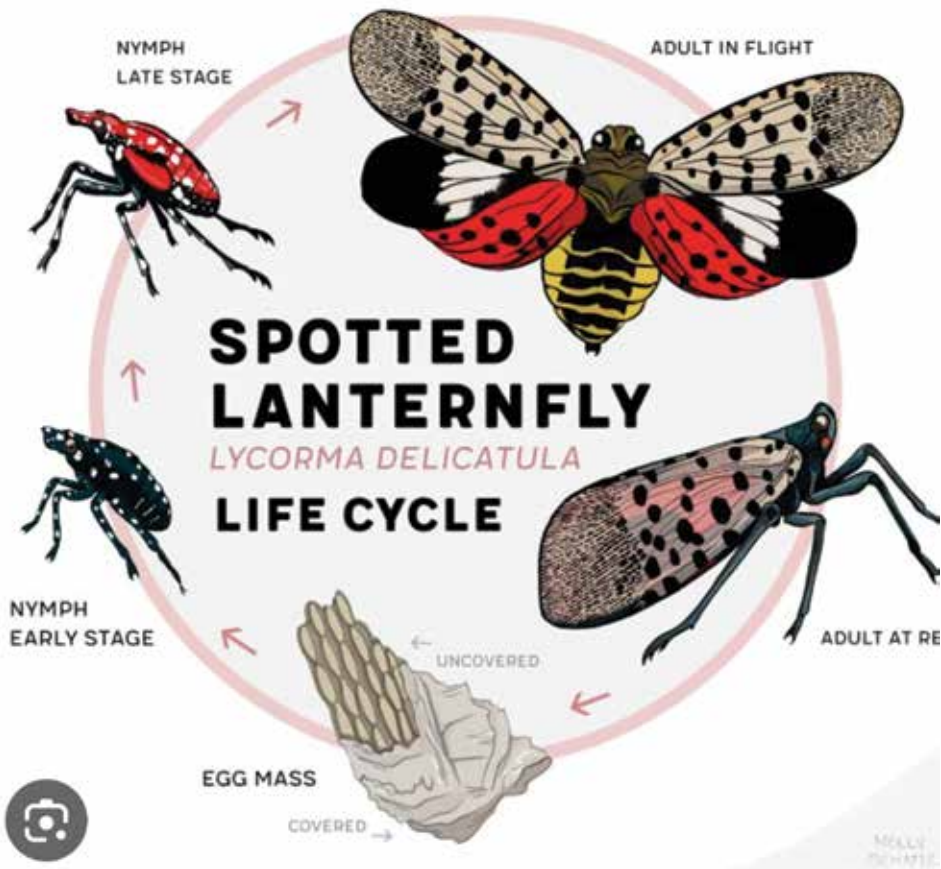
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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



### Spotted Lanternfly Alert!

The dreaded spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) has been found this year in growing numbers on City Island, and small nymphs have recently shown up in my garden on Pelham Parkway. Now that they have hatched, it is important to try to control and kill them wherever and whenever you can. They are an invasive species that, according to entomologists, will become critical in coming years to agricultural crops and, alas, to our gardens too.

The lanternfly, from China, lays its eggs on trees, on garden furniture, under tables and on cars—actually on any surface, be it wood, stone or metal. The eggs look like a patch of mud, which makes them hard to detect. Experts recommend that the egg masses be scraped off surfaces with a plastic knife or a metal scraper and deposited in a can of alcohol. October to June is the time to look for them. It is important to try to find and kill these eggs.

The lanternfly babies, which are black with white spots, have now hatched. Not only do they secrete a honey dew onto plants that attracts wasps and flies, but the dew is also colonized by a black mold that can spread to woody structures on or around your house.

It's all very gross, I know, and I think it really is best to call a licensed exterminator if you see large numbers of them. Of course, you would want the exterminator to use a safe insecticide that doesn't disturb bees or butterflies. Apparently, a large infestation can keep you from enjoying the outdoors in September. Horrible!

Here are a few DIY remedies you can use to attack and kill them:

For lanternflies with wings, use a shop vac and put alcohol inside it; just be sure to tape the exit after using. I spray with an ortho Dial N Spray hose-end sprayer, which attaches to my hose. You can also use Neem oil extract from Garden Safe or a horticultural dormant spray oil, which seems to be safe for bees and kills the early-stage nymphs slowly but effectively. These appear more readily on plants in early morning and at dusk, which is the best time to spray. Never spray in the sun, and wear an N95 mask, glasses, a hat and gloves when spraying.

