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One Dollar

Viacommunity Day Above And Below the Water Line

By KAREN NAN









Photos by MATT PANZA, KAREN NANI and RON TERNER

The 2019 Viacommunity Day on May 10 included projects on land and sea. Hardworking volunteers from the media company Viacom and City Island (top left and right photos) helped with three operations: planting (second photo), art and painting (third photo), and oystering (second photo, right). Maria Caruso, one of the organizers of the day (bottom photo), was aboard the *Moon Tide* for the depositing of cured shells to start the formation of oyster reefs that were once abundant in the waters off City Island.





For the second year in a row, a large group of Islanders joined enthusiastic volunteers from the media company Viacom for a land and sea operation to give City Island a second nautical facelift. The positive results from the May 10 event can be seen all along City Island Avenue, but the underwater efforts are just as exciting.

Viacommunity Day began at 9 a.m. at the City Island Nautical Museum on Fordham Street with well-organized assignments divided into three operations: planting, art and painting, and oystering. Organizers Maria Caruso and Lois Wagh greeted volunteers from the Garden Club and other residents interested in the beautification of the avenue. Armed with rakes, shovels and gardening tools, the first wave set out to clean up and plant flowers at 13 tree pits from Fordham Street to Winters Street. Luckily the forecasted rain held off, and the "dig we must" volunteers worked for hours improving the tree pits along the avenue and planting areas at Carroll Street and in front of the Post Office.

At 10 a.m., 25 energetic Viacom volunteers arrived by bus from the company's headquarters in Times Square. Islander Laurie Vega, who works for Viacom, once again led the group and was largely responsible for bringing the program to City Island. The Viacom employees arrived in their special t-shirts, posed for a quick group photo in front of the museum, and then went right to work.

Some joined the second wave of Island volunteers led by Francine Alheid, Kathy Ciarletta and Janie Blanks. This group of "artists" hung spectacular enlarged photo-

graphs highlighting City Island's rich nautical history and its role in the building of America's Cup sailboats and other amazing yachts. These displays on avenue fences began last year on Viacommunity Day and met with so much positive feedback that 20 new images were enlarged by Nick Ruscigno of Creative Eye Graphics based on images selected and captioned by Barbara Dolensek, Ellen Murphy and Ron Terner, who provided the scans on which the mesh images were based. Photographs by Islanders Morris Rosenfeld, Paul Woliner and Onne van der Wal (provided by America's Cup Charters), and enlarged images of art by Mark Whitcombe and Marguerite Chadwick-Juner can be seen on the fences near Buddy's Hardware, the lot at 220 City Island Avenue, and 311 City Island Avenue, transforming the avenue into an outdoor maritime art museum.

In addition to these displays, other teams picked up paint brushes and freshened up some of the more dreary storefronts along the avenue. The security gate on the building at the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue was painted a nautical blue to serve as a background for the Mark Whitcombe images.

The newest addition to the volunteer day's agenda was the start of the City Island Oyster Reef, a project organized by the City Island Drift. The group, led by Maria Caruso and Paul Mankiewicz, a biologist who lives on City Island, has undertaken the challenge of restoring City Island's oyster populations, not just for the sake of improving the environment but also because oyster reefs are such a significant part of City Island's history.

Many Island residents are unaware that the biggest business here in the 19th century did not involve restaurants or beaches but was centered on oyster farming (see article in the March *Current*). And the community has already begun to show enthusiastic support for the new oyster-planting project that will become part of City Island's present and future as well as its history.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Mankiewicz proposed that oyster reefs and saltmarsh be used to create a living filter around the Pelham Bay Landfill. In recent years, he has successfully created reefs in southwest Florida, and is now working with Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving Services on City Island, who provided boats for the seaborne work of Viacommunity Day.

Unlike Orrin Fordham's oyster plant-

Continued on page 13

BRIEFLY...

CONGRESSWOMAN ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ will

hold a town hall meeting on City Island on Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, to discuss health-care issues and other matters currently under discussion in Congress. To reserve a seat, e-mail cityislandtownhall@gmail.com.

THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET, a unique City Island tradition, will take place on Sunday, June 23, beginning at 1 p.m. (1300 hours). Multi-denominational clergy will bless vessels from the Fenton Marine Dock with the cooperation and support of the City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post. Participation is by water only and boats are to assemble at 12:30 p.m. near the Hart Island Ferry Dock in City Island Harbor. Communication on VHF Channel 71 begins at 12:45 p.m.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 PETIT LARCENY
- 3 LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCI-DENT
- 2 HARASSMENT
- 1 ROBBERY
- 1 GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 2 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from April 24 through May 20, 2019.

4/25 – On City Island Avenue, unknown person(s) cut the chain-link fence to the schoolyard in an act of criminal mischief.

4/25 - An Island female reported an incident of harassment at 1 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The complainant told police from the 45th Precinct that she had received a text and FaceTime call from an unknown person threatening harm to her and her family.

4/26 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested five off-Islanders (three males and two females) following a robbery at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 8:55 p.m. The defendants allegedly grabbed money from the cash register of the business and punched one of the employees in the face. They were arrested the same day

4/30 - At 10 a.m. on Reynolds Street, an off-Island male reported an incident of harassment after an argument with an Island male over parking on the street.

5/7 – On City Island Avenue and Earley Street at 10 p.m., an Island male was making a left turn when an unknown vehicle struck him from behind, causing damage to the rear of his car. The unknown driver fled the scene of the accident.

5/8 – An off-Island female reported that her car had been stolen from a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 9:30

5/11 - On City Island Avenue, an Island female reported an incident of petit larceny at 11 a.m. She told police she ordered items online that were delivered but then stolen from her property.

5/20 - The administration of P.S.175 reported an act of criminal mischief at 11:30 a.m. They told police that unknown person(s) had vandalized the walls and playground equipment in the schoolyard with graffiti.



Photo by PAUL KLEIN

Louise Giacco, corresponding secretary for the City Island Chamber of Commerce, was honored by the 45th Precinct Community Council at its annual breakfast on May 8 at Villa Barone Manor. She is shown above (center) with Captain Thomas Fraser (second from right), commanding officer of the 45th Precinct, and other 2019 honorees.







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EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

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

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttig, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, and Johanna Paciullo. PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt and Matt Panza

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

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Photos by CATHY CEBEK

The City Island Civic Association secured permission from the owner of property at the beginning of City Island north of the bridge to remove graffiti that has plagued the site as work on the new bridge has been winding down. Thanks go to the 45th Precinct's Graffiti Free team members John Provetto and John Marano (shown above) for their work in painting over graffiti during May 2019.

Let It Flow: Water Main Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is still in the preliminary stages of preparation for the installation of a new water main that will be placed under water between Pelham Bay Park and City Island, at the area just south of the Catherine Scott Promenade. Regulatory paperwork is being finalized; permits are being acquired, and materials have been ordered. Some physical work will begin in June on the Pelham Bay side of the bridge, where plants and trees must be removed.

The DDC team plans to present information about the construction project at the June meeting of the Municipal Services Committee of Community Board 10, to be followed by a presentation at the meeting of the City Island Civic Association on

BRONX, NY 10464

June 25. Work on the City Island side of the bridge will commence in the fall.

Part of the project will involve the removal of the Brotherhood Tree, a memorial just south of the promenade, because the tree has been dead for some time. The tree was planted in 1968 by Samuel Bierman, then president of Temple Beth-El, to honor the memory of Monsignor Edward Nilan of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and Reverend Henry R. Coleman of Grace Episcopal Church. It was cared for by the City Island Civic Association until 1979, when the City Council recognized it as a memorial and when the Garden Club of City Island took charge of its care. The plaque that once stood at the foot of the tree will be put on exhibit in the City Island Nautical Museum; there are no plans at present for the replacement of the tree.

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P.S. 175 APPEAL: Help Stop Schoolyard Vandalism

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI





Photos by KAREN NANI

Community police officers (top photo, I. to r.) Jessica Griesinger, Jason Williamson and Frank Malafronte met with Principal Amy Lipson (second from left) at P.S. 175 on May 13, 2019, to find solutions to the increase in schoolyard vandalism, including cutting through the gate.

After years of relatively little vandalism, the schoolyard behind P.S. 175 has now been plagued by graffiti and other damage on a regular basis. According to the City Island School's principal, Amy Lipson, and her custodial staff, a group of kids has been breaking into the schoolyard at nights and on weekends and vandalizing the playground equipment, the walls and even the portable classroom cottages.

Ms. Lipson and the Parent Coordinator, Tina Gisante, met with police from the 45th Precinct on May 13, 2019, to document the problem and discuss solutions. "As a courtesy, for years we left the gate unlocked on nights and weekends, so the community could use the playground equipment or play basketball after school hours," the principal told the police.

Unfortunately, this accommodation recently led to problems. For the last few months, the custodian has arrived before 7 a.m. to find graffiti, broken glass and even drug paraphernalia in the schoolyard, which has to be cleaned up and painted over before the students begin arriving around 8 a.m. After months of regular vandalism, the school administration decided to lock the gate on nights after 6 p.m. and on weekends in an effort to combat the problem.

As they told the 45th Precinct's community police officers Frank Malafronte, Jessica Griesinger and Jason Williamson, "the vandals now cut through the gate and fence to get into the schoolyard after hours and continue to do damage." The tags on some of the graffiti identify the delinquents as "City Island Boys," but Ms. Lipson does not believe any of the offenders are currently students at the school.

The community officers offered their help and a number of suggestions. Although there are no security cameras around the school, they agreed with the principal's plan to request cameras from the Board of Education and to improve the lighting over the schoolyard in order to increase visibility

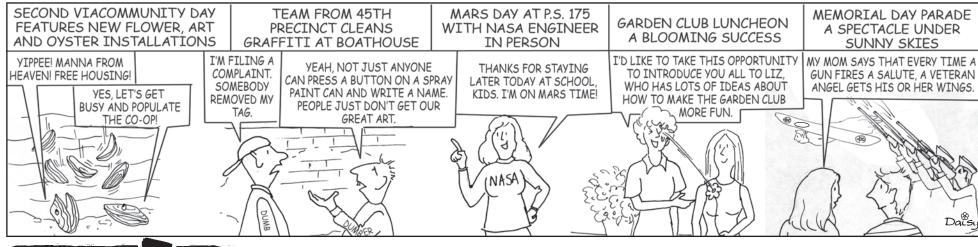


and possibly discourage the vandals. Now that they have been alerted to the problem, the NYPD patrol cars will increase their surveillance of the schoolyard in the evenings.

