

The Island Current

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One Dollar

MAILBOX THEFTS REPORTED ON CITY ISLAND

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



King Avenue residents like Paul Nani (above) have had mail stolen from the collection box at the corner of Terrace Street and King.

Islanders became alarmed upon hearing about recent postal mailbox robberies. Some residents found their mailed letters ripped open and lying in the street, while others reported checks sent in payment had never been received by the intended recipients.

Waldemar Piegdon, the manager of the City Island Post Office, discovered the problem several months ago and informed the Postal Inspectors. "I was coming to work on City Island early one morning and saw a group of young men, probably in their 20s, tampering with the mailbox across from the Masonic Temple on the corner of Schofield Street. When I got out of my car to chase them, they jumped into a car and took off."

Mr. Piegdon told *The Current* that he knows about problems at two mailboxes: one at the Masonic Temple and the other on King Avenue. There are 15 collection mailboxes in all on City Island.

In February 2017, King Avenue resident Paul Nani mailed two checks in the mailbox on the corner of King Avenue and Terrace Street, one of those named by Mr. Piegdon. About two weeks later, one of the companies called him to say they never received payment. Mr. Nani checked his bank account and saw that the check had been deposited and processed.

He sent a copy of the cancelled check to the company, but the company reiterated that they did not cash the check. Mr. Nani then noticed that the check had been deposited in a Bank of America account without any endorsement on the back and the money had been removed from Mr. Nani's account. Two weeks later, he received a call from the other company he had mailed a check to on that same day, and they said they had not received payment.

Once again the check had been deposited in a bank account without an endorsement. In both cases, Mr. Nani was required to obtain notarized documents from each of the two companies stating that they had never received payment and he had to file claims with his bank, Citibank. Further, he had to issue new checks to the two companies owed payment.

It took Citibank's Fraud Investigations Department about six months to recover the money from Bank of America and to

refund Mr. Nani's account. He also filed an online complaint with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), as he was advised to do by City Island Post Office personnel. The USPS said it would follow up with him in three days, but he never heard from them.

One resident said she had problems at two other mailboxes: one in front of the American Legion Hall on City Island Avenue at Cross Street and the other across from St. Mary, Star of the Sea school. "Someone got hold of one of my checks that I had sent to an organization and it got 'washed,'" she told *The Current*. "Washing" is a way of erasing the information on a check that allows a criminal to rewrite the check to themselves and change the amount.

She went on to say "I pulled up my account online, as I do every day, and discovered that \$6,001 had been taken out of my checking account. I went immediately to Chase Bank and told them about the problem. The bank did an excellent job of handling the situation and the money was promptly returned to my account."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) told *The Current* that mailbox "fishing" started about a year ago and that it is not widespread. It occurs more often in certain boroughs, including The Bronx and Manhattan. "We are looking to retrofit the boxes as needed in certain boroughs," she said. "Tampering with the boxes is a federal crime that can carry a penalty of up to five years in jail, a fine, or both."

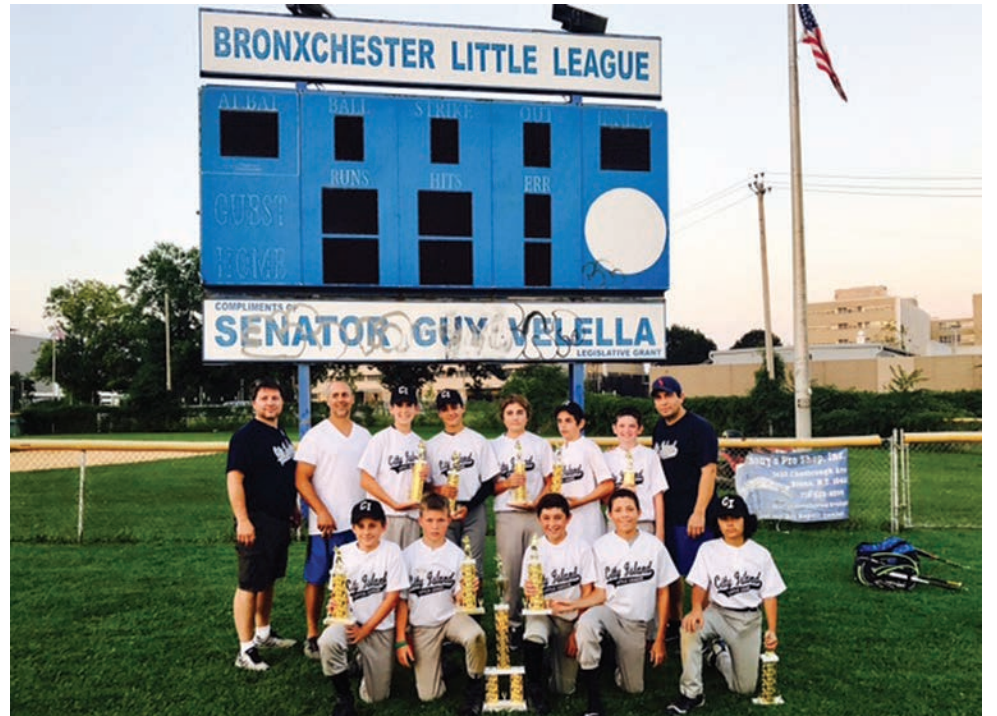
The Postal Inspectors said that they hope to make a different type of entrance, replacing the slot on the mailboxes. "When and if this happens, I don't know," said Mr. Piegdon. "People are probably looking for money, maybe checks or money orders to cash, and possibly changing the amount on the checks. I advise customers to bring their mail directly to the post office."

King Avenue resident Helen Vaughan hopes the USPS can do something to prevent the theft of mail. In July, she received a call from Carol Hansen, a Minneford Avenue resident, who said she had found mail with Helen's return address ripped open and lying in the street. "I was grateful that this neighbor was kind enough to look up my phone number and alert me. There were two letters ripped open and they had glue on them." Ms. Vaughan reported it to the post office and learned that some thieves take bottles with sticky mouse traps or glue on them and "fish" them down the mailboxes to remove the contents.

Ms. Vaughan was also contacted by the FBI following her complaint. "They told me it's happening all over and to alert my neighbors." Fortunately for her, she had not mailed any checks or money orders, so no money was lost.

The crimes are being investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspectors and the NYPD as well, according to the USPIS. If you see any suspicious behavior around any of the collection mailboxes, call 911 immediately. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service recommends that residents either take their mail directly to the Post Office or put mail in the blue mailboxes in the morning, so it will be picked up and processed that day. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service's 24-hour command center number is 212-330-2400.

BRONX CHAMPS!



Photos by CINDY LOMONACO

Congratulations to the City Island Little League's Gilder's Scholarship team on winning the 2017 Bronx Invitational summer league tournament (BIT). The team went undefeated with a record of 9-0 as all the boys played exceptionally well. The championship win was against Van Nest with the final score of 15 to 5. It is the second BIT championship for a CILL team in four years. The team's coaching staff, James Goonan, Anthony Piri and Louis Lomonaco, proudly raised the championship trophy (photo, left). Exuberant team members accepted their individual trophies (top photo, bottom row, l. to r.): Matthew McGaughan, Paul Goonan, Mark Joseph Piri, Jayden Rogers and Marc Lomonaco. (Top row): Marco Mazzella, Devin Munafo, Vincent Ramos, Joseph Burton and Colin Kenny. Not shown: Ezra Oquendo, Kyle Facchiano, Patrick Clancy and Michael Gerium. The coaches thanked CILL President Dom Esposito for registering and funding the team in this great summer tournament.