Dawn liquid mixed half and half with water kills them on contact, but it is bad for plants. If you see the bugs on railings

or porch, however, go ahead and use it. I use it on roses, and after an hour I spray down the roses with water. The lanternflies seem to attach and feed more often on figs, grapevines, roses, hydrangeas and plants that have fleshy stems. They also love ailanthus trees, another nasty Chinese native that has been called the tree of heaven and is anything but.

Don't panic if you see lanternflies, but get after them. There are four stages to this insect: the egg mass, the black-and-white spotted nymph, which turns red, black and white and then grows wings.

Read up on this invader at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website or at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation website, [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303). It is said that if we can decrease the population by 30 percent each year the numbers will decrease. Hopefully.

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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## TALL TALES

By BERNARD WITLIEB

Squalls and storms give rise to big waves on Long Island Sound, but none are greater than the tall tales in City Island lore to beggar the imagination of listeners, even if they have read “Moby-Dick.”

In 1902 the veteran Hell Gate pilot Alexander S. Banta told “of a terrible sea monster that has its haunts off City Island.” On Aug. 10 sailing before daylight to meet an incoming vessel in order to guide it through Hell Gate, Banta said that “a big, black creature, much larger than a whale, suddenly appeared off Eaton’s Neck and made for his boat. It dived and came up under the boat, lifting it from the water and nearly capsizing it.” He described the monster as having two small red eyes and a yellow mane, making a noise that could be heard a half mile away and moving like “a sidewheel steamboat going at full speed.”

Dropping his oars and holding on to the sides of his boat, Banta was tossed on high waves while “the sea around him fairly foamed, and the little fish were so frightened that they kept hopping out of the water for several minutes.” Suddenly the creature dived again and arose, “striking the pilot’s boat on the side with its tail and sending it flying out of the water,” with

Banta just barely hanging on the sides. Just then a steamer appeared, and the creature turned its attention to the newcomer.

Banta contended that at this point he and his leaky boat put into shore at City Island, so he knew nothing of what befell the steamer or the monster. Some said that the incident was imaginary, that Banta had a hallucination after eating hot mince pie and ice cream the previous evening. In response, Banta told the New York Tribune on Aug. 11, 1902, that he was “willing to make an affidavit that the one which at last had attacked him was the ‘real thing.’” Interestingly, news of several sightings of the creature had circulated widely before Banta’s encounter.

That sure sounds like a tall tale, but later that Aug. 10 day, according to the night edition of the Evening World, three boatmen, Jim Wigmore, Donald Burns and Charles Darragh, “after weeks of observation and abstinence,” set their nets at Red Hook expecting “the sea serpent to start back for Hell Gate to scare the pilots of the Sound steamers.” They were searching for one with “eyes like port lights, yellow mane and anywhere from fifty to a thousand feet long.” Soon enough there was an “awful



hissing sound, like a torpedo-boat coming up the bay,” when the serpent struck the nets and its teeth became tangled up.

Despite thrashing about to get loose and “rising clouds of hissing steam” emanating from its mouth, the serpent was securely tied and taken under guard to 6 Dover Street. Some said the creature bore a striking resemblance to an ordinary anaconda or python. How big and monstrous was it? Banta’s tale is tempered by this description: “The monstrous ‘denizen of the deep’ is now calmly sleeping in a wash tub in Donald Burns’s flat at No. 6 Dover Street, and Mr. Burns’s little eight-year-old boy plays with him by the hour.”

The same article in the Evening World features an interview with Banta, who embellished his tale. He said that not only did he see the sea serpent but he actually “rode” it. The creature had a “sharp, shining head,” and “two red eyes which shined like the port lights of a liner.” Banta concluded his description with: “Well, I’ll reef my mains and go the route of the dory *Liza Jane*—right to the bottom—if this ain’t the truth.”

Tall tale? Disbelievers should take note that many serpent sightings going back 25 years had preceded Banta’s account. From the 1870s through the 1890s, the New York Times printed more than 20 articles about Long Island Sound’s sea serpent. On Sept. 4, 1878, an incident was vouched for by “a sober, trustworthy man” who witnessed a creature with a wide mouth, a body “as large round as that of a big horse,” and “a horrible looking head that raised several feet above the waves” and then disappeared. On Aug. 4, three “men of undoubted veracity” reported seeing a 70- to 80-foot-long thing with a dull green back, yellow bottom and a head, three feet high and two feet broad.” The captain of a steamer that bumped into a sleeping serpent near the Execution Lighthouse reported on Sept. 2, 1877, the creature “rose angrily to the height of the flagstaff with a hissing sound,” sprayed water on the deck and disappeared.