When asked what Islanders can do to help, the officers told *The Current* that "residents should call 911 if they see teens or anyone else in the schoolyard at night and on weekends." If the police receive a 911 call, a precinct patrol car will be dispatched to the schoolyard to investigate. Also, the NYPD now offers a reward of up to \$500 to anyone reporting graffiti vandalism, assuming the report results in an arrest and conviction (see flyer this page). If the offenders are under 16, they can still be charged with the offense, and a juvenile report will be made.

The officers also suggested looking into anti-graffiti paint for the surfaces most frequently vandalized. The paint, similar to that used on the NYC subway trains, enables the graffiti to be washed off rather than requiring repainting.

The police and school administration agreed that this problem seems to be caused by a "few bad apples" and they hope to root them out. As with many of City Island's issues, it will take the cooperation of residents and police to catch and stop the offenders.





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.

Borough Addresses "Blind Spot"

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To: John Doyle

This is in response to your request dated April 16, 2019, regarding a "Blind Spot" at the intersection of Pell Place and City Island Avenue in the Bronx.

Our Bronx Borough Engineering Office completed a field investigation involving land use and traffic regulations at the abovementioned location. As a result, a work order has been issued to install a "No Standing Anytime" sign at the location. This order has been submitted to our sign maintenance unit and should be completed on or before August

Thank you for contacting the New York City Department of Transportation. Nivardo Lopez **Borough Commissioner**

Freedomland Memories

To the Editor:

We want to thank The Island Current for a wonderful review of "Freedomland U.S.A.: The Definitive History," in the April 2019 edition. Not only does the author pay tribute to this new book about the park's history but she also offers us her own great memories of Freedomland.

The review of the book also featured one of the specific connections between the park and City Island. The New York Harbor Tug Boats and the bull boats for the Northwest Fur Trapper attraction were built at the Minneford Yacht Yard.

Thanks to the author, Karen Nani, for a wonderful review and for sharing her Freedomland memories with The Current's readers and with us.

If you haven't picked up your copy of the book, you can find it online on Amazon, eBay and Goodreads.

Mike Virgintino

Don't Reward Negligent Landlords

To the Editor:

City Island has always been a viable community that cares for each other and rallies together when somebody needs

I imagine many other Islanders share my disgust hearing Ms. Vega in an interview [on thisisthebronx.info] call City Island "depressed" when she got here just over a year ago and "how I want my colleagues at Viacom to see the changes [since last year]. Look at how many shops have opened up. It is a combination of the whole town coming together and pulling together to do what we've done in just a year."

The shops that opened up are because of me. I purchased a derelict building and fixed it myself. I had a bit of help from the community. I don't need this. I did the restoration for the community, the island that I love. City Island has a new gallery, coffee shop, antique shop and five affordable apartments because of me. Everything I've built is based on the good foundation I built on City Island, and I am happy to have done this. This adds to the community and my tenants have afford-

All the stores on the Avenue should be opened as they were in the '60s when I came here. We had a pottery studio, leather shop, jewelry, record store, Juner's bakery, galleries, antiques. I could go on and on. New York City should give landlords an incentive to rent their property instead of raising the taxes.

We should not see pictures on store windows. We should have open stores. Don't reward negligent landlords with painting and covering up their windows. That does nothing for this community. They are beautiful pictures and look beautiful on the chain-link fences along

New York City should give tax abatements when landlords rent for as little as \$1,000 a month, including heat, which I am doing. I have turned away professionals who wanted to rent my spaces on the avenue and close off the windows. They offered me higher rents. I turned them down because I am interested in the community, not in having pictures on closed windows, not an incentive for landlords to keep their storefronts shut.

I cannot emphasize enough that closed stores are not viable for our community.

Richie DePierro

What A May Day!

To the Editor:

Thanks to the help of many individuals, groups, organizations, City Islanders and off-Islanders, we had another successful Viacommunity Day on May 10, 2019! Our one-day projects consisted of painting, planting and installing historical boating and shipbuilding artwork along City Island Avenue, and our long-term City Island Oyster Reef project was launched with volunteers gathering, shoveling and stacking oyster and hard clam shells at our shell-curing locations.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us accomplish so much: first and foremost, Laurie Vega and Viacom, for supplying us with volunteers and doubling our 2018 budget for supplies needed for the day. Viacom also provided Viacommunity Day t-shirts for all volunteers and a delicious lunch catered by Augie's of City

Thank you to the members of the City Island Drift who volunteered many, many hours and met weekly to organize the projects. All of these team leaders received help from Viacom volunteers as well as local volunteers for all of the projects. Special thanks go out to:

Lois Wagh, organization queen, who put together the color-coded teams of Viacom and local volunteers so that each project had the right amount of bodies to get their jobs done. Barbara Dolensek, whose accomplishments are too long to list but include gathering the historical photos and paintings of City Island-built boats from the Nautical Museum that were used as art installations along City Island Avenue and for providing the history of City Island oyster farming.

Ron Terner of Focal Point Gallery fine-tuned the photos, with technical help from Ellen Murphy, and Nick Ruscigno of Creative Eye Graphics printed the banners that now hang on fences and gates along the avenue and on the Gateway fence. Those banners were meticulously placed on the fences by Francine Alheid, John Doyle and Linda Baldwin. John was especially helpful with obtaining our event permit from the Parks Department and for getting a generous donation from Home Depot. Special thanks go to Iris Rodriguez-Rosa and Larry Scoones of the Parks Department for

Thanks to the planting team leader, Ellen Murphy, and her merry band of happy planters, the tree beds from Fordham to Hawkins Streets look lush and beautiful. They also planted and beautified the Carroll Street and Post Office gardens. Local volunteers were Lyn Thompson, Mary Colby, Kathy Gibbons, Sharynne Wilder, Susan Strazzera and the Garden Club of City Island. And we would never have been able to get the proper plants had they not been ordered way in advance by Jill Commins of Commins & French of City Island. The painting crew was headed by Janie Blanks, who did an amazing job painting the gates on the corner of Fordham Street a beautiful sky blue. Her team included Cheryl Brinker and Nancy Kheck.

The education committee consisted of Elinor King, Barbara Zahm, Nancy Kheck, Amelia Zaino, Rose Rodstrom, Nicolette Lotrionte, Charlene Schultz, Malcolm Campbell and Patrick Gannon, who educated the Viacom volunteers (and some locals) about City Island's nautical history and the past, present and future of the oys-

And, speaking of oysters, a big thank you to Paul Mankiewicz and Mike Carew for creating the vision that has become the City Island Oyster Reef. With their research

and the guidance of Denis Mellett and Ashly Carabetta of Coastal Steward, Long Island, and students from Pratt Institute, the building of our ecologically biodiverse corridor has begun. Our oyster gathering team and restaurant liaisons included Peter Sherman and Sebastian Wiley of Consolidated Boatyard, Orion Lillyreed of Pacific Gold, and Debbie Ianniello of the Sea Shore Restaurant. And of course many thanks go to the restaurants who are participating in this effort: Lobster House, Sea Shore, Seafood City, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Tony's Pier and Johnny's Reef.

We are grateful to Gary Axelbank of thisisthebronx.info for his coverage of the day and for his stories leading up to Viacommunity Day. And we owe thanks to Ron Terner for all of the great pictures he took documenting the day.

With the help of Viacom and local volunteers, the City Island Drift is trying to continue the beautification of City Island Avenue started by Richie DePierro over a year ago. Richie, along with existing store owners and concerned locals are doing their part to keep City Island quaint and charming. Let's all keep up our efforts, because working together, we can make a difference. We should all be proud to be a part of such a unique and beautiful community whose residents and business owners work in harmony with each other on this Island, which is a little slice of heaven.

Maria Caruso

Masonic Centennial

To the Editor:

On May 8, 2019, the Bronx Masonic District was honored by the New York City Council for its 100th Anniversary and its "extraordinary service and enduring contributions to the Bronx and beyond." An official proclamation was presented by City Council Members Robert E. Cornegy Jr. and Andrew Cohen and received by the District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx Masons, and Raymond Vargas, along with the Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, William Sardone. The proclamation would not have been possible without the support of City Council Member Mark Gjonaj.

Scott Meyer

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Photos by RICK DeWITT and MATT PANZA

VISA DECEMBE

The 2019 Memorial Day festivities began with a 5K run on Saturday, May 25 to support the American Legion on City Island (top photo). More than 60 children and adults competed in the fun event, which began at Hawkins Park and finished at the Nautical Museum. Then on Monday, May 27, the annual parade kicked off under clear, sunny skies and stopped at Hawkins Park, Pelham Cemetery and the Legion triangle to remember those who died in past conflicts (inset and bottom photos). This year's marchers included 30 sailors from the USS Hue City (a Ticonderoga-Class Guided Missile Cruiser in town for Fleet Week), the New York Metro Pipe Band, the NYPD Explorers from Throggs Neck, the Star of the Seas-Sea Cadet Corps from Castle Hill, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi and Councilman Mark Gjonaj. Legion commander Peter Del-Debbio, Sons of the American Legion president Vic Anderson, Auxiliary president Laura Booth and Chaplain Joe Goonan led the tributes and were joined by the U.S. Coast Guard, City Island Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Grace Church, and the City Island Little League, among other marchers.



City Island Oysters Off to a Good Start

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWIT

Members of the City Island Drift group that launched the oyster reef project at an event on May 17, 2019, joined with elected officials, who offered to help (I. to r.): City Councilman Mark Gjonaj, Mike Carew, Lois Wagh, Linda Baldwin, Maria Caruso, Rose Rodstrom, Nicolette Lotrionte and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto.

The much-anticipated oyster-reef project officially began on Friday, May 10, Viacommunity Day, as volunteers from Viacom and the City Island community began collecting oyster and clam shells from six restaurants on the Island and prepared them for curing in the open air at different locations on City Island (see article on page 1). This launch was quickly followed up by a reception on Friday, May 17, at the Harlem Yacht Club, where Island volunteers, donors and elected officials gathered to celebrate the new project.

The evening event was put together by Rose Rodstrom and Nicolette Lotrionte, members of the City Island Drift team, who organized presentations on the oyster reef project and put together a series of silent auction items that were enthusiastically bid on during the reception. Generous donors to the auction included Mike Carew, Kathy Ciarletta, Mary Colby, Jill Commins, Chris Cullen, John DeCuffa, Cory Fontana, Stephane Kane, and Nancy Kheck and Patrick Gannon.