Rodman's Neck Project on Track

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The June 30 issue of the Bronx Times alarmed many Island residents with its headline "Sneaky mayor pulls fast one/Shooting range sound barrier not a certainty." The article goes on to note that a letter from Mayor de Blasio to State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblymen Mike Benedetto and Mark Gjonaj "indicates the sound barriers are not guaranteed."

According to Councilmember James Vacca, this is a misinterpretation of what Mayor de Blasio was actually saying. When the Mayor wrote that "the NYPD is currently studying the feasibility of utilizing sound proof construction fencing in and around both the existing and planned firearms ranges . . . and expects to make a determination on the feasibility and potential effectiveness of this fencing by the end of summer," he was not referring to the completed range project but to temporary sound abatement that could be put in place "when construction begins at the training facility" in late 2018 or early 2019. The sound-proof "construction fencing" he refers to is not the permanent installation of sound abatement on the renovated ranges but a temporary so-

lution so that the communities now bothered by the noise won't have to wait five to seven years for relief.

Mr. Vacca informed *The Current* that the NYPD has hired Cerami Engineers as acoustical consultants to study two potential materials for installation at the range and to explore the potential decibel reduction for an interim period before the existing ranges are completely renovated. These materials would be installed as baffles adjacent to the ranges so that sound could be mitigated. A draft of the Cerami report is expected by early September, along with cost estimates.

In November 2016, the Mayor spoke publicly at a town hall meeting and promised to put funding into the capital budget for the reconstruction of the Rodman's Neck firing range. He specifically promised that sound abatement would be a significant aspect of the project and that he would be the one mayor in 25 years to keep his word on the issue. In January 2017, the Mayor did put the sum of \$275 million into the capital budget, and the project, now in the design phase, has already begun.

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will host a window unveiling at 282 City Island Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. It will be followed by a sidewalk reception. Everyone is invited to join the CITG board of directors and cast in celebrating the new production of Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge," which will be presented in November.

FALL FAIR: The 2017 Fall Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10. Taste delicious fare from City Island restaurants and browse the wares of the many vendors who line City Island Avenue between Bay and Carroll Streets from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will also be a chowder contest, music in Hawkins Park and representatives from many City Island organizations, so come out and celebrate the change of seasons with friends and visitors.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 - ROBBERY
- 1 - ILLEGAL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents:

7/25 - An Island male, 28, was arrested and charged with the robbery of a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue.

8/16 - Police from the 45th Precinct detective squad are searching for an unknown male who allegedly fired shots at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 11 p.m. (see Wanted flyer this page). There were no injuries reported.

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WANTED FOR SHOTS FIRED
PERPETRATOR - PROBABLE CAUSE TO ARREST

/ MALE / WHITE HISPANIC
HEIGHT 5' 10" , WEIGHT 220 lbs.,

1. On August 16 , at approximately 2300 hours the above pictured perpetrator did discharge a firearm in the parking lot of 1 City Island Avenue. The perpetrator is a light skin male Hispanic approximately 5'10 and 220 pounds with facial hair and tattoos on both arms. He was wearing a black hat, black t-shirt ,grey shorts and black sneakers. The perpetrator fled in a late model Honda, purple in color.

Anyone with information regarding the above subject , please notify Det. JOHN SOTO at 718-822-5414 OR Detective Borough Bronx at 718-378-8083

Investigator: Det. JOHN SOTO
Command Assigned: 268-45 DET SQUAD
Case# 2017-1321 Complaint Report# 2017-045-05198

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CITY ISLAND RECYCLES COMPOST—OR NOT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In mid-July, brown plastic bins arrived mysteriously at virtually every residential building on City Island, along with a smaller plastic bin and a set of instructions about how to recycle food scraps, yard waste and other items.

This unexpected development is an expansion of the city's Department of Sanitation (NYDS) NYC Organics program, which is said to be the largest curbside collection program of its kind in the nation. The department began collecting material from the residents of Community Boards 10 and 11 on July 30 and will continue to do so on all recycling days in the future.

According to the NYDS, the purpose of separating organic waste rather than throwing it out with regular garbage, is to enrich the environment, rather than damage it. Food scraps, spoiled food, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings and plants—collectively known as organics or organic waste—make up almost one-third of the waste that the NYDS collects.

As the instructions indicate, residents are asked to separate organic waste from trash and other recyclable materials; this includes food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste. Kitchen items can be collected in a recyclable bag or liner in the small kitchen container (on the countertop, under the sink or in the freezer) until the pickup day when it may be placed in the large brown bin. Acceptable bags or liners include certified compostable plastic bags (with the BPI-USCC logo), newspaper, a brown paper bag or a clear plastic bag. Compostable plastic bags are available from Amazon, Home Depot and other stores. Perhaps Island stores could be persuaded to carry them.

Leaves and yard waste that won't fit into the brown bin may be placed at the curb in open unlined containers or in paper lawn and leaf bags, not plastic bags.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Compost bins on Terrace Street.

Items that may *not* be accepted in your organics bin include any liquids, metal, glass, rigid plastic, cartons, clean paper and cardboard; plastic bags and wrap, bathroom and medical waste and animal or pet waste, and cigarette butts and ashes.

A number of Island residents don't see the point of the program and don't wish to participate; others have found it expensive to purchase the special bags and difficult to carry three different containers out to the curb on a weekly basis. Since the program is voluntary, not mandatory, there will be no penalty for not participating.

However, those who do participate realize that they are cutting down considerably on their regular trash and are happy to contribute, even in a small way, to caring for the planet. The compost produced by the organic waste collection program can be donated on request to community gardeners, street tree stewards, parks and other nonprofit organizations.

For more information about the program, visit the website of the NYC Department of Sanitation: nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents/food-scraps-and-yard-waste.shtml.

cated on Rodman's Neck, moving it to Queens was never planned and no new construction is planned for that separate facility. Although the Office of Emergency Management now sends out warning notices when detonations are scheduled, the noise is still an issue for nearby residents.

Senator Klein told *The Current* "For years, the coastal communities in my district bordering Rodman's Neck have been requesting sound abatement measures to reduce noise pollution emanating from the aging facility. I urge the city to follow through on the assurances they have made to my constituents concerning these improvements. I look forward to the completion of the NYPD feasibility study so that these much-needed improvements can become a reality for the residents and the officers that train there."

If the budget allocated for the reconstruction of the range is insufficient for all of the changes that the NYPD wishes to make, it has been suggested by members of the City Island Civic Association and the Community Council of the 45th Precinct that the federal and state governments be asked to contribute funding, as federal and state police use the range along with the NYPD officers. But for the moment the budget stands at \$275 million, and sound abatement is most definitely a part of the package.

Civic Association Holds Candidates' Debate

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MATT PANZA

John Cerini, Republican candidate for the New York City Council, held a fundraiser on July 20, 2017, at Scavello's on the Island. Shown above at the event are (l. to r.) William Newmark, chairman of the Bronx Conservative Party; Curtis Sliwa, chairman of NYS Reform Party and founder of the Guardian Angels; Mr. Cerini; and Michael Rendino, Bronx GOP chairman.