On July 27, 1895, according to a story in the Evening Star of Washington, DC, Captain Hatfield, Sergeant Horton and Corporal Miller, three “United States Army officers, were the latest authorities for the confirmation of the story that a sea monster of some kind had been disporting in the waters of Long Island Sound.” (Note the words “latest authorities, which indicates that other stories were circulating.”) After a “pleasure trip” on the yacht *Madge* and landing at City Island, the trio told this story: “About daylight they were tacking back and forth off Eaton’s Neck when they observed “a great splashing, and the water appeared to be whipped as though by a powerful animal or fish.” In a few moments the creature was some distance away, so all they could see was “the black back of the monster. The thing disappeared again, only to rise a few hundred feet further on” before vanishing again. Their conclusion:

“The serpent would appear to be slowly working its way toward Hell Gate.” Soon after their arrival at City Island, they related the events to a crowd of Islanders, so that, according to The Press (NYC, July 28, 1895): “No local influences, no matter how potent, were permitted in any way to color the tale.”

About three weeks later, on Aug. 16, after landing at City Island, Captain Frank Burns reported to The World that his fishing steamer *Montauk*, while about three miles east of Eaton’s Neck, collided with “a sea serpent one hundred feet long, with a flat head about six feet broad and eyes as big as saucers.”

Not so scary but still tall is the story of three City Island fishermen, Percy Pell, Hen Hartman and Pat Geeks. It seems that while they were fishing off Belden Point [another source gives the location as midway between Hart’s Island and Shinnecock Point], Pell’s blackfish hook was seized by a giant 200-year-old turtle, four and a half feet long, three feet wide and weighing 269 pounds [267 in another account]. It towed them and the boat for a mile before “they got a gaff hook into him and brought him to the surface and he reached out a flipper and capsized boat and all.” Climbing onto the bottom of the overturned boat, the three used an oar for three hours [another source, two hours] to finally kill the turtle and tow it ashore. The story appeared not only in the New York American in September 1907 but also in the Montgomery Tribune in Missouri. The turtle, real or mock?

And then there is the tale of Stretch Williams, “whose veracity and general fishing ability have earned him a reputation from City Island to Port Jefferson.” He claimed that he decided to take a lunch break while fishing for blackfish between Belle Haven and Little Captain’s Island and wound two of his lines around the oarlocks “and the third he wrapped carefully around the large toe of his right foot.” After lunch he drifted off into sleep only to feel “an awful jerk and I shot out of that boat like one of them Harlem torpedoes” and then “pulled through the water at something like 26 knots.” Eventually he reached a sitting position and noticed the fin of a huge shark or porpoise “cutting through the water like a streak of lightning.” A motorboat had seen the incident off the Port Chester breakwater and pursued them all the way to Larchmont, where a man aboard the boat was able to cut the line and pull Williams aboard. “I guess I was towed by the toe a distance of 12 miles.”

Williams told the San Francisco Call of his experience, which published the story on Aug. 17, 1913: “Because certain people along this here Sound seem to think that, because a man makes his livin’ catching fish, he’s got to be a double back self-reversing liar. So I want it understood that what I’m goin’ to tell is the truth—the plain truth, by gum!” Unfortunately, no contemporary photograph of Williams’s big right toe exists in order to verify the story.

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## Martin Thomas Fahy

Martin Thomas Fahy (known as Pop) passed away on June 7, 2023, in Melbourne, FL, at the age of 90.

Martin was born in Galway, Ireland, to James and Barbara Fahy on Sept. 25, 1932. At the age of 24, Martin immigrated to the United States, where he met the love of his life, Mary. The couple were married on Oct. 28, 1961, at Sacred Heart Church in Highbridge, NY.

They lived in the Bronx on City Island for 32 years and became an integral part of the community while raising four children. They were members of the congregation of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, members of the American Legion, owners of the Elbow Room bar for six years, and operators of the concessions at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, building a foundation of friendships that would last a lifetime.

Martin worked for the MTA for 20 years and retired in 1994. He and his wife moved in 2000 to Florida, where he spent his retirement traveling, making everyone around him laugh and creating unforgettable memories with his family. As a devout Catholic, Martin blessed his family with

the life lessons and solid morals so they can prosper long after his departure.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his second son, Thomas; his daughter-in-law AnnMarie; and his brother Sean. He leaves behind his loving wife, Mary; two sons, James and Paul; his daughter, Barbara; his daughter-in-law Monica; his brother Anthony; his sister Bernadette; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as lifelong friends.

Funeral services were held on June 24 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Melbourne Beach.