After the guests had partaken of oysters (donated by Dawn and Eric Schlesinger of Down East Oysters) and a beautiful array of seafood hors d'oeuvres prepared by Ann Booth, the Harlem chef, Rose Rodstrom welcomed everyone and gave the agenda for the evening. Maria Caruso, who spearheaded the project for the City Island Drift, took a few minutes to thank everyone who has stepped up to help make the oyster reef a reality. Maria then introduced Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and City Councilman Mark Gjonaj, who expressed their support for the project and offered to help fund it.

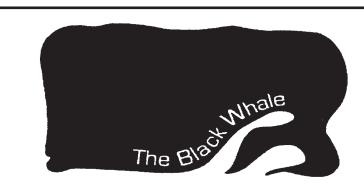
Gary Axelbank, who recently interviewed Maria and Laurie Vega, the Viacom coordinator, on his program "Bronx Talk,"

showed the short film he made on Viacommunity Day, which featured various aspects of the oyster event (http://www.thisisthebronx.info/watch-the-city-island-viacommunity-day-2019-official-video/), including the collection of shells and setting them out to cure and the depositing of cured shells in the Sound.

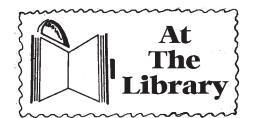
The science behind the oyster reef project was beautifully explained by Drift volunteer Amelia Zaino, who teaches biology at Lehman College. Samuel Pressman and Priyaka Jinsiwale, Pratt Institute colleagues of Paul Mankiewicz, the Island ecologist who originated the project, presented a beautiful poster describing the wide-ranging ecological aspects of bringing marine life back to the western part of Long Island Sound.

Denis Mellett of the Long Island organization Coastal Steward, which is collaborating with the City Island Oyster Reef group, spoke about what his group has accomplished over the past few years. Coastal Steward provided already cured shells for immediate deposit in the Sound, as well as advice on various aspects of the oyster-planting program.

Thanks to the excellent first step on Viacommunity Day and the presentations at the May 17 event, the City Island Oyster Reef is off and running. Many volunteers have signed up to participate in the oyster shell collecting, and others have generously donated funds to keep the project afloat through the summer and—the organizers hope—well into the future. To express interest in volunteering, send an e-mail to cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com. To make a donation, send a check to the City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464 and mark it "Oyster Reef."



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JUNE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Kick-off: Jungle Explorers: Monkeys, butterflies and Venus fly traps come to life in this highly interactive song- and dance-filled performance for toddlers! Come sing and clap along with Bianca the butterfly as she travels across the jungle searching for courage. Best for ages 3 to 6 years old. Wednesday, June 19, at 11 a.m.

New: Fun in the Sun! You can have it made in the shade with a book or magazine while your little one cools off on our interactive water table, or makes some cheerful chalk art in our garden area. Ages 2 through 5. Every Saturday at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, June 14, at 11:30 a.m.

JUNE TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Kick-off: Robot 101: From ancient automatons to present-day nano-bots to futuristic droids, we learn about the long history of robots in fairy tales, science fiction stories, manga, comics, toys and big-budget films. After some history and basic drawing lessons, participants will learn how to design their own droid. Wednesday, June 19, at 3 p.m.

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

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! June 7: Personal Pride Flags; June 14: Wii and Board Games; June 21: Quilting Party; June 28: Wii and Board Games.

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JUNE ADULT PROGRAMS

ACC Adoption Van: Saturday, June 8 at 12 noon

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants; registration required. Thursday, June 13 and 27, at 1 p.m.

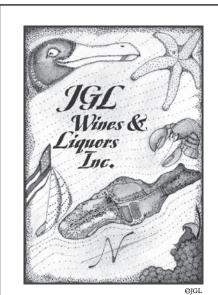
City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, June 3 and 17, at 5 p.m.

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

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet and Resumé Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m. June 1: "Operation Finale"; June 8: "Same Kind of Different As Me"; June 15: "Geostorm"; June 22: "Baywatch"; June 29: "Venom."

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



358 City Island Avenue City Island, NY 10464 jgl358@verizon.net 718-885-0200



Bartow-Pell Events

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions, and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present, and cultivate appreciation for the area's historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, call 718-885-1461.

From June 1 through June 9, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum offers "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men," a new site-specific, indoor-outdoor mystery, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Mr. Hilton Cubitt is baffled when childish drawings of little dancing men mysteriously appear in and around his beautiful country estate, terrifying his young American wife. Are the strange drawings a bizarre prank or a warning of deadly danger? Take part in an original dramatic adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic story as you explore Bartow-Pell and its grounds for clues to unravel one of Holmes' most thrilling adventures. Adapted by Tal Aviezer from the story by Arthur Conan Doyle and directed by Melinda O'Brien, this is a coproduction of Red Monkey Theater Group and M&M Performing Arts Company. Registration is required; the cost is \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and students.

On Thursday, June 6 from 12 to 2 p.m., support the Bartow-Pell Conservancy and

attend an elegant lunch outdoors on the pebble court overlooking the formal garden. Sam Sifton, Food Editor of The New York Times and 2019 winner of the James Beard Foundation Publication of the Year, will be the guest speaker. Visit *bpmm.org* for details. Reservations required.

First Friday! on June 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., will feature musician Ricardo Gautreau, who will perform with his three-piece ensemble. Enjoy the music, explore the museum, and stroll the garden; light refreshments are available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to Bartow-Pell to City Island. Registration requested. The cost for Heritage Members and above is free; Friend Members pay \$5; Not-Yet Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

"Living Decor: Plants, Potting and DIY Projects" is the subject of a book talk with Maria Colletti, on Tuesday, June 18, at 7 p.m. "Living Décor" is a manual that introduces the life, beauty, and health benefits of bringing plants into your home in creative ways. Written by Maria Colletti ("Terrariums: Gardens Under Glass"), this lovely book is an entertaining read and demonstrates innovative ways to create your own arrangements using moss, succulents, air plants and other favorite indoor greenery. Cost: Bartow-Pell Members free; Not-Yet Members \$10.

Discovery Camp will be held this year from July 15 through July 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., an exciting chance for children ages 6 through 12 to engage with local history and nature through immersive indoor and outdoor activities. Bartow-Pell is the place where history meets adventure! Campers will unearth the site's rich past by exploring the lives of the Lenape in the 1600s and the Bartow family in the 1800s. Kids will also discover the different species of wildlife that now call the site home. An afternoon snack will be provided, but campers should bring a bag lunch from home. Register for Session I or Session II or both. The cost is \$375 per session or \$675 for both Session I and Session II.





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A Current Review "AUNTIE MAME"

I've been told that a child will do his or her best to grow up in nearly the opposite direction taken by the parents. That tendency provides one of the key story points in the delightful comedy "Auntie Mame," the second City Island Theater Group production of 2019. The CITG production of this play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee based on the novel by Patrick Dennis, was nothing if not electric. Action was fast and furious; dialogue was tossed out rapidly as actors stormed on and off the set, swarmed off the Grace Church stage, down the steps, into the hall and back. Indeed, the story line twisted so often that change became the norm. Locales moved from Chicago to New York to deepest Georgia, before taking a long lap around the world, touching down in Connecticut and finally coming to rest back on Beekman Place in Manhattan.

"Auntie Mame" the play is based on "Auntie Mame: An Irreverent Escapade," a 1955 novel by Patrick Dennis that tells the story of a boy raised by the sister of his late father. Set in 1928, the recently orphaned Patrick has traveled from Chicago to live with his aunt, Mame Dennis, in New York City. Patrick, only 10 years old, is suddenly orbiting in the madcap universe of an unconventional socialite who believes in touching all the bases. Patrick soon finds himself enrolled in a progressive, "clothing discouraged" school and mastering the art of mixing the perfect gin martini. And that's only the beginning.

The characters in Auntie Mame are almost too numerous to mention, but let me try. First, we have Jack Salcito as the younger version of Patrick Dennis, and he presented a heartwarming version of Pat-



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rick as he masters his new environment. Patrick has been accompanied to New York from Chicago by Elizabeth Paldino, who beautifully played his governess, Norah Muldoon. Elizabeth is regular with the City Island Theater Group, both on and off the stage, and in her role was fiercely protective of Patrick throughout the show. Upon their arrival at Beekman Place, Norah and Patrick are greeted by Danny Conover, playing Ito, Mame's houseboy, and ushered into the apartment, where there is, of course, a lively party taking place.

After entering the fray, Norah and Patrick are introduced to the hostess, and star of the show, Phyllis Lindy as Mame Dennis. Phyllis must have had some sort of arrangement with Con Ed, given the amount of energy she brought to the role. In the course of the evening, she was variously commanding and confused, flamboyant and unruffled, but at all times she was living life. As we meet Mame Dennis, we are introduced to Kaitlyn Stultz, playing the role of Vera Charles, a gin-soaked Broadway actress who spends most nights passed out in Mame's guest room. Kaitlyn's Vera was bold and brassy and dominated each of her scenes, just as she should have. Also at the party is a publisher, Lindsay Woolsey, played by Bob Livingston. Lindsay is a wealthy admirer of Mame's, and Bob played the role well, gamely coming to her rescue with a crucial book deal later in the story.

Not long after Patrick arrives in his new home, his trustee, a conservative banker named Dwight Babcock, appears on the scene, playing a counterpoint to the progressive goings-on in Mame's apartment. Played with appropriate disdain and dismay by Tom Weppler, Babcock flails at the events around him for the length of the show, before surrendering and delivering a final lament.

After the stock market crash in 1929, Mame is forced into the working world, where she struggles both to adapt and to make ends meet. Fortunately, Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside and the greatest southern accent in history ride to her rescue, sweeping Mame off her feet. Chris

Manetakis was perfect in the role of Beauregard, overplaying wildly and obviously having fun with the part. Beauregard takes Mame to meet his family in Georgia and announces their engagement. Jean Eifert and Susan Rauh, as Mother Burnside and former fiancée Sally Cato MacDougal, respectively, don lilting southern accents and their best manners in welcoming Mame to the Deep South. Jean's Mother Burnside later proves she can call a horse race with the best of them, after Susan's Sally tries to take Mame out of the picture by mounting her on a horse named Lightning Rod.