The City Island Civic Association held a candidates' night on Tuesday, July 25, so that all who are running for City Council to represent the 13th Council District would have a chance to speak to the community and answer questions from members of the Civic.

The speakers included four candidates who will be on the ballot for the Democratic primary, which will be held on Sept. 12: John Doyle, Mark Gjonaj, Egidio Sementelli and Marjorie Velazquez. Alex Gomez and Victor Ortiz, who are also running, attended as well, along with John Cerini, who is running unopposed on the Republican line. The Council vote will take place on Nov. 7.

John Doyle, a City Island resident, has worked for State Senator Jeff Klein and is with the public affairs office at Jacobi Medical Center; he also serves as an officer of the Civic Association and of the 45th Precinct Community Council. Mark Gjonaj, who used to live on the Island and whose wife is the school nurse at P.S. 175, is currently Assemblyman for District 80, which includes the Morris Park area. Democratic district leader Marjorie Velázquez has a background in corporate finance and serves as treasurer of Community Board 10; she is also running on the ticket of the Working Families party and Women's Equality. Egidio Sementelli is a restaurant owner and a community activist; he was a candidate for the New York Assembly in 2012.

Candidates not on the ballot for the Democratic primary but who spoke at the Civic meeting are Alex Gomez, who is a member of City Councilman Fernando Cabrera's New Life Outreach International church and has a background in the non-profit human services sector, and Victor Ortiz, a Spanish teacher and BMX rider. Former candidates Muhammad Abuhaikal, Lucia Giraldi and John Marano dropped out of the race.



John Doyle (top photo) and Mark Gjonaj (above) were among the candidates for the City Council District 13 race who spoke at the City Island Civic Association on Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

Questions asked by members of the Civic ranged from specific issues, such as what the candidates would do for City Island in the event of severe storms, to more general inquiries about achievements they had made on City Island's behalf in the past. Other questions raised related to political positions on issues such as women's rights, animal welfare and quality of life on the Island.

Rodman's Neck

Continued from page 1

Assemblyman Benedetto is quoted in the Bronx Times story saying that the range does not belong on Rodman's Neck but should have been moved, as Mayor Bloomberg announced, to College Point, Queens. Communities affected by the range noise applauded this decision, but the cost of building a covered range there was estimated at \$1 billion, and Police Commissioner William Bratton abandoned the plan to move the range, presumably because of the cost.

The Rodman's Neck facility was constructed hurriedly in 1960 and has seen little renovation since then, which means that the entire infrastructure must be improved. The NYPD construction unit has assured the community that the firing ranges will be the next step after infrastructure has been modernized. Nevertheless, the renovated ranges, with sound abatement, are at least five years away, which is why Councilmember Vacca has pushed for temporary baffling to be installed more quickly. The design and cost of this baffling are now being studied and should be known well before the end of the year.

Although Assemblyman Gjonaj mentioned the noise from the bomb squad, also lo-

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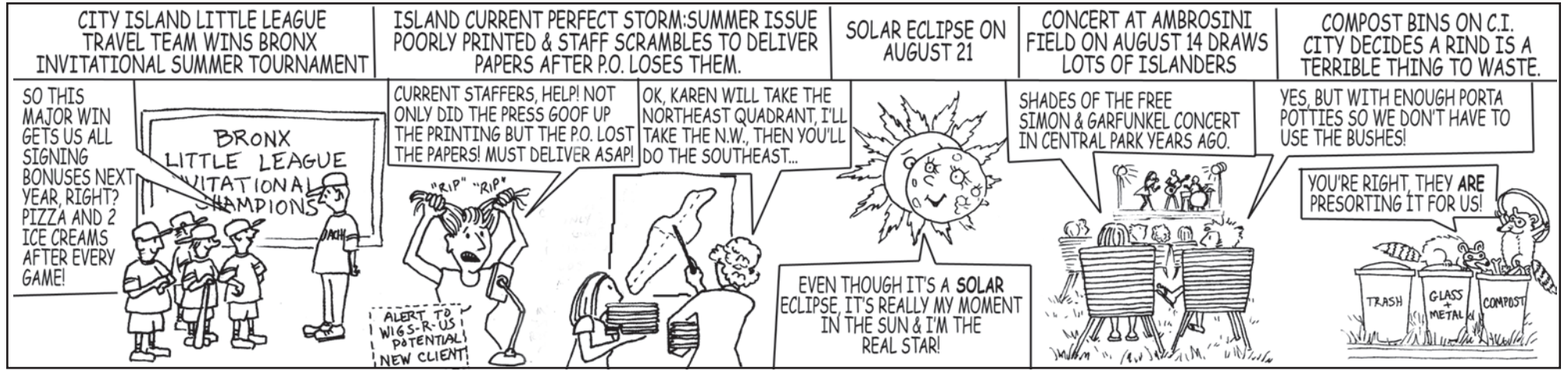
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I received the 2017 Five Star Award, and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for the third year in a row!



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Independent Democratic Convention?

To the Editor,

We are a group of concerned citizens who have learned since the election a great deal about how politics works. Now, more than ever, it is important that progressive legislation promoting and protecting women's rights, reproductive health choices, voter rights and ease in voting, tenants' rights, environmental policies, gun control, public education and healthcare be enacted into law.

The Democratically led New York State Assembly is passing these laws, but we have learned that the Democratic majority New York State Senate is not. And the reason is that there is a group of eight senators who were elected as Democrats but consistently align themselves with the Republican bloc in the Senate. They are called the IDC, or Independent Democratic Convention, and they are led by our Senator Jeffrey Klein. This is very disturbing news to those of us who are concerned about the future of our country, our state and our community under a Trump administration that is not interested in preserving the values and ideals Democrats hold dear. The IDC consistently blocks legislation by refusing to bring it to the Senate floor for a vote or by simply voting against what the majority of Democrats support.

In return for the IDC support of the Republican agenda, these senators receive funding for visible projects in their community that make them appear to be improving the quality of life here. But if one digs down a bit into the reality of the situation, one will find things like donations of computers to a school as they withhold millions of dollars slated for those same schools in their district. Or they provide government money to support private charter schools that do not have to follow the public curriculum and overall may diminish the quality of local public schools.

We have been fooled long enough by this group of senators who are really Republicans in primarily Democratic districts. There has been a groundswell of energy over the last several months since the election aimed at pushing these eight senators to begin voting with their party or to be replaced by those who will. We invite you to learn more about this important issue, to pay attention to the voting patterns of Senator Klein and to become involved in understanding how our government works to either serve our needs or not.

Members of City Island Indivisible

City Island Rocks

To the Editor,

The "Music for the Summer" in Hawkins Park has ended, but music will be back on Saturday, Sept. 16, with Wreckless Jester playing music from the 60s (get your Sweet Caroline mojo ready) and on Sunday, Sept. 17, with Stomp Society, a true seven-piece swing band that will have you feeling great with lots of energy on stage.

Thanks go out to Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj for his very generous sponsorship, along with Atlantic Emeritus Realty, for the summer and fall shows, with special thanks to Vera on his staff for making things happen, from banner design to securing funds.

Thanks again to Skip and Louise of Lickety Split for electricity to power up the amps and of course for keeping everyone happy with ice cream.