## Robert L. Zervas

Longtime City Island resident, Robert Zervas, passed away on May 23, 2023, at the age of 77.

Robert was born in the University Heights section of the Bronx, but he moved to City Island when he was 16 years old.

He trained as a marine mechanic and worked at a number of different Island shipyards, including Kretzer's, Sagman's and Royal Marina. He was skilled in the repair and maintenance of diesel and industrial engines. He also operated cranes and forklifts at the boatyards.

Robert met Rose Maney through the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 53, and they were married at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church in 2008. They lived on City Island until his passing.

Robert is survived by his wife, Rose, and his twin sisters, Maureen and Kathleen. He was interred at St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY.



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

## New Federal Law for Pregnant Workers

Federal employment law is about to give birth to some new requirements. As of June 27, 2023, employers with 15 or more employees must provide pregnancy-related accommodations to employees and applicants under the federal Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). Below we'll refer to employees and applicants collectively as "employees."

Under the PWFA, employees are entitled to accommodations for a condition related to or affected by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition. The condition can be physical or mental. Pregnancy-related conditions include, among others, morning sickness, gestational diabetes, post-partum depression and lactation.

This law expands employer obligations beyond what is already required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in that being entitled to a pregnancy-relat-

ed accommodation does not require that the employee's condition rise to the level of disability. Also, employees are entitled to accommodations even if they can't perform their essential job functions on a temporary basis.

Possible accommodations include but aren't limited to providing more frequent or longer breaks; modifying a food or drink policy; providing seating or allowing the employee to sit more frequently if their job requires standing; observing limits on lifting; providing job restructuring, light duty or a modified work schedule.

Employers cannot require an employee to take leave if a reasonable on-the-job accommodation is available. Like the ADA, the employer and employee should engage in the interactive process to determine what reasonable accommodations can be provided. However, if the employer is willing to grant the employee's request, the interactive process is not required.

Note that many states have already implemented pregnancy accommodation laws, some of which may be more generous than the PWFA. Employers need to apply the law—or the aspect of each law—that is most favorable to employees. Employers don't have to provide an accommodation if doing so would cause an undue hardship on the operation of the employer's business. Undue hardship is defined as "an action requiring significant difficulty or expense," the same as under the ADA. This is a high standard for employers to meet.

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Photos by Amy Alvarez and Ann-Marie Goonan

The weather cleared on Sunday, June 25, 2023, and the annual Blessing of the Fleet took place under mostly sunny skies hosted by the City Island Sail & Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins Post of the American Legion. Clergy from City Island houses of worship blessed all vessels large and small.




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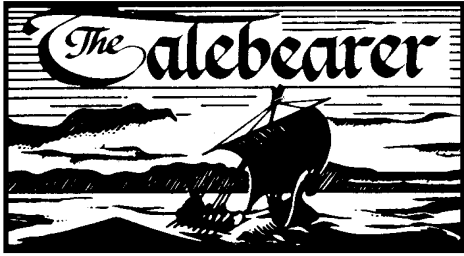
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Photo by LAUREN MORABITO

Clam digger Bob McKenna celebrated his 86th birthday on June 11, 2023.

A fond farewell to Nancy Nieland and Maria Theodosiadi, who are relocating to Cypress. Your Bay Street neighbors and friends will miss you and wish you well as you embark on this new adventure.

Happiest of birthdays to Maria Christina Swiecicki, who turns 32 on Aug. 22. With love from your fiancé, family and friends.

Congratulations to our daughter Grace Riordan, who is graduating from P.S. 175. All new adventures await you. Love, Mom, Dad, Thomas and Emma.

The Archdiocese of New York Catholic Committee on Scouting had its annual Scouting Eucharistic Celebration on May 7 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, with Bishop John O'Hara. The Ad Altare Dei emblem was presented to scouts Matteo Ciccone, James Clancy, Robert Delaney, John Paul Hickey and Christopher Matos. The Pope Pius XII emblem was presented to scouts Matthew Clancy and Thomas Riordan. A thank-you to Greg Clancy and Jim McGaughan and sincere love and gratitude to Thomas McMahon Sr. for helping these young men in earning these emblems.

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

Congratulations to Melissa Dzenis Garcia, who graduated from Fordham School of Law last month. She is the daughter of Dr. Peter and Estrellita Dzenis of Minnieford Avenue. As an undergraduate of International Relations



Hawkins Street's Anastasia Lacina graduated at the top of her class from Fordham University School of Law in June 2023.

at Brown University, Melissa went to Rabat, Morocco, Egypt and Ecuador for more research studies. She is also a Volunteer Refugee Mentor of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy Refugee Assistance Program, which is based in Washington, D.C. Melissa will be working as Restructuring Associate at Weil, Gotshal and Manges, LLP in New York City. God bless you, Melissa, and good luck in your new job.