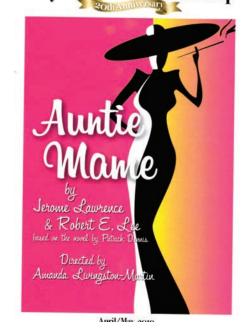
Following Beauregard's demise at the end of what seemed an endless worldwide honeymoon, Mame washes ashore back on Beekman Place. There, awaiting her, is a now-adult version of Patrick Dennis, effectively played by Michael Serge. Michael's Patrick has grown conservative in her absence and is now a practical fellow concerned with social standing. He wants to snap Mame out of an extended period of mourning and brokers a crucial book deal between Lindsay Woolsey and Mame. To get the deal off the ground, they hire a stenographer named Agnes Gooch. Played by Eileen Sugameli, a frumpy Agnes pulls off a caterpillar-to-butterfly transformation over the course of the show. By the end, Agnes is able to proclaim that she has *lived* and shows off a baby bump to prove it. Also needed is a writer to polish Mame's manuscript, calling for the "Irish Poet" Brian O'Bannion. Thomas Losito handled the role flawlessly as he moved from being merely annoying to full-on letch.

Given Patrick's new conservative bent, things get serious in his relationship with Gloria Upson, who grew up in a Connecticut world of which Mame has no conception. Penelope Golden as Gloria seems to be nice enough, but she's a creature of a society that focuses on things Mame doesn't value. Gloria's parents, played by James Staal and Connieann DelVecchio, are active proponents of the same values, and, even worse, they are pulling Patrick into their social orbit and out of Mame's.

Naturally, Mame isn't about to lose Patrick, so she throws a get-acquainted party for the Upsons at her Beekman Place apartment, which has been redone by frustrated decorator Pegeen Ryan. Played by Leah Jimenez, Pegeen was appropriately perturbed throughout her role. Naturally, the Upsons are appalled at Mame's world and Patrick's familiarity with it. The engagement is broken off, Mr. Babcock storms out, and all is right with the world.

"Auntie Mame" is a huge show with a lot of moving parts. Beyond the major characters comes a full-size ensemble. Between them, Karen Andronico, Gary Krigsman, Jack McGuirk, Kenneth Murphy and Greg Weiss somehow handled 18 small but vital roles between them, switch-

City Island Theater Group



ing effortlessly from one to the next. Without them there would have been no "Auntie Mame."

Patrick Dennis's bestselling novel, adapted for the stage, ran from October 1956 to June 1958 at the Broadhurst Theatre on Broadway, starring Rosalind Russell in the title role. In 1957, both Russell and Peggy Cass as Agnes Gooch were nominated for Tony Awards and Cass won. In December 1958, a film version was released by Warner Brothers with Russell, Shimoda, Handzlik and Cass reprising their roles. Russell was nominated for an Academy Award and won a Golden Globe for her portrayal. In 1966, a musical version titled simply "Mame," starring Angela Lansbury and Bea Arthur, opened on Broadway, and a film version was released in 1974, starring Lucille Ball.

Costume design for "Auntie Mame" was brilliantly handled by Carol McCabe, who celebrated her 20th year with City Island Theater Group and was supported in this ambitious endeavor by a talented and loyal team. Lighting design was by Nico Pechim, and the lighting operator was Jahdial Rodriguez. Hannah Glick handled sound design with her usual skill. Set construction was by Dan Srdoc, and props were gathered by Barbara Dolensek, who gave her porch furniture another chance to shine on stage.

Pam Johnston once again served as production stage manager and was responsible for the incredibly complicated goings-on backstage. Amanda Livingston-Martin did an great job with the direction of "Auntie Mame," somehow keeping track of all the moving parts. Nick Sala, CITG's president, handled the myriad details associated with production manager for this complex and thoroughly enjoyable play.

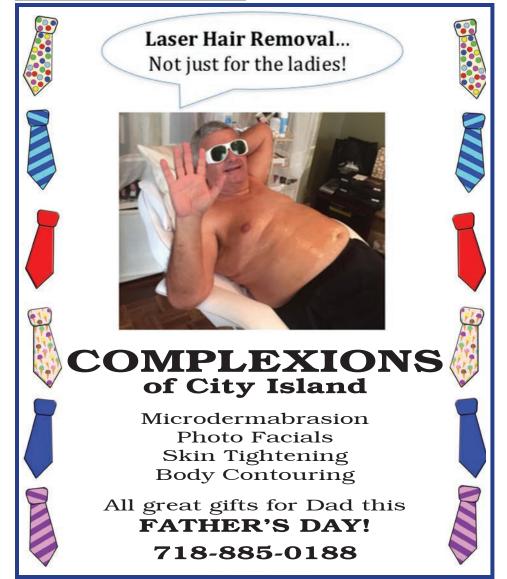




Photo by RON TERNER

On Saturday, May 18, the City Island Library put this beautiful dollhouse on view to share with Islanders the amazing talent of the late Fran Burck, who husband and son, Joe Burck and Joe Burck Jr., are at the right. At left is Michael Proietti, who repaired and refurbished the contents of the house, which range from elegant pieces of furniture to tiny dolls and even electric light fixtures



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CITY COLUMN TO A C

Photo by MATT PANZA

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 "Quilters By the Sea" presented a Quilt of Valor on May 5, 2019, to Island veteran Jack Hartigan. Shown above at the ceremony are (I. to r.) Judy McCormick, Joanne Valletta, Jack Hartigan, Harlan Sexton, Sandra Panzarella, Susan O'Keefe Vaughan and Vivi McGuire. Mr. Hartigan was joined by his family for the special recognition: Stephen, Carmen and Christopher Hartigan.

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NASA Systems Engineer Lands on City Island

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Captain Nagin Cox, a spacecraft engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, joined the City Island school community for the second annual Mars Week at P.S. 175 during May 2019. She is shown above (top photo, center) with science teacher Karen Heil (left), principal Amy Lipson (right) and some of the students who completed many "Martian" projects, including creating a replica of the Mars Rover (bottom photo).

The second annual "Mars Week" at P.S. 175 launched on Monday, May 6, 2019, and included various "Mars Life" activities. A special guest, Nagin Cox, a spacecraft engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, jetted to City Island in person to speak with the school community.

Last year, P.S. 175's science teacher, Karen Heil, clicked on a talk by Captain Cox entitled "What time is it on Mars?" Captain Cox delved into her role in managing the United States' rovers on Mars. Although the NASA engineer's job holds many oddities, Ms. Heil was most intrigued by her work schedule, which differed quite drastically from a traditional 9 to 5 job. She soon learned that a day, or "Sol" in Mars terminology, was in fact 24 hours and 40 minutes.

Thus, the "Mars Week" event at P.S. 175 was born. Here on planet Earth, middle schoolers changed their schedule to reflect a Martian day, the planet's "Sol schedule." Each school day started 40 minutes later to account for the additional 40 minutes it takes for the planet Mars to make one complete rotation. This meant that by Thursday, May 9, their school day began at 10:10 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m.

While the middle schoolers operated on a Mars schedule, the rest of the school engaged in various planetary projects. The first-graders wrote postcards from Mars, and third- and fourth-graders created space capsules, pasta rovers and even a life-size rocket!

Captain Cox's earthly resumé is impressive. She graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering and was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force. She worked with an F-16 Aircrew Training



and received a master's degree in Space Operations Systems Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

As a captain, she served as an Orbital Analyst at NORAD/Space Command in Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado Springs. In 1993, she joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and has since served as a systems engineer and manager on multiple interplanetary robotic missions, including NASA/JPL's Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Mars Exploration Rover Missions and the Kepler telescope mission to search for earthlike planets around other stars.

Karen Heil feels that this unique opportunity could leave a lasting impression on the students. "Who knows? This event will hopefully be the flame for future scientists and engineers. The possibilities are endless."

The school's principal, Amy Lipson, was also enthusiastic about Mars Week. "The middle school team worked in unison with Ms. Heil to create a thematic program for the week that streamed across all four of the content areas. Whether it is science, math, social studies or English class, the students will get a glimpse into the Martian lifestyle," she told *The Current*.

If you want to learn more about life on Mars, go to Captain Nagin Cox's website https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/people/257/nagin-cox/. Happy landing!



Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 1 and 2, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

Sun., June 23, **Blessing of the Flee**t, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

Tues., June 25, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., June 27, **Annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza**, Orchard Beach, 7 to 10 p.m., fireworks at 9 p.m.

Sat., June 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chicken with peppers, onions and potatoes.

Sat., June 29, **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, town hall meeting at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 2 to 4 p.m.

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, June 2, at 12 noon. We will be conducting the reopening of nominations for Post officers, followed by elections. Dues (\$55) for the 2020 year are past due. Please drop the dues 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.

Be sure to come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. We also have Pull Tabs, a variety of games of chance, and these games are open to all. The proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

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

Please note the following dates for upcoming events.

The Bronx County Convention will take place on Friday, June 7, at 7 p.m. The location will be Samuel Young Post 620 at 1530 Hutchinson Pkwy East, Bronx New York 10461.

Happy Father's Day on June 16.

The Blessing of the Fleet will take place on Sunday, June 23, at 1 p.m. The location will be Fenton's Marina, 225 Fordham Street. This event is proudly hosted by City Island Sail & Power Squadron VHF Ch71. Participation is on the water only for this multi-denominational blessing.

Save the Date: On November 23, the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a Serviceman's Dinner Dance at Scavello's on the Island, 101 City Island Avenue. Further details to follow.

Have a great summer, and we will look forward to resuming activities in September for the 2020 year.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Trinity Unted Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship

and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Each weekday morning, we open the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time, we pray for the children, the schools, for families and individuals, for businesses, for those who are grieving, and for the health of any who we have heard are ill. If you would like to have yourself or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Ave. Prayer requests can also be sent to david.jolly@nyac-umc.com. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

Mark your calendar now for Trinity's annual worship at the Fordham Street Beach Club on Aug. 4.

The Budget Shop is open, but not for much longer, as it will be closing soon for the summer. Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club held its annual spring luncheon on May 16 with "Daisies are Forever" as the theme. We hope that everyone who joined us at the Pelham Bay / Split Rock Golf Club enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres, three-course luncheon and especially the raffle of gift baskets created by club members and gift certificates donated by our local businesses.

You may have noticed that Friday, May 10, was a very busy day on the Island with Viacom and City Island volunteers planting, painting, hanging photos and working on the oyster project. This was the second year of Viacommunity Day on City Island. All of the plantings at the Post Office garden, the Carroll Street garden and the tree pits between Fordham and Hawkins Streets were organized by the Garden Club; several club members were also among the volunteer planting crews. The Garden Club supplied all of the Post Office plants, which were purchased with funds from the beautification donations made by City Islanders. Your contributions to the Garden Club's beautification fund help make such projects possible.