A big thanks to all the musicians and fans for traveling from as far away as France and Japan and from around the corner. The talent was incredible from all the bands with songs from the past, present and, I believe, the future!

This is our second full-time season promoting City Island Rocks, and I hope it gets bigger and better, if we could actually get any better!

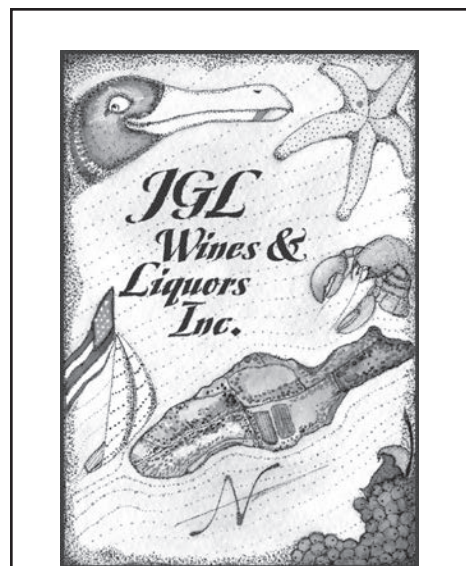
Watching the kids, mothers and dads, grandparents and great grandparents dancing was just classic, especially our neighbor Mort, who has his own fan club, me included.

Also great to see were all the off-Islanders hanging with the locals and listening to the sounds while their kids played on the dolphin and seals.

Besides being fun for all the local businesses, we have seen a decent spike in revenue from locals who might have been at beaches or BBQs but were having pizza from Filomena's, followed by a "long" walk to Lickety Split for ice cream.

See you all in September, especially on the 16th and 17th for music from Wreckless Jester and Stomp Society. Bring your chairs and/or blankets. Again thanks to Assemblyman Gjonaj for sponsoring the summer music and joining in again for the fall music, along with The Snug/Diner, Ted Pryor, and Fran McGuire of McGuire/Sena Real Estate. We are waiting for a few more, whom we will acknowledge in October.

Bob Carmody



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LIVELY SUMMER OF '17



Photos by MATT PANZA and BARBARA DOLENSEK

Islanders didn't have to go far to enjoy summer festivities during 2017. Concerts sponsored by AER Realty were held every Sunday in Hawkins Park to the obvious delight of listeners (top photos). Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and State Senator Jeff Klein sponsored the annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza off Orchard Beach on Thursday, June 29, 2017 (middle photo). These same elected officials sponsored a summer concert in Ambrosini Field on Aug. 14, which drew many residents and their lawn chairs (bottom photos).

Small Plane Hits CBS Towers on High Island—50 Years Ago

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Aug. 27, 1967, at 4:20 in the afternoon, a one-engine Piper Cherokee airplane hit the 541-foot radio-transmission tower on High Island, sending it crashing to the ground and resulting in the death of six people.

According to accounts published in the New York Times, the plane was owned by the Zodiac Corporation of Long Island and leased by Arrow Aviation at LaGuardia Airport. An Arrow contact told the Times that the plane was "taken without authorization" at 1:30 p.m. after all six Arrow planes had been grounded because of storm warnings. The plane arrived in East Hampton on Long Island at 2:30 and then took off back to New York about an hour later.

Unfortunately, the plane met with a heavy rainstorm that was causing considerable trouble in New York City, knocking out subway service and disrupting air traffic at LaGuardia. After circling the tower, according to the Times, the plane hit it and knocked down all but about 60 feet of the steel tower to the ground. The caretaker and his son who were living on the island at the time (no one has lived on the island since 2007) were not hurt, but the six people on the plane were killed when the plane crashed into the water.

A few City Islanders still remember the 1967 crash, especially Jackie Kall, who lives on King Avenue near the bridge to High Island. She was quoted many times in *The Island Current* during the 1970s and 1980s, when CBS applied for permits to build an additional tower. In spite of considerable objections raised by the community, including State Senator Guy Velella, Community Board 10 and City Island organizations, the second tower was built in 2001.

High Island was one of the original "Pell Islands" purchased by Thomas Pell from the Native Americans in 1654, Elisha King bought the island in 1829 to quarry stones, and during the early part of the 20th century, Harry Carey, the first Western film star, grew up on what was called Carey's Point, owned by his father, Judge Henry D. Carey. By that time, the Carey property also included High Island, which young Harry used to make silent films before he left for Hollywood in 1913. Eventually the Miller family bought both the house and the island, on which they operated a colony of summer cottages during the 1920s. In 1961, Mrs. Miller sold the island to a man who allegedly claimed he had spent summers on High Island but was actually a scout working for CBS, which intended to use it for radio transmission towers.

After the crash in 1967, CBS constructed a temporary tower so that radio transmission could take place. Ironically, the day after the crash had been the date when CBS was to launch its all-news format, which had to be postponed until two weeks later. The temporary tower was ultimately replaced by a permanent tower in 1968, and a second, shorter tower was built as backup for emergency use. Today the tower transmits both WCBS and WFAN AM radio, and their daytime signals can be tuned in clearly from as far away as Cape Cod and



Photo by KAREN NANI

Aug. 27, 2017, was the 50th anniversary of a tragic accident when a one-engine airplane hit the 541-foot radio-transmission tower on High Island, killing six people. The tower was rebuilt after the crash in 1967, and a second tower was added in 2001.

Cape May.

For several years, many Islanders complained that the towers produced radio interference in their homes, as well as in Trinity Methodist Church, where then Pastor Susan Chadwick's sermon was once interrupted by a news broadcast. Telephones and other electronic equipment on City Island were also affected by the towers, but this no longer seems to be an issue. In 1995, there was a serious fire on the old wooden bridge to the island, but because the wind was not blowing from the northeast, no one was injured and no property damaged. A new steel bridge replaced it a year later.

Other complaints from Islanders have included concerns about the potentially harmful effects of radio and electrical waves being transmitted so close to a populated area, but these arguments were dismissed as negligible.



City Island's City Council representative, Jimmy Vacca, was recently singled out by *City and State New York*, an online magazine, as the best of the 50 members of the New York City Council when it comes to responsiveness to questions from constituents. The magazine identified seven criteria to assess each member: attendance record, the number of bills introduced and signed into law, responsiveness to questions from constituents and from the media, and public prominence, as measured by Google search results and number of Twitter followers. For more information or to see the ranking of other Councilmembers, visit www.cityandstateny.com.

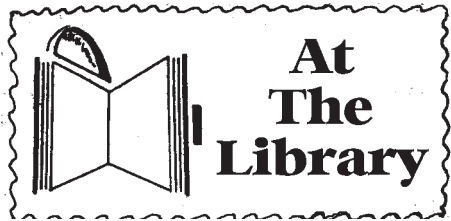
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At The Library

PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. 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! Sept. 1: Wii and Board Games; Sept. 8: Wii and Board Games; Sept. 15: Wii and Board Games; Sept. 22: Can You Survive?; Sept. 29: DIY Duct Tape Pencil Case.

SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

U.S. President's Lecture: A lecture about presidential campaigns and the political climate during those eras. Presented by Jeremy McCue. Saturday, Sept. 30, at 1 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, Sept. 14 and 28, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Monday, Sept. 11 and 25, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Regardless of experience level, we're here to help each other become great writers. All are welcome, so come check us out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

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

Résumé Workshop: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Wednesday, Sept. 20 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: at 1 p.m.:
Sept. 9: "Sicario"

Sept. 16: "Our Brand is Crisis"
Sept. 23: "Jack Reacher"
Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!