Happy July birthdays to my lovely granddaughters—Kayla, 19, on July 4 and Alyssa, "Sweet 16" on July 23. Celebrate! Much love from Grandma Penny.

Former Islander and Earley Street resident Bob McKenna celebrated his 86th birthday on June 11 with his family in Pennsylvania. His wife, Carol Gauss McKenna, his daughter and son-in-law, Lauren and Damian Morabito, and his three children, Philip, Alexandra and Christopher, helped him blow out all the candles. Happy and healthy birthday to Bob!

Congratulations on their high school graduation and best of luck at their future universities: Gwen Boyle, Syracuse; Rosie Bruno, Monmouth; Heaven DeCuffa, Syracuse and Eva Bellocchio, James Madison University.

Happy Aug. 9 birthday to clam digger Roger Nani. Roger and his wife, Leah, are expecting their second child, which will make this birthday extra special.

Huge congratulations to the fierce, fantastic young ladies of City Island Rowing for their second place finish in the "C" final for Women's U17 8+ and U.S. Rowing Youth Nationals in June. After tirelessly training together in their specific boat lineup for just six weeks, racing against lineups that had trained together for a year or more, the athletes gave it their all and then some! Cheered on by a large contingent of their parents, the team took second place in a literal photo finish, coming in just 0.28 seconds ahead of the third place finishers. Outsized shoutout to their incredible coach, Guy Monseair, of Minnieford



Photo by KAREN NANI

Congrats to members of the high school class of 2023, including Islanders (l. to r.) Gwen Boyle, Heaven DeCuffa, Rosie Bruno and Eva Bellocchio.



The young women of City Island Rowing celebrated their second place finish at the "C" final for Women's U17 8+ and U.S. Rowing Youth Nationals in June.

Avenue. The girls will be rowing twice a day all summer, so if you go over the bridge in the early morning or late afternoon any weekday, look for them! Curious about this high-performing club? Go to [cityislandrowing.org](http://cityislandrowing.org).

Kudos to Islanders Frank and Judy DiMaio, along with members of the DiMaio, Silard and McGonegal families, who participated in the "Hope in Motion Walk" on Sunday, June 11, to benefit the Stamford Health Bennett Cancer Center.

Congratulations to Hawkins Street's Anastasia "Stacey" Lacina on her graduation from Fordham University School of Law. Stacey graduated at the top of her class and was managing editor of the Fordham Law Review, where her note, "Small Gestures and Unexpected Consequences: Textualist Interpretations of State Antidiscrimination Law After Bostock v. Clayton County," was published. After taking the bar exam at the end of July, she will start her legal career by clerking for a federal judge in New York City. Parents (and also lawyers) Natalie and Charles couldn't be more proud!

Happy birthday on July 19 to Hawkins Street's Lori Travers, with love from your brother Reid, family and friends.

Happy 10th Birthday on July 11 to our grandson Arlo Rota from Grandma Judy and Grandpa Mike. Also celebrating birthdays in July: Mama Beth Rota and Aunt Susie Rauh. Finishing out the month, Beth and Matt Rota celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary on July 24. So happy our NOLA family could finally come to City Island this year!

Barbara (Haas) Lynch wishes happy belated birthday greetings across the miles to her special cousin, Gene Jones, formerly a clam digger, now residing in Oceanside, CA. Gene celebrated her 103 birthday this year. Happy belated birthday wishes to Carolyn (Foley) Peters, who celebrated her 85th birthday on June 21 in Huntsville, AL. We were all clam diggers and have many happy memories of City Island life. These ladies are very special to me in my life.

Congratulations and good luck to our grandchildren: Emmie and Lincoln. Emmie, a junior at Skidmore College, completed her spring semester attending Trinity College in Ireland. Lincoln and his Ultimate Frisbee Team, New Jersey State Champions, competed in the Nationals in Utah, returning home in time for his graduation from Montclair high school. He will be studying marine biology at UC Santa Cruz in the fall.

We are so proud of you both! Grandma Ellie and Grandpa Russell.



Alexis Noel

Congratulations to Alexis Noel, who will be attending Monsignor Scanlan High School in the fall. We are very proud and wish you all the best in your high school career! Love, Mom.

Maria Swiecicki



Islanders Judy and Frank DiMaio (back row, center), along with members of the DiMaio, Silard and McGonegal families, participated in the "Hope in Motion Walk" on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

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