Our meeting this month on Monday, June 3, is a presentation by Pam White from the 9th District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. She will speak about flower shows as an opportunity to exhibit garden club special projects. You are invited to join us for this presentation at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street at 10 a.m. The meeting will conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality

Next month's meeting is a luncheon for members on Friday, July 5, at 11 a.m. There will be a short business meeting and the installation of officers, followed by lunch. There is no August meeting.

Sharynne Wilder

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Worship Schedule during the month of June. Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

You are invited to join Father Coving-



ton's Bible Reading Group, which meets during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Joshua.

Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. The Youth Service will be led by members of the Sunday School on Father's Day, June 16. After that, Sunday School will take a summer break and resume in September.

Music Ministry: The GraceTones are enjoying their fourth year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. They are taking a summer break and will resume performances in September. If you'd like to sing with the GraceTones, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

City Island Republicans

Currently, there are several candidates interested in running against Congress-woman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of whom has already declared. That election is not until next year.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Our final meeting of the spring will be a regular meeting on June 5. Our end-of-season luncheon will take place on June 19 at the Lobster House at 12 noon. The cost is \$45 per person; please pay for the luncheon at the June 5th meeting if you have not already done so.

This summer we will have two casino trips. On July 10, we will travel to Mohegan Sun; the cost is \$30. On Aug. 14, we are going to the Resorts Catskills; the price is also \$30. Please pay for these trips at the June 5 meeting or call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707 to sign up and to get trip information. We will not meet during the summer. Our first meeting in September will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Have a wonderful summer!

Carroll Reid

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Sales, Sales, Sales! Summer clearance, bag sales, half-price sales. We are open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arlene Byrne



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The Garden Club luncheon on May 16, 2019, at Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course was a blooming success, thanks to the hard work of the club officers and committee members (top photo, I. to r.) Melanie Benvenue, assistant treasurer; Linda Kyriakos, luncheon committee; Elena Nuesslein, treasurer; Ellen Murphy, recording secretary; Judy Judson, president; and Francine Alheid, luncheon committee. Longtime Garden Club member Vivi McGuire (bottom photo) was the thrilled winner of one of the many great raffle prizes donated by local businesses and Garden Club members.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Membership in the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. And we always want to hear your ideas and thoughts about how to serve the community better.

Remember the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program begins its weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables the first week of June. Be sure to register now for this excellent program. See details below.

EVENTS

Latin Night: Saturday, June 1, 7 p.m. Eat delicious Spanish foods, dance salsa, tango and meringue and have a fun filled evening with friends and neighbors. To reserve a place or for more information, call Eva at 646-954-7410.

COMING JULY

The History of Mambo-One World Arts: Sundays in July at 3:30 p.m. With music, dance and movement, an intergenerational program with wonderful fun for all ages. Call Yvette Martinez at 718-885-2574 for details.

Kids Kitchen Boot Camp: July, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Young people ages 10 through 14 will create and cook beautiful food. For more information, call Kayisha Thompson at 347-481-3292.

NEW

Creative Arts Workshop for Ages **4-6:** Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. through June 4. Children have fun with collage, finger painting, mask making and more. Call 914-837-6830 to register for this free class.

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

Feldenkrais Class: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information to improve the way your body feels and



functions. For information, please contact Julie Kavee 347-266-6247 or juliekavee@ gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: NEW DAY: Friday, 6 p.m. Teens and adults join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

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

City Island Community Supported **Agriculture:** Register for late spring 2019 weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. To join or for information, contact the new coordinator Jessica Sinclair at 914-625-7440 or jessicasinclair78@gmail.

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

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

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

WW/Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a great new leader, Alex Sokoloff. New members are always welcome at any time. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

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

call 917-853-4719.

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

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

Patty Grondahl

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Our monthly coffee hour will take place in the rectory on Sunday, June 9, following the 11 a.m. Mass. Come join your fellow parishioners for light refreshments. This will be the last coffee hour before the summer. We will resume in October.

On Father's Day, June 16, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all the Masses.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open during the month of June and will close at the end of the month for the summer, to reopen in September.

Registration forms for the 2019/2020 Religious Education Program have been e-mailed to parents and distributed to students. Additional forms are available in the vestibule of the Church. Early-bird rate ends Aug. 31.

Have a blessed and safe summer!

Rose Dietz

PSS Senior Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

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

Highlights

NEW PROGRAMS!

Mondays at 1 p.m. Gardening Exchange: Exchange ideas, information, plant cuttings, flowers and vegetables.

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. "Stuff: Let's Talk," discussion group with continental breakfast June 5, Wednesday, Visit to the City Island Nautical Museum

June 13, Thursday: Father's Day Celebration

Call for June special events.

Daily Programming

Mondays:

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

10 a.m. Mixed Media Art

11 a.m., 12 noon: Blood Pressure Screening on first and third Monday of the month

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch 1 p.m. Gardening Exchange

Tuesdays:

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

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

9 a.m. "Stuff: Let's Talk," discussion group with continental breakfast

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

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

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

Thursdays:

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

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m.: Mixed Media Art Fridays:

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

and toning

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch 12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch 1:15 p.m. Singing Group

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information or for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Temple Beth-El

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

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

June 7: Rabbi David-led services, Shavuot Weekend Shabbaton; oneg sponsor Avra Bleiden-Tietze

June 14: Community-led services

June 21: Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi

June 28: Community-led services

Other Activities:

June 4: Rabbi David's third of three classes on Shavuot June 8 and 9: Shavuot retreat on City

June 25: Annual Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Members vote on trustees, clergy contracts and bylaw revisions.

TBE invites the City Island community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreesha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served afterwards. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

Paul Klein



A Selected Filmography of Claire Foy

Claire Foy got her start on BBC television in the title role in **Little Dorrit** (2008), a seven-hour miniseries based on Charles Dickens's serial novel of the same title, originally published between 1855 and 1857. The story begins when Mrs. Clennam (Judy Parfitt) hires 21-year-old seamstress Amy Dorrit (Foy) just days before her son, Arthur (Matthew Macfadyen), returns to London after 15 years at sea. Amy lives in Marshalsea, the debtor's prison, with her proud father, William (Tom Courtenay). Arthur soon begins to suspect that there is a connection between the Clennams and the Dorrits, so he attempts to solve the mystery with help from a slimy rent collector Pancks (Eddie Marsan), but he is hindered by gruff servant Flintwinch (Alun Armstrong) and the awfully frustrating Circumlocution Office.

Going Postal (2010) is a three-hour British miniseries that takes place in the fictional land of Ankh-Morpork. It is the story of Moist von Lipwig (Richard Coyle), a con man and charlatan who loves swindling people using confidence tricks to far-reaching financial fraud. When the law finally catches up to him, the city's clever leader, Lord Vetinari (Charles Dance), offers von Lipwig a choice: he can take over the dilapidated post office or suffer a painful death. Choosing life, he finds himself in charge of thousands of undelivered letters, dealing with a staff of misfits and in competition with corrupt businessman Reacher Gilt (David Suchet). Struggling to find his way, and ultimately succumbing to a guilty conscience, he becomes smitten with the uninterested Adora Dearheart (Foy). Von Lipwig must use all of his cunning and charm to succeed in bringing the post office back to life and win Adora's

Upstairs, Downstairs (2010, 2012) is based on the hit 1970s television serial, condensed into three hour-long episodes, and set in 1936 England. As the title indicates, the film focuses on the elite who inhabit the upstairs of a mansion in one of London's poshest neighborhoods and the servants who live downstairs. It is the story of newlyweds Sir Hallam Holland (Ed Stoppard) and Lady Agnes (Keeley Hawes), who decide to modernize the manor. Foy appears as Agnes's reckless sister, Lady Persephone, who is increasingly misled by the newly formed fascist party, including German official Ribbentrop (Edward Baker-Duly). Much of the plot revolves around Agnes's ability to bear children and the political expectations Sir Hallam must meet even when morally conflicted.

Wreckers (2011) is an independent drama about David (Benedict Cumberbatch) and Dawn (Foy), who have moved from the city to a small rural community in Kent, where David lived as a boy. David enjoys his time-consuming new job and the serenity of the countryside. Unfortunately, however, Dawn is less enamored with her new career as a housewife, and she is becoming frustrated with their unsuccessful efforts to have a baby. When David's brother Nick (Shaun Evans) comes to visit, on leave after serving in Afghanistan, their family dynamic becomes increasingly tense. Dawn is happy to see Nick, but David is significantly mistrustful. As it becomes clear that Nick's experiences in combat have taken a fearsome emotional toll, he begins discussing some painful secrets from his family's past, some of which involve David.

Set in 2009, **Rosewater** (2014) is the story of London-based Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari (Gael García Bernal), who returned to Iran to interview Mir-Hossein Mousavi, the prime challenger to

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is detained after he reports violence against protesters of the country's presidential election. While his pregnant fiancée, Paola Gourley (Foy), campaigned internationally for his release, Bahari spent 118 days at Evin Prison being brutally interrogated. The film is based on the New York Times best-selling memoir "Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival," written by Maziar Bahari, and is the directorial debut of "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart. The name of the film came from the fact that Bahari was blindfolded while being interrogated, and his interrogator's sole distinguishing feature was that he smelled of rosewater.

In Wolf Hall (2015) Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis star as Thomas Cromwell and King Henry VIII, and Foy plays 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 nominations at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards and three nominations at the 73rd Golden Globe Awards, winning for Best Miniseries or Television Film.

In the first two seasons of The Crown (2016–17) Foy stars as 25-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, newly wed to Prince Philip (Matt Smith) and faced with the daunting prospect of leading the world's most famous monarchy while forging a relationship with legendary Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill (John Lithgow). Golden Globe winner for Best TV Drama Series, "The Crown" explores the Queen's private journey behind the public façade. The first season depicts events up to 1955, with Winston Churchill resigning as Prime Minister, and the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret (Vanessa Kirby), deciding not to marry Captain Peter Townsend (Ben Miles). The second season covers the period from the Suez crisis in 1956 through the retirement of the Queen's third Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan (Anton Lesser) in 1963, to the birth of Prince Edward in 1964. Matthew Goode appears as Antony Armstrong-Jones, a society photographer whom Princess Margaret eventually marries.