What's Going On In There?

Turtle Cove Golf Range will be offering four new Junior Golf programs for every level of experience: beginner, intermediate and advanced. These programs, given by Greg Moon, a teaching professional, are for boys and girls age 6 through 17. They are scheduled after school and on Saturdays during the month of September. The deadline to sign up is Aug. 31. For more information about this program, go to <http://turtlecovegolfcenter.com/september-junior-programs/>.



As a service to our readers, The Island Current will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below, supplied by Janie Blanks, represent some of the recent sales. The Current is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

| Address | Closing Date | Sale Price | Type |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 346 William Avenue | 4/18/17 | \$ 275,000 | 1 family |
| 449 King Avenue | 4/27/17 | \$530,000 | 1 family |
| 162 Hawkins Street | 5/4/17 | \$210,000 | 1 family |
| 194 Carroll Street | 5/8/17 | \$515,000 | 1 family |
| 499 City Island Ave. | 5/16/17 | \$800,000 | Land |
| 16 Tier Street | 5/18/17 | \$540,000 | 1 family |
| 525 Minneford Ave. | 5/18/17 | \$495,000 | 1 family |
| 461D Minneford Ave. | 5/18/17 | \$155,497 | 1 family |
| 101 Pell Place | 5/24/17 | \$390,000 | 1 family |
| 654 King Avenue | 6/8/17 | \$1,661,000 | 1 family |
| 49 Carroll Street | 6/15/17 | \$500,000 | multi-family |
| 512 Minneford Ave. | 6/19/17 | \$1,200,000 | multi-family |
| 692 Bridge Street | 6/26/17 | \$303,000 | 1 family |
| 28 Centre Street | 6/26/17 | \$625,000 | multi-family |
| 7 Reynolds Street | 6/27/17 | \$554,000 | 1 family |
| 100 Pilot Street | 6/29/17 | \$390,000 | 1 family |
| 170 Schofield St., 1C | 6/30/17 | \$230,000 | condo |

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563 Minneford Ave, City Island

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Photos by RON TERNER and JOANNE VALLETTA

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 156 in City Island had a busy summer. They presented a Quilt of Valor on Memorial Day to veteran and longtime Legion member Anthony (Buddy) Pontecorvo (top photo, seated), who was accompanied by family members Grace and Joseph Pontecorvo. Auxiliary members are already preparing for Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2017. Their Sergeant at Arms and longtime standing member, Judy McCormick, handcrafted patriotic wreaths for City Islanders to display. If you'd like to order a wreath, please contact Joanne Valletta at jcute53@aol.com.

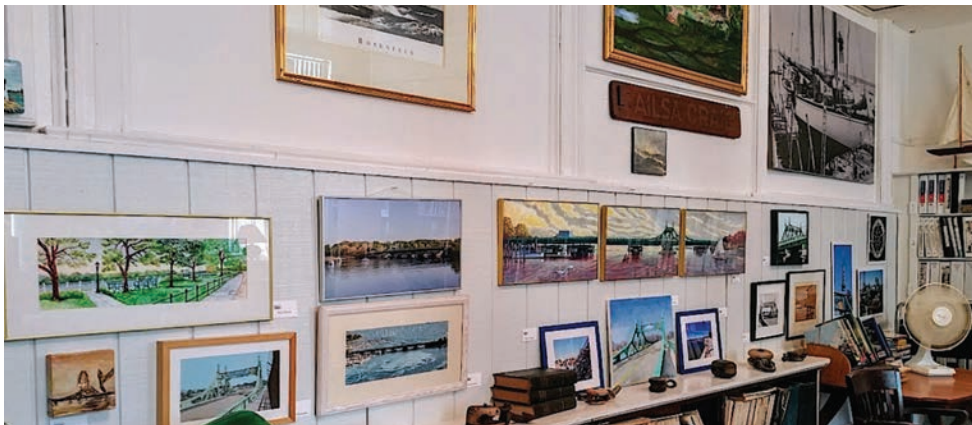


Photo by MATT PANZA

Many visitors to the City Island Nautical Museum have enjoyed the exhibition of images of the old City Island Bridge made by artists commemorating the beloved icon of Island history. The exhibition, curated by Cheryl Brinker, opened in June and will be on view into the fall.

New Trinity Pastor: Community Work is God's Work

By BILL STUTTIG

The new pastor of the Trinity United Methodist Church on Bay Street, Pastor Dave Jolly, who prefers to be called Pastor Dave, was reassigned to the City Island parish from St. James United Methodist church in Kingston, NY, about a month ago, and so far he likes what he sees.

"The congregation has been as welcoming as I have ever experienced, and so have the people of City Island. My wife and I both feel that City Island residents and the church could not have been more gracious to newcomers," Pastor Dave explained.

The 65-year-old husband and father of two adult children with three grandchildren is just entering his third decade as a Methodist pastor, having come to the profession 21 years ago after spending the first two decades of his professional life as a furniture salesman in Ohio.

He served as the pastor of Kingston's St. James for the last 10 years, and when he was reassigned to a church in the Bronx, he admitted to feeling a little uneasy. "I was apprehensive when I was told I was coming to the city. I am not a city person, but I was willing to learn. Someone here then explained to me that, yes, our address is New York City but this is not New York City, not really."

Having just moved into the parish house in mid-August, Pastor Dave spends the better part of his week alone in the home, while his wife, Donna, continues her work as a physical therapist during the week and commutes down to City Island from Kingston on the weekends to help and be with her husband.

"I like to canoe and fish; I would never have guessed that I would be in such a great spot for those two things," Pastor Dave told *The Current*. "But my greatest love is working with people who truly have a heart for working, and this church truly does have a heart for working."

"From the outset it has been clear to me that this church values making its facilities and resources useful for the needs of others. There are many 12-step groups that meet in the church every week, plus AARP, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and much more. When you look at the building, you see the house and the main church, but the center section that connects the two was really built for the community and it continues to serve the community, which is phenomenal."

"I believe that the heart of any church comes from its willingness to share. It's easy to share with your own members, which this church does very well. But it's more of a challenge in this day and age, when churches are struggling for resources, to continue to provide as many services as possible to others. I think God blesses that. I think God is a very pragmatic God. When God sees people taking leaps of faith, He provides. I keep telling the members here: 'You have seen some hard times. Well you are going through a cycle right now where you see that reversing. Don't lose sight of the fact that that is in part because of your faith.'"

When he is not administering to the church's needs or preparing for his Sunday services, Pastor Dave said he likes to spend his time getting to know this community. "One of the things that I would like to do is to get out on the street and meet people and



Photo by RICK DeWITT

find out what the needs are here and if there are needs that this church can help meet. I think the gifts that I have include a willingness to be part of a community, since I have been a volunteer firefighter, a chaplain and a Rotarian. I like to serve, and I think all pastors need to give back."

Over the past few weeks, Pastor Dave has been a regular visitor to Pilot Cove and has also spent time networking with the people of Temple Beth-El. He plans and hopes to meet with the leaders of Grace Episcopal Church and St. Mary, Star of Sea in the very near future, because he is a firm believer that all houses of worship in a community should work together to solve some of the problems of the community at large, not just the church membership.

"The biggest factor in determining whether a church is growing or not," he explained, "is understanding whether or not they are following the mission that God has in mind for them. And in most cases that is going to include helping those around you."

One of the first projects he has undertaken is to start the church's pre-teens and teens on a daily devotional for first responders, FDNY, EMS and NYPD. "We have the youth pray for the officers each day. By doing that it helps them get rid of some of the stigma and fear that some youth have regarding law enforcement."

He knows that City Island, like all communities in the nation these days, has a drug problem and while the church hosts NA meetings, he said he feels that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and that the church and the community need to do more to help with this growing epidemic, both locally and nationally. "I take a long-term approach to things, and I know that things are not going to happen overnight, but I am a patient guy."

"I want to thank this church and this community for making us feel welcome," Pastor Dave added. "Although we are new, we are not ostracized for being new. A lot of small towns have communal feeling and pride, but sometimes that can be sort of a closed circle. I don't feel that here."

He said his plan is to put his new office on the stage of the parish hall so he can be near all the activities going on in the church hall. "But don't worry," he says. "All my new furniture will have wheels so if the community want to use the stage for a production or a presentation, they can just roll me off and roll me back on again. The stage, like the rest of the church, is here for the community."

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 9 and 10, **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Tues., Sept. 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Fri., Sat., and Sun., Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City Island Republicans

Nicole Maliotakis is the official nominee for mayor. We need to work hard to elect Nicole as mayor and John Cerini for the City Council.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

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

Temple services are on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea:

Sept. 1: Congregation-led
Sept. 8: Led by Rabbi David

Sept. 15: Congregation-led

Sept. 22: Shabbat Shuvah, contemplative service led by Rabbi David

Sept. 29: Congregation-led

Please join us for our free High Holy Day Services 5778:

Sept. 16: Saturday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Slichot and Healing Service

Sept. 20: Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 21: Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Sept. 22: Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Sept. 29: Friday, Yom Kippur Kol Nidre 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Sept. 30: Saturday, Yom Kippur, morning service 10 a.m.; Yiskor 11:30 a.m.; Mincha 5 p.m.; Neilah 6 p.m. Break Fast

Adult Education: TBE invites the City Island Community for our Yoga class, Monday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Tea and cookies served after sessions.

Oneg sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion can be a joyful moving community celebration. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or at violetsmi@aol.com.

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

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church Hall. The first meeting after our

summer break will be on Sept. 6. On Sept. 20, we will go to the Big E fair in Massachusetts; the cost is \$40 per person. For information on the Big E trip, call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707. Be sure to come to our Sept. 6 meeting to get the tentative schedule for future meetings and activities. See you all in September.

Rosetta Woods

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting will be Sunday, Sept. 10, at noon. Dues (\$50) are past due and can be dropped off at the Post.

We have space for your next party and can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Thanks to Robert Coughlin for donating the special glasses for the eclipse on Aug. 21.

Remember to play the Queen of Hearts game each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone hits. The game is open to all. Proceeds from the game help fund projects around the Post.

Saturday, Sept. 9, will be a busy day. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. a veterans' town hall will be held with the candidates in the race for the City Council District 13. The forum will be held at the Sam Young Post #620 on Ericson Place and Wellman Avenue.

The visitation of the detachment from Bronx County and department state commanders and auxiliary president will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13; later that night there will be a dinner at the Morris Yacht Club.

Friday, Sept. 15, is the annual POW/MIA ceremony at the Throggs Neck Post #1456 located at 1456 Shore Drive.

Congratulations goes out to Post Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Salerno, who recently became the Bronx County Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole. Just a reminder. Please place your cigarette butts in the posted cans to help keep the Post clean.

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

We regret to inform everyone about the recent passing of Raymond Kelly.

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

John Muhlfeld

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. The latest lessons have been on the Acts of the Apostles. All children are welcome to attend.

This summer Trinity welcomed a new minister, Reverend David Jolly. He came to City Island from St. James United Methodist Church in Kingston, NY.

Adult Bible Study will begin October 22, and continue until Nov. 19. It is led by George Cavaliere, Trinity's Lay Servant, and is held in Fellowship Hall from 11:15 to 12:30.

The study is of the New Testament, 1st Letter of John. Themes to be discussed, according to the subjects presented in the text, are: "The Word of Life, Eternal life, God is light, the new (yet old) commandment to love, the Antichrist, God is love, the Son of God, the true God" and other subjects as presented in the texts.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), where you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister.



Photo by RICK DEWITT

On Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017, Trinity held its annual beach service and picnic at Fordham Street Beach Club with plenty of food, friends, sand, surf and worship!

The Budget Shop will re-open Sept. 16. Stop in and see what's new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, in both volunteering of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Garden Club

On what turned out to be a lovely summer afternoon in July, the Garden Club installed officers Melanie Benvenue as vice president, Ellen Murphy as secretary, Elena Nuesslein as treasurer and Barbara (Boo) Dennis as corresponding secretary. Board members join Judy Judson, president, to guide the club through the coming season of activities.

The meeting was followed by a buffet luncheon catered by the City Island Yacht Club, with desserts baked by the hospitality committee chaired by Diane Sattler. On July 11, members refreshed the planter boxes up and down City Island Avenue by planting colorful summer annuals. Thanks go to Kathy Gibbons chairwoman of the beautification committee, and members Susan Strazzera, Carol McCabe, Francine Alheid, Jane Protzman, Ellen Murphy, Charline Evers, Barbara Dolensek, Boo Dennis, Melanie Benvenue and Carol Hansen for "digging the dirt," and to all our generous donors to the Annual Beautification Fund drive for making these plantings possible. A big thank-you goes to the Avenue's local businesses, who share with members the task of watering the planter boxes when they need it.

Now is the perfect time to consider becoming a member of the Garden Club of City Island. Join us in an exciting season of projects, presentations and field trips, beginning with a guided tour of the Cloisters in upper Manhattan on Sept. 21. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month (except August) at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, located at the end of Pilot Street.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 11. Annual dues are \$35. You will enjoy

informative presentations put together by our program co-chair Carol Wilkinson, as well as day trips to nearby private and public gardens, such as the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in New Jersey and the New York Botanical Garden. Meetings conclude with coffee and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee.

Carol Hansen

REGULAR MEETINGS Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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

Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School

All children 2-12 years of age are welcome to join in lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, at 10 AM.

116 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464 (718) 885-1080
www.gracecityisland.net



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

Mark Oct. 27 on your calendar as the date for the City Island Community Center Benefit. Tickets are just \$40 per person for a delicious dinner and entertainment with the amazing Freddy Lando. Desserts will be provided by the Culinary Club. Proceeds will go toward fixing up the entrance and sprucing up the art and dance rooms. For reservations, call 718-885-1145 and leave your name and number.

In September many classes resume a regular schedule. Please call or e-mail the instructors to register and let them know of your interest.

The annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent our "BIG" room for family events and parties at very reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit: www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

COMING EVENTS

City Island Indivisible: Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24, at 5 (Sunday sessions include a pot luck dinner). Join other concerned citizens to discuss actions such as letter writing, marching and phoning that can help preserve American ideals. For more information, like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

CICC Benefit: Friday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m. See details above.