Unsane (2018) is an American psychological horror film starring Foy as Sawyer Valentini, a woman who unwittingly signs herself into a mental institution. The victim of a stalker (Joshua Leonard), Sawyer finds that she is still triggered by interactions with men, so she makes an appointment with a counselor at Highland Creek Behavioral Center. When they won't let her leave, she calls the police, who do nothing when they see the signed release. After physical altercations with a patient and a staff member, she is told that she is being kept for seven more days. Another patient, Nate Hoffman (Jay Pharoah), explains that the Center tricks people into voluntarily committing themselves and won't let them go until their insurance runs out. When Sawyer discovers that her stalker works at the Center under an assumed name, she freaks out and must be restrained. Amy Irving appears as Sawyer's mother, who tries to get her released, and Matt Damon has a cameo as a police detective. This intense drama was shot entirely on the iPhone 7

First Man (2018) is a biopic about the journey of American Astronaut Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) to become the first human to walk on the moon. When his two-and-a-half year old daughter Karen dies from a brain tumor, grief-stricken Armstrong applies for Project Gemini and is accepted into NASA Astronaut Group 2. He, his wife, Janet (Foy), and their son, Rick (Gavin Warren), move to Houston along with other astronaut families. As Armstrong begins training, Deke Slayton (Kyle Chandler) explains to the new astronauts the importance of the Gemini program, as the Soviet Union had reached every milestone in the Space Race ahead of the United States. Other cast members include Ethan Embry as Pete Conrad, Pablo Schreiber as Jim Lovell, Jason Clarke as Ed White, Shea Whigham as Gus Grissom, Cory Michael Smith as Roger Chaffee, William Gregory Lee as Gordon "Gordo" Cooper, John David Whalen as John Glenn and Ciarán Hinds as Robert R. Gilruth, the first director of NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center.

In a definite change of pace, Foy stars in **The Girl in the Spider's Web** (2018) as Lisbeth Salander, the highly-skilled hacker/vigilante from the acclaimed Dragon Tattoo series, who has survived severe emotional and sexual abuse. In Stockholm she is hired by computer programmer Frans Balder (Stephen Merchant) to retrieve Firefall, a program capable of accessing the world's nuclear codes that he developed for the National Security Agency and which he

believes is too dangerous to exist. Lisbeth successfully retrieves Firefall from the NSA servers, attracting the attention of NSA agent Edwin Needham (Lakeith Stanfield), but she is unable to unlock it. The program is then stolen from her by mercenaries led by Jan Holtser (Claes Bang), who also attempt to kill her. Sylvia Hoeks appears as Camilla Salander, Lisbeth's estranged sister, who is the head of a major crime syndicate. Caught in a web of spies, cybercriminals and corrupt government officials, Salander and journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Sverrir Gudnason) race to rescue the program capable of global destruction.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .





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Viacommunity Day

Continued from page 1

ing scheme from the 1800s, the new plan does not include creating oysters to be eaten or transported to restaurants but has as its primary goal making the waters around City Island healthier and safer. An adult oyster can filter as much as 50 gallons of water a day, and in so doing, they transform sediment and nitrogen into packets that end up at the bottom of the bay, where they are no longer harmful. The sediment provides food for annelids, arthropods and other marine animals, and the oyster beds themselves will attract creatures like sandworms, flounder and crabs, enriching the environment on several levels.

The project came to life on May 10, when the Carew brothers (Mike and Jerry) were joined by Denis Mellett of the Long Island organization called Coastal Steward that has successfully brought oysters back to Mt. Sinai and other harbors along Long Island Sound. Excited volunteers relayed 45 bags of dried shells provided by Coastal Steward down the gangway in Consolidated Shipyard on Pilot Street. The shells and volunteers were loaded aboard two boats, *Moon*



Photos by MATT PANZA and RON TERNER Dr. Paul Mankiewicz, a biologist who lives on City Island, spoke with Current editor Karen Nani about the challenge of restoring City Island's oyster populations (bottom photo) on Viacommunity Day on May 10. Volunteers gave City Island Avenue a facelift that included painting some eyesores (top left photo) and hanging 20 new displays from the Island's nautical history on avenue roll-downs and fences (top right photo).



Tide (owned by Captain Joe Somers) and *Merlin*, which then set forth into the Sound and Eastchester Bay.

The oyster shells were deposited overboard in several locations, including near Big Tom rock off the Morris Yacht Club, Cuban's Ledge near Rodman's Neck, and in the waters off Pilot Cove Manor. According to Dr. Mankiewicz, "After several months, these deposits will become reefs for baby oyster larvae to settle on and grow. The larvae will grow into mature oysters the size of an adult hand that will clean the water, making them the eco-engineers of our estuary!"

Another aspect of the oyster reef project is to "cure" more shells for further distribution around City Island. Discarded shells provided by six local restaurants and other sources must rest in the open air for up to a year in order to be sure they are free of contaminants. Some of the Viacommunity Day teams worked behind P.S. 175 placing shells on wooden pallets for curing, a process that will continue throughout the summer.

Paul Mankiewicz could hardly contain his enthusiasm for this project. He told *The Current*. "We are creating the 'hardscape' or housing for oysters around City Island. Once these communities start to form, 1.2 billion gallons of waste water could be filtered by only 14 acres of oyster reefs!"

After all the hard work on land and sea, the Viacommunity Day volunteers ad-

journed to the Community Center and were treated to six-foot heroes and salads from Augie's and a presentation about the history of oystering in New York Harbor and around City Island. Building an oyster reef is not an easy task, but it is not a pipe dream. It is being done in New York Harbor by the Billion Oyster Project and at other locations on Long Island Sound, the Hudson River and Jamaica Bay.

The City Island Drift group is planning to take the next steps by arranging for even more restaurants to provide shells on a regular basis and then organizing volunteers to put them in mesh bags and transport them to areas on the Island where they can cure. Volunteers of all ages and skills will be needed, along with the input of community organizations, including the City Island Historical Society and the Community Center, as well as restaurants. As Maria Caruso told *The Current*, "We hope to engage our community to work together to keep and preserve City Island's nautical history and to promote its nautical future."

Islanders who are interested in knowing more about this project or who would like to offer their services as volunteers or to donate funds to help cover expenses are invited to e-mail *cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com*. Meanwhile, stop and smell the new flowers and admire the artwork along City Island Avenue, thanks to Viacommunity Day 2019.



Five Friday Evenings from June through August.

June 7, June 21, July 19, Aug 2, Aug 16

A Short, Sunset Race 'round the Buoys & Return to CIYC for Awards & Prizes, Music & Dancing, Great Food & Drink!

Free! No entry fee. Registration required. Starts at 7:00 pm. RC on Ch. 71

More Info & Registration at: cityislandyc.org/sailing/TGIFSunsetSeries

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For City Island Yacht Club membership and events, visit: www.cityislandyc.org City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, City Island, NY 10464 (718) 885-2487

LET'S CELEBRATE JUNE WITH OUR FAMILIES

By JOHN SCARDINA

Fatherhood, Commencement and Summer

Here's to June, a month to celebrate with our families. Let's focus on three main themes:

- Father's Day: We men who are blessed enough to be fathers get a special day in June to celebrate. We men also have a special responsibility: to personify positive masculine energy during a time when "toxic masculinity" is plastered across all media. To be a strong, loving and responsible man (dad or not) is our job, so let's be good role models in our families and our community.
- **Commencement:** The word "commence" means to begin: for graduates this is a new chapter in one's life. What chal-



lenges will our graduates take up as they move forward, and how can we encourage them? Take time for celebration, take a break for rest and restoration, and then look to what's new and what's next. Begin to prepare for a move to a new school (or even to a new grade) with a goal-setting exercise: what three things are you hoping to accomplish in your new setting? Setting goals early allows time for reflection, change, and commitment. Doors certainly open as we move forward: let's be prepared as we pass through them.

• Summer: Get outside as much as possible! There is a recent movement—sometimes called "Stay Healthy in Nature Everyday"—that looks to the psychological, physical and cognitive benefits of being in nature and seeks to declare access to the natural world as a human right. We are blessed with easy access to water and woods; let's be sure each family member spends times outdoors each day. One family I know allows a trade-off: one hour of screen time (up to three hours a day) is available for every hour spent playing outdoors.

We are writing our life's story day by day: let's make it a good one! I recently taped a session of The Dad Club with its host Rob King. Look out for us on the web!



Public School 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders, who pending successful completion of promotion requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: Archbishop Stepinac H.S.: Nicholas Baratta, Christopher Crowe, Thomas Forliano, Colin Kenny, Bernard Paloka, Nathan Paloka, Max Wiehler; Bartram Trails H.S. (FL): Jayden Rogers; Bronx H.S. for the Visual Arts: Jania Perry; Bronx H.S. of Science: Marc Browning; Bronx River H.S.: Jose Rosario; Cardinal Spellman H.S.: Jhadelyn Castillo, Oscar Etzel, Kyle Facchiano, Isabella Fragola, Marc Lomonaco, Marco Mazzella; Celia Cruz H.S.: Gebriel Roberson; Fiorello LaGuardia H.S.: Katherine Mashchenko, Fiorela Miria; Fordham Prep: Matthew McGaughan; High School of Hospitality Management: Alexandra Santa Maria; High School of World Cultures: Esthefanny Vargas; Iona Prep: Robert Blaise Baumann; Kingsbridge International H.S.: Edwin Mejia Avila; Long Island City H.S.- Broadway Produc-

tions: Benjamin Malejko; Maria Regina H.S.: Victoria Alicea, Gwen Boyle, Laci Howard; Millennium Art Academy: Laila Algazaly; Monsignor Scanlan H.S.: James Shaw; New Rochelle H.S.; Desyrae Rosario; Park East H.S.: Ezra Oquendo; Pelham H.S.: Adam Garforth; Preston H.S.: Raena Quiles, Lia Schnatz, Taylor Schnatz, Isabela Voka; Queens H.S. for Language Studies: Genesis Quinones; Renaissance H.S. for Musical Theater and the Arts: Mikalah Cancel, Leslie Castro; St. Catharine Academy: Heaven DeCuffa, Nicolette Proscia, Hope Rosado, Natalia Tranquillo, Kimberly Ventura; St. Raymond H.S. for Bovs: Rolando Rodriguez; Salesian H.S.; Patrick Livingston, Peter Luderman, Ryan Whelan; The Ursuline School: Evamarie Bellocchio; Thorton-Donovan School: Kenzi St. Clair; Urban Assembly NY Harbor School: Brendyn Kong, Ciara Lyver.

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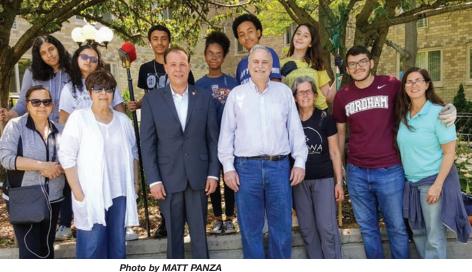
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Photo by MATT PANZA
Students from P.S. 175 got into the weeds at Pilot Cove Manor on May 18, 2019, leading a cleanup effort sponsored by Councilman Mark Gjonaj and the City Island Civic Association. The students did community service by planting annuals, pulling weeds and placing mulch in areas around the entrance to the senior housing residence. On hand to thank the students for their efforts were (above, front row, I. to r.) Candy Mancuso, Terri Kurtz, Councilman Gjonaj, Tom Smith, president of the Pilot Cove Manor board, Cathi

Swett, and Farrah Kule-Rubin, Director

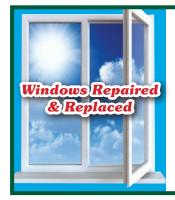
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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Isand. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary 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

HH = nours;	IVIIVI =	minutes					Tiae	cnart by	Iom Sn	nith
				JUNI	E 2019					
	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT		
DAY	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	DAY	<u>′</u>
01 Sat	0452	0.31	1040	7.09	1633	0.64	2236	8.07	Sat	01
02 Sun	0529	-0.01	1114	7.24	1714	0.44	2315	8.32	Sun	02
03 Mon	0607	-0.26	1153	7.39	1758	0.30	2357	8.51	Mon	03
04 Tue	0649	-0.42	1236	7.51	1844	0.24			Tue	04
05 Wed	0043	8.58	0733	-0.46	1323	7.57	1933	0.28	Wed	05
06 Thu	0131	8.52	0822	-0.38	1413	7.57	2026	0.40	Thu	06
07 Fri	0223	8.31	0916	-0.21	1508	7.52	2125	0.56	Fri	07
08 Sat	0320	7.99	1018	0.01	1610	7.46	2236	0.71	Sat	08
09 Sun	0424	7.63	1131	0.20	1725	7.45			Sun	
10 Mon	8000	0.70	0544	7.32	1245	0.27	1848	7.57	Mon	
11 Tue	0127	0.47	0719	7.21	1352	0.24	1957	7.80	Tue	
12 Wed	0233	0.11	0830	7.27	1453	0.13	2057	8.05	Wed	
13 Thu	0333	-0.28	0929	7.37	1548	0.01	2151	8.26	Thu	
14 Fri	0428	-0.60	1024	7.45	1640	-0.07	2241	8.39	Fri	
15 Sat	0519	-0.79	1114	7.50	1729	-0.06	2328	8.42	Sat	15
16 Sun	0608	0.02	1201	7.49	1815	0.03			Cum	16
17 Mon	0013	-0.83 8.35	0654	-0.71	1246	7.44	1858	0.22	Sun Mon	
18 Tue	0015	8.20	0737	-0.71	1329	7.36	1937	0.46	Tue	
19 Wed	0133	7.99	0737	-0.46	1410	7.26	2010	0.40	Wed	
20 Thu	0208	7.74	0854	0.25	1449	7.16	2033	0.73	Thu	
20 Tilu 21 Fri	0238	7.50	0923	0.60	1525	7.10	2059	1.19	Fri	
22 Sat	0309	7.27	0937	0.88	1558	7.01	2136	1.35	Sat	
ZZ Sat	0303	1.21	0331	0.00	1550	7.01	2130	1.55	Jat	
23 Sun	0347	7.06	1005	1.06	1631	6.97	2221	1.48	Sun	23
24 Mon	0431	6.86	1045	1.19	1712	6.98	2312	1.54	Mon	24
25 Tue	0521	6.70	1131	1.27	1757	7.03			Tue	25
26 Wed	8000	1.51	0615	6.59	1220	1.29	1846	7.15	Wed	26
27 Thu	0109	1.37	0713	6.56	1313	1.23	1935	7.33	Thu	27
28 Fri	0215	1.12	0811	6.63	1407	1.10	2024	7.58	Fri	28
29 Sat	0318	0.77	0905	6.78	1501	0.91	2113	7.87	Sat	29
20 6	0442	0.20	0056	6.00	1555	0.68	2204	0 47	C	20
30 Sun	0413	0.38	0956	6.99	1555	0.68	2201	8.17	Sun	30
	050	0.00	40.5	-	2019		00-0			,
01 Mon	0504	0.00	1045	7.23	1648	0.44	2250	8.44	Mon	
02 Tue	0552	-0.33	1133	7.47	1740	0.23	2339	8.63	Tue	
03 Wed	0640	-0.56	1222	7.68	1834	0.08	4000		Wed	
04 Thu	0029	8.70	0729	-0.66	1312	7.83	1929	0.02	Thu	
05 Fri	0121	8.62	0820	-0.65	1405	7.90	2027	0.05	Fri	
06 Sat	0216	8.40	0914	-0.51	1501	7.89	2131	0.14	Sat	06





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SINGING IN THE RAIN AND SADIE TOO

Since last month's column, we have taken advantage of a number of opportunities to experience the spring migration in our area. First, we hopped the subway for Central Park and got up close and personal with a number of warbler species, including a few rare examples. Warblers are the smallish, colorful singers that migrate through our area on their way north in the spring from Central and South America and then again in the fall on their way south.

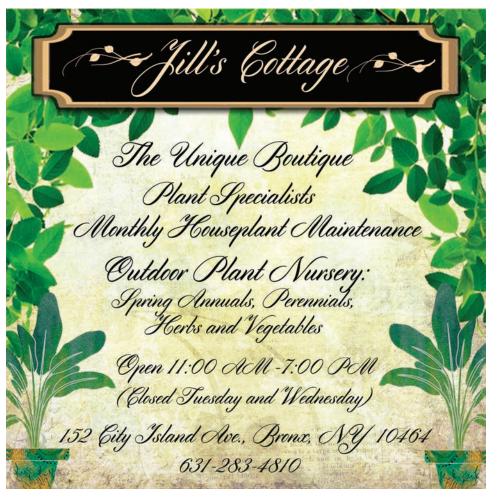
For years, Manhattan's Central Park has served as a kind of oasis for warblers, a food factory in the middle of the concrete jungle. In May, when things really begin to heat up, birders from all the world flock to Central Park to enjoy the views. Which is exactly what we did. With the help of other, more experienced birders. we were able to track down and identify the elusive blue-winged and worm-eating warblers. Technology, we learned, can be of assistance, too. Throughout that day in the park and all around us, we could hear the pings of bird alerts on smart phones that those much more savvy than we had signed up for. Although we did miss a green heron in the pond, we felt fortunate to have seen those warblers as well as a variety of vireos and parulas.

Another opportunity came courtesy of the Audubon Society of New York City through a grant from Councilman Mark Gjonaj. We have been regular attendees of Audubon's bird walks through Pelham Bay Park since the beginning of April. The best walk to date, though, came in the rain. We almost did not go but for a chance encounter with a downed willow

tree in an obscure South Bronx park. As we passed that willow on the ground, we noticed common yellowthroat warblers, ruby crowned kinglets and a couple of gray catbirds flitting about. If this was the situation on the ground in the rain at Hunts Point, we reasoned, then the pickings in Pelham Bay Park would be worth the trip after all.

And we were right! No sooner had we exited our vehicle in the Orchard Beach parking lot when the park came alive with the sound of warbling migrants. There were black and white warblers, yellow warblers, black-throated green warblers, red-eyed and warbling vireos. And thrushes! There were hermit thrushes, swainson thrushes, wood and water thrushes, a veery and an oven bird. But our favorite visitor by far was the scarlet tanager. If you have ever had your breath taken away by the sight of a bright red cardinal, you will understand our attraction to the scarlet of a scarlet tanager.

In the same way that these migrants return to the same city parks year after year, a ring-billed gull named Sadie has been returning regularly to the backyard of our neighbor John (above photo). Sadie first came to John's attention about seven years ago when he was feeding the birds table scraps and stale bread. Now she comes to his whistle, sometimes three times a day, and for dog treats. Yes, dog treats! Sometimes she comes with her mate, Harry, who can be a bit of a bully, John says, when it comes to being fed. So what John does is feed her "on the sneak." At the time of this writing, Sadie had not come around in a few weeks. "It happens like this every year," John says, "probably she's on the nest." We hope so, John. Keep us posted!



In the Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY Rainy day on Tier Street. Alliums, tulips azalea and iris.

How to Prune Perennials

A cold April and a wet cool May gave us a longer spring than usual. I can remember many years of a short, cool season followed by a tremendous heat, a plague for gardeners. One year, all of the spring-flowering trees and shrubs bloomed all together in a bang that left us deprived of June. This year, gardeners love the cooler weather, as it affords extra time for planting and for plants to flower in their right time. However, there are ways in which you can orchestrate when you will have your flowers bloom. Here's how.

Many perennials benefit from different pruning practices and produce more compact plants, repeat flowering and later and longer bloom time. If you hard prune a plant after its first flush of flowering, you

will achieve a fresh crop of leaves and a second bloom time. Catmint, geraniums and salvias stand as examples.

Cutting back flower stems by half in the late spring will maintain bushy growth and stop plants from having an open center. Montauk daisies need a good shear in July or they will flop over by September. Other plants suitable for pruning are aster, helenium, oxeye daisy and sedum spectablile.

In mid-May or very early June, if the weather has been cool, cut stems of some species by one third for later flowering. Candidates for this would be phlox, large rudbeckias and monarda. As an alternative to this, you can stagger your pruning on each plant by clipping only some of the stems, which will produce longer flowering time. Remove old flowers by deadheading, which will freshen their appearance and prevent seeds from forming, thereby lengthening the bloom time. This is especially important with annuals.

Do not shear your grasses until early spring and leave at least a foot of growth; don't shear to the bottom. Remove old leaves of hellebores and epimediums in spring to showcase the flowers; it helps to have these growing through a nice ground-cover like vinca. In early spring, prune back lavender and santolina to six inches for a fine new plant every season. If you don't have sandy soil, forget them.

In autumn, cut back foliage and stems of plants as they die back; in this group are hosta, day lilies and peonies. Leave the grasses and any plants with interesting seed heads. As you clean up the garden, you are making it ready for another gardening year.