Craft Crop/Craft Fair and Workshop: Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calling all adult crafters who like to create with card-making, paper-scrapping and mixed media. Demail Handcrafts is bringing "Create Pretty Things Crops" and classes to you! Remember, a Crop is a get-together for crafters to bring their projects and share ideas, play games, share snacks and win prizes with vendors and classes throughout the day. It is just \$35 for a space where vendors can sell crafts and offer classes. Individuals can come in to attend classes or to shop. For information, please contact Desiree Demail at 914-562-5857 or demailhandcrafts@aim.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: Saturdays, beginning Sept. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 7 to 12 register now for this exciting art program and explore drawing, painting and sculpture. To enroll, contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or ceasardante@optonline.net.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, resuming Sept. 11, from 5:30 to 8:30. Register for fall. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail Caitlin at caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

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

Jill's Playgroup: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. On hold. Register for preschool children's group. Call Jill 917-330-0922 for

information.

Spanish Classes for Children: Enroll for fall classes. In this educational program for children grades K-5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolexperience.com.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Fox Trot and Tango into the fall with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

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

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

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

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m. The CSA welcomes new joiners at a discounted rate. Fresh organic fruits and vegetables will continue until Nov. 13 and will resume again next year. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, Sept. 11 and 25 at 7 p.m. The theme for September is fish. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, and pick up some new cooking skills as well. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

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 the Community Center. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with Deborah Weiss. We need a few more members to resume meetings. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Now is a good time to join. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

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

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

356-6673 or ryangillyyoga@gmail.com.

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

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

Patty Grondahl

Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, Sept. 17: It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month and is led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is well into its second year! Members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. In September, we will sing for Vietnam Veterans at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel; you should 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.

Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, Sept. 9 and 10: Come visit the Grace Church booth, starting at 11 a.m., where we'll offer delicious baked goods for sale, fresh from the ovens of our parishioners and friends of Grace! Cookies, cupcakes, brownies, pies, breads and more. While you're there, take a brochure of upcoming events at our church.

Sandy Dunn

PSS City Island Center

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

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

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to pat-tis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

Bake Sale is back! Donate your special baked goods on Friday, Sept. 15

Sing? Play an instrument? Join the jam session every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Sept. 1: We close early at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30.

Sept. 4: Closed for Labor Day.

Sept. 13: Health Fair on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Includes memory screening, medication reviews, flu shots, blood pressure and more.

Sept. 15: Bake Sale is back. Donate your special baked goods on Friday, Sept. 15, before 12:30.

Sept. 22 through Sept. 28: Friday through Thursday: Prevention events from 11:45 to 12 noon.

Sept. 22: Balance exercises; Sept. 25: Tai Chi; Sept. 26: Safety Hazards in the Home; Sept. 27: Arthritis Exercises; Sept. 28: Safety Hazards in the Community

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

September Programs: Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30; Sept. 12 and 26; Jam Session at 11; Crafters Corner 1:45; Wednesdays: 1 p.m. Board Games, including Rummy Q and more; Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda Sept. 13 and 27 at 1 p.m. for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party on Sept. 22 at 12:30.

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

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

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

Patty Attis

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The shop will reopen for the season on Thursday, Sept. 21, featuring our fall and winter collections. It will be open Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hope to see you there.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Theater Group

We are pleased to announce the new production of "A View from the Bridge," written by Arthur Miller. Dates for the show are Nov. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19. According to Miller, the idea for this story of immigrants, family, anger, jealousy, homophobia and love developed during a conversation with a long-shoreman lawyer in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn in the early 1950s. CITG will host a window unveiling/reception promoting this event on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. in front of 282 City Island Avenue. All are welcome.

Mary McIntyre

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Dues (\$30) are now past due.

The end of year dinner was wonderful. Thank you to the Lobster Box, which helped make it a success.

The SAL clambake is Saturday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. Sign up at the Post.

Our second annual Octoberfest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. Details to follow.

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

Fred Ramfl Jr.

Continued on page 15



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Spaced Out

We all take for granted the fact that astronauts travel into outer space in real life, but there was a beginning that was fraught with difficulties, well captured on film, both fictionally and “based on fact.” In the fictional **Capricorn One** (1978), if a mission to Mars will not work because of technical difficulties, the entire space program will be scrapped. Therefore, at the last minute, the crew, consisting of Col. Charles Brubaker (James Brolin), Lt. Col. Peter Willis (Sam Waterston) and Cmdr. John Walker (O.J. Simpson), are told to leave the spacecraft before it takes off. Then they are threatened into complying with a fake television enactment of a spacewalk. Elliott Gould plays journalist Robert Caulfield, whose life is in danger when he gets close to finding out the truth in this interesting thriller.

The true story of the space race is told in the epic film **The Right Stuff** (1983), which starts with the breaking of the sound barrier by test pilot Chuck Yeager (Sam Shepard). This is followed by the introduction to the public of the first seven astronauts: Capt. Alan Shepard Jr. (Scott Glenn), Maj. John Glenn Jr. (Ed Harris), Capt. “Gordo” Cooper Jr. (Dennis Quaid), Capt. “Gus” Grissom (Fred Ward), Capt. “Deke” Slayton (Scott Paulin), Lt. Cmdr. Scott Carpenter (Charles Frank) and Lt. Cmdr. Walter Schirra Jr. (Lance Henriksen). The film traces the substitution of a chimp for a man as the first “American” in space, the Russians sending up Sputnik and the launches of Shepard, Glenn and others through 1963. And throughout, Yeager, the greatest pilot of all time, watches from the sidelines because he never had a college education.

Apollo 13 (1995) is the thrilling docu-drama of astronauts Jim Lovell (Tom Hanks), Fred Haise (Bill Paxton) and Jack Swigert (Kevin Bacon) and the problems their mission faces at a time when the U.S. population was so jaded that the networks didn’t even bother televising it until everything started to go wrong. Supporting players include Ed Harris as Gene Kranz, the flight director in Houston; Gary Sinise as Ken Mattingly, originally scheduled to go on Apollo 13; and Kathleen Quinlan as Jim Lovell’s wife, Marilyn. No stock footage was used in the filming of this powerful movie directed by Ron Howard.

Contact (1997), based on a novel by Carl Sagan, is the fictional story of Dr. Eleanor Arroway (Jodie Foster), who has dedicated her life to the cosmological field of SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence), listening for signs of life in outer space. When “contact” is finally made, there is a race to meet the beings that have sent instructions. This is an intelligent film, with philosophical discussions between Arroway and her brief love interest, Palmer Joss (Matthew McConaughey), about God and the universe. Arroway also struggles with her superior David Drumlin (Tom Skerritt), who first ridicules her search and later reverses himself, still to her detriment. Arroway puts up a valiant struggle, with fascinating results.

October Sky (1999), based on the true story by Homer H. Hickam Jr., stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Homer, who grew up in a poor West Virginia mining town, where he was inspired by the Sputnik launch to start building rockets of his own. He is encouraged by his teacher, Miss Riley (Laura Dern), much to the consternation of his father, John (Chris Cooper), who expects Homer to be a miner like himself. This is a story of how education can be a ticket out of poverty and is a film with family values.

Clint Eastwood directed himself in **Space Cowboys** (2000), a charming film of four former test pilots, Frank (Eastwood), Hawk (Tommy Lee Jones), Jerry (Donald Sutherland) and Tank (James Garner), whose careers as astronauts were sidetracked

when a chimp was sent into space. Years later, when a Russian satellite, with deteriorating American engineering schematics, starts falling to earth, this aging team comes to the rescue.