Coming back to June, this is the month of roses. Have you sprayed for black spot? Have you fed them with liquid compost tea? (They sell it in tea bags now.) I love

rugosas for their crinkle-cut leaves, fresh green color and single flowers. Cut them back to one foot every year and prune out crossing branches. Be sure to wear gloves; they pinch. This will keep the plants looking fresh and new and keep them at a three-foot height. I love Rosa Madame Alfred Carriere, a fabulous climber that gets no black spot and has no thorns.

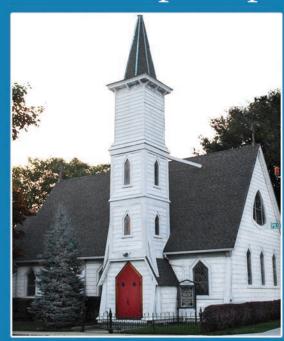
What about those seemingly everlasting leaves on daffodils and tulips? First, remove the seed head so that energy is given only to the roots, not the seed. I make a neat package of daffodil leaves by folding them once over to the ground and tying them with one of their own leaves. They must be left until they begin to turn yellow and brown and easily pull away from the bulb; feeding

and watering them during this period helps to produce better bloom the following season.

The same method goes for tulips. I cut the whole stem off to neaten the appearance and wait until they look absolutely ghastly before I remove the leaves. For me dying tulips shamelessly ruin a good planting, so I dig them out and replace with new ones every year. If you can't be ruthless, it may help to have them scattered amidst leafy perennials like day lilies to hide them.

Most gardeners never sit for very long in their own gardens because there is always so much to do, but please have a seat every now and then to smell the roses and enjoy literally the fruits of your labor.

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MEMBER -

June 2		,				The Islan	u Curre	2111				Pa	age Seventeen
Calendar	Saturday	H 1:15A L 8:08A H 1:53P 3 L 8:26P	L 2:55A H 8:54A L 3:09P 10 H 9:17P	H 1:23A L 7:43A H 1:39P 17 L 7:34P	H 5:40A L 11:51A H 6:02P 24	H 12:14A L 7:00A H 12:45P 31 L 7:22P	Current	Saturday	L 1:30A H 7:30A L 1:47P 7 H 7:57P	H 12:32A L 6:46A H 12:45P 14 L 6:54P	H 4:15A L 10:27A H 4:34P 21 L 11:08P	L 5:53A H 11:39A L 6:19P 28	L = Low Tide H = High Tide wimming time
Tide C	Friday	H 12:21A L 7:18A <mark>H 1:01P</mark> L 7:28P	L 1:54A H 7:54A L 2:10P 9 H 8:19P	H 12:57A L 7:21A H 1:18P 16 L 7:22P	H 4:44A L 10:57A H 5:06P 23 L 11:37P	L 6:12A H 11:55A L 6:27P 30	Island	Friday	L 12:25A H 6:25A L 12:42P H 6:52P	L 6:18A H 12:16P L 6:28P 13	H 3:24A L 9:36A H 3:41P 20 L 10:12P	L 5:03A H 10:50A L 5:26P 27 H 11:13P	L = Low Ti H = High T Yellow = optimal swimming time
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fication by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number



Genevie and Donald Varian

Genevie Varian

Longtime Island resident Genevie (Jennie) Varian died on April 27, 2019, at the age of 92, while residing at Wartburg Assisted Living in Mt. Vernon, NY.

She was born in 1917 to Louis and Mary Lapina, who had immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1905. Her father was a farmer in western Pennsylvania and her mother was a homemaker. Jennie was the last of 11 children and grew up on the farm surrounded by her sisters and brothers. She moved to Mt. Vernon with her family at the age of 16 and attended A.B. Davis High School, graduating with honors in 1945.

Jennie met Donald Varian when he was discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1946, and they were married in 1948. Donald learned the sheet metal trade and became the owner of A&A Heating and Air Conditioning, where Jennie served as the company's bookkeeper. As a result of their hard work and sacrifice, the Varians purchased land and built a home on Fordham Street in 1961. They enjoyed gardening and sailing and were often spotted flying their red, white and blue jib off The Windcharm on Eastchester Bay. They were members of the City Island and Harlem Yacht Clubs and, through the friendships they made there, were able to fulfill their dream of bareboating through the Windward and Grenadine Islands. Donald and Jennie had been married for 63 years at the time of his death in 2011.

Jennie Varian was one of the four original charter members of the Garden Club of City Island. She served as president for two years and led the Beautification Committee for over a decade. Some of her accomplishments through the years included the first restoration of Hawkins Street Park, including the installation of the dolphin; the creation of Bridge Park, and the successful implementation of the I Love A Clean New York campaign on City Island. With donations from the Garden Club's annual fund drive, Jennie was able to hire young members of the community to maintain flower beds in the parks, sweep the curbs and make memorial wreaths for the local war monuments. She also taught flower arranging and encouraged young teens and scouting groups to participate in the Garden Club flower shows.

Jennie served as treasurer of the City Island Chamber of Commerce and cochairman of the two annual health fairs held at P.S. 17 in the early 1970s. Throughout the years, she was recognized by Mayor Ed Koch and the Chamber of Commerce for her leadership roles in the community. She and Donald were also members of the American Legion Post 156 and Legion Auxiliary and helped coordinate the Legion's Scholarship program and the annual parades.

Jennie cared for Donald for 11 years in their home after he suffered a debilitating stroke in 2000; he died at the Wartburg in December 2011 at the age of 85. Jennie enjoyed living at the Wartburg and considered it her second home. Those who knew Jennie will remember her generosity and kindness, her fair-mindedness and integrity

and her keen interest in the City Island community. She is survived by her good friends Maria Sutherland and John Sheridan, John and Carolyn Corona, and many nieces and nephews.



Maureen Scanlon

Maureen Coyle Scanlon passed away on April 10, 2019, in Pahrump, NV, at the age of 77.

She was born January 17, 1942, to Edmond and Delia Coyle of City Island and was a true clam digger. She worked as a sailmaker on City Island at Ratsey and Lapthorn, Ulmer's and Hild Sails. She remained on the Island until she retired to Nevada over 20 years ago.

Maureen's greatest joys in life were her family, her pets, gardening and a double scoop of chocolate ice cream. She is survived by her husband, Walter Scanlon, of Pahrump, NV; her daughter, Gwen Coyle-Greco, and her son-in-law Victor Greco, of Weston, CT; and her granddaughter, Ava

After a private funeral service, Maureen was cremated in accordance with her wishes and her ashes were spread "a little bit here, a little bit there" from her gardens in Nevada to the City Island Bridge, where she swam from as a teenager, and Paris, France, a destination she had yet to cross off her bucket list.



Joseph Leo Bartels

Joseph Leo Bartels, 92, of Stamford, CT, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on April 30, 2019. He was born on City Island on January 21, 1927, to the late Joseph Francis and Julia Teresa Flynn Bartels.

As a third-generation City Islander, Joe was a true clam digger, and he enjoyed an active childhood surrounded by many aunts, uncles and cousins. A child of the Great Depression, Joe worked hard and creatively to earn extra money to help support himself and his family. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Cardinal Hayes High School.

Joe was a member of the Greatest Generation, a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy. On naval ships he learned stationary engineering, and he ran and maintained the boiler and refrigeration systems that trained him for his stationary engineering career on Hart Island and other NYC facilities. After his service in the Navy, Joe was active in the City Island community. He was a member of the City Island Fishing Club, the American Legion, the Beach Street Association, Morris Yacht & Beach Club and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where he was an usher for many years. Joe was also an avid N.Y. Giants fan and loved hunting and fishing.

Joe was married for 46 years to the late Sarah (Sally) Joan Ross Bartells, He cherished an active social life with family and friends and was a devoted husband to Sally, the love of his life. Joe was a committed father to his three children and served as a Little League coach and was active on scouting trips, family fishing trips and dancing with his daughters.

He was predeceased by his wife, Sally, and his older brother, William Bartels. He is survived by his children, Mary Ann Bartels of Rockland County, NY, Brenda Bartels, Joseph R. Bartels and his daughterin-law, Christina Cappitella Bartels, all of Stamford, CT, as well as his sisters, Julia Mary Bartels Campbell of Oregon and Bernadette Bartels Murphy of Rockland County. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Ross and Lorraine Grappotte, and his furry companions, Tanner and Bella, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 10 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and he was buried at Pelham Cemetery on City Island, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in Joseph's memory to a charity of one's choice.





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Photo courtesy of CYNDE CARMAN Betty and Dave Carman will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding on June 21, 2019.

Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Betty and Dave Carman, who will celebrate on June 21. We wish you many more years of love and happiness. Love always, Armando, Cynde, Michael, Alexis and Dava-Lee.

Betty: For the past 50 years, you have been the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life ("Till"). Happy 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. Love, Dave.

Happy June birthday wishes to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

A warm Bay Street welcome to our new neighbor Arlene Brill, who is moving here from sunny California. Her City Island family—Reina Brill, Dan Treiber and grandchildren Thora and Waverlyare thrilled to have her here!

MOVING?



Photo courtesy of THE BURNETT FAMILY Olivia Jade was born to Islanders Kara and Griffin Burnett on May 8, 2019.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Nicole and Justin Rodstrom, who will celebrate their third anniversary on June

Happy birthday greetings on June 5 to Paul Krebaum, with best wishes from your co-workers at the Chase Bank.

Kara and Griffin Burnett are happy to introduce Olivia Jade to the Burnett (and City Island) families! Born on May 8, she weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. of perfect! Mommy and Daddy love you so much and can't wait to share all the adventures we have in store for you!

Birthday wishes go out to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth on June 29, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Lots of birthdays in our Island Current "family": Karen Nani and Margaret Lenz on June 7, Ginger Dannegger and Rose Kolb on June 4 and Judy Rauh on June 13. Enjoy!

Congratulations and God bless and watch over all the children who made their First Holy Communion at St. Mary, Star of the Sea last month.

Happy Birthday to Debra Erickson, who celebrates her special day on June 19. We love you so much! From Mom, Elzie

Happy June birthdays to Judy Rauh and her brother, John Wright.



Photo by MATT PANZA

Ten children received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Father Augustus Onwubiko and Deacon Bill Mueller assisted the pastor, Father John Knapp, at the ceremony.

Lots of happy birthday wishes on June 21 to my special pal, Carolyn Foley Peters, of Huntsville, AL. Our friendship goes back to Mrs. Berg's first grade class at P. S. 17. A happy and healthy year to you, my dear friend! And a "hello" to all members of our graduating class of 1952, with love from Barbara Haas Lynch.

Wishing all our dads and grandfathers a very happy Father's Day on June 16. Enjoy!

Maria Swieciki



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