The Dish (2001) is a lovely Australian light comedy based on how the people “down under” assisted NASA in 1969. In the little town of Parkes in New South Wales, a radio telescope the size of a football field is the pride of Australian astronomy. The scientists there, led by Cliff Buxton (Sam Neill), help by tracking Neil Armstrong and his shipmates, and by relaying the television signals that will show Armstrong’s moonwalk. This is a delightful, gentle film that is a nice addition to the Space Race genre.

Gravity (2013) is the thrilling story of Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock), a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission, along with about-to-retire veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky (George Clooney). During a routine spacewalk, their shuttle is destroyed by debris from a space station, which leaves them floating in space tethered to nothing but each other. Will they survive, and how?

Interstellar (2014) is set in a dystopian future, where the Earth is becoming uninhabitable because of a global dust bowl and crop blight. Professor Brand (Michael Caine), a brilliant NASA physicist, is working on several plans to save humanity. Former NASA pilot Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and a team of researchers, including Brand’s own daughter, Dr. Amelia Brand (Ann Hathaway), are recruited to travel through a wormhole in the spaceship *Endurance*, carrying 5,000 frozen embryos to colonize a habitable planet. While Cooper is gone, his daughter Murphy (Jessica Chastain) becomes a scientist and works with Professor Brand. This is a visually stunning film that challenges the imagination.

Set in 2035, **The Martian** (2015) stars Matt Damon as Mark Watney, a botanist who is left behind on Mars after a violent storm and is presumed dead. His team is led by Commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain), who is dealing with the guilt of leaving a crew member behind, but still being responsible for the lives of five other crew mates. With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and resilience to survive and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring him home, while his crewmates concurrently plot a daring, if not impossible, rescue mission.

One of the best pictures of 2016 was **Hidden Figures**, which I discussed in the previous issue of *The Current* as part of “Women Who Made a Difference.” Without the women in this movie, it is possible that the United States might never have made a successful flight to the moon.

For those who would like to see a detailed 10-episode TV mini-series, there is the Tom Hanks production of **From Earth to the Moon** (1998). For documentary lovers, there is **For All Mankind** (1989), **Apollo**

13: To the Edge and Back (1994), **Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars** (2006), **In the Shadow of the Moon** (2007) and **The**

Last Man on the Moon (2016).

And until next time, enjoy the shooting stars of August, and happy viewing...

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Friends and family of the late John Gilder gathered for the eighth annual barbecue at the Morris Yacht Club on July 22, 2017. The event raised \$7,000 to fund scholarships at Greenwich High School, Fordham University and the City Island Little League team named in John's memory, which won the Bronx Invitational Tournament this summer (see page 1). The group also sponsored a Naloxone training session at the Community Center on Aug. 8.

Back to School: How to Help Your Family Promote Healing Among All Peoples for the Coming Year

By JOHN SCARDINA

We parents know that kids have “radar.” If there is turmoil or tension in the home or in the community, children pick up on the emotionality. All of us can have trouble articulating our lack of ease when things are tough, and children have even more difficulty understanding where these feelings come from. Instead we see more stomach aches, more whiny behavior and more fights between siblings. (With adults we see road rage, blaming others, addictive behaviors, and general acting out, right?)

Our world's tension—especially after events like the Charlottesville violence or the Barcelona attack—has seeped into our psyches. Some psychologists have said that since 9/11, we have suffered from a generalized anxiety disorder as a nation. Fear trumps love for most of us much of the time, and “the other”—perhaps a person of a different color or race, a person from a different socioeconomic class or a person with a different gender expression—can be greeted with suspicion rather than acceptance if we are not careful to check in with our initial reactions. (Remember Malcolm Gladwell's book “Blink”?) Our first reactions are often not representative of the person we want to be or think that we already are.

We are also seeing more depression and anxiety in our children. This leads to general unhappiness, poor school performance, anger issues and a tendency to give up on those positive goals that are worth working for.

So, since we parents create the emotional climate on our homes, what can we do to provide a healthy home environment for our children that allows them to go to school as healthy peacemakers rather than unhappy troublemakers?

1. Be clear about your values as a family: For some of us with a faith tradition to follow, this is easier: what does my church or temple or mosque say about love and fear? For those of us who do not have a faith practice, which is a large portion of the U.S. population these days, our lifestyle and home need to project the values we choose and perhaps we need to be more explicit. In the absence of the Bible or the Torah or the Koran in our daily lives, how explicit are we with our children about what is important?

A suggestion. Have your family choose a precept or slogan each month: “Be patient with those who are different from us” or “Practice random kindnesses with strangers”

or “Make a new friend from a very different background from our own” (I have borrowed this from the book “Wonder” by R. J. Palacio). Post the precept around the house and check in at dinner every day as to how it is going. Change starts in small ways.

2. Learn to be a peacemaker yourself. Many of us grew up in households where racism, sexism, classism and ageism were part of the normative culture (the 1950s in my case). We need to unlearn some of these old attitudes, even as we profess new beliefs, and understand that we all can be racist/sexist/classist/ageist at various times. A suggestion: Take a workshop like the Alternatives to Violence Project or Undoing Racism to explore your own beliefs and to learn how to promote tolerance and inclusion in your own life.

3. Be sure that your child's school is teaching peacemaking skills. Ask about programs that promote upstander behavior through bully prevention training and healing circles through restorative justice practices. Did you know that the NYC Department of Education is exploring restorative justice training for all schools to reduce violence and suspensions? A suggestion. Ask your child's teachers if they would like to know more about such programs and have them contact me. I would be happy to be a resource person as we strive to prepare the next generation to be more loving and tolerant than we have been ourselves.

4. Do something about changing the world. Volunteer with your kids; pick up the trash on your street; make a donation; choose whatever irks you about “things as they are” and decide to make a difference.

Let's have a good school year, and let's help our children become the peacemakers we sorely need today.

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

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King Avenue residents Mya and Joshua Antelmi marveled at the solar eclipse on Aug. 21, 2017, through the protection of special glasses. Although the eclipse only reached 71 percent in New York, it was still a celestial sight to behold.

Obituaries

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



Elizabeth Carol Barry

Lifelong City Islander Elizabeth Carol Barry passed away on June 4, 2017, at the age of 73.

Betty, as she was known, was born on March 22, 1944, to Harrison and Doris Nye, the second of six children.

She married John (Jack) Barry, and

they had two children, John and Dan, who were raised on City Island.

Her contributions to the community were so vast that she likely touched the lives of many Islanders. She served Trinity United Methodist Church, the City Island Little League, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, among other groups. As treasurer of the Parent-Teacher Association at P.S. 175, she was an integral part of the board that undertook the renovation of the schoolyard, including the installation of the first playground equipment.

She is survived by her son John; her daughter-in-law, Corinne; her granddaughter, Lucy; her siblings Diana, Bill, Tom and Joanne; and her aunt, Carol Stewart.



A memorial service in Betty's honor was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Aug. 5, 2017.



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HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

| SEPTEMBER 2017 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| DAY | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | DAY |
| | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | |
| 01 Fri | 0308 | 1.32 | 0915 | 7.00 | 1514 | 1.65 | 2133 | 7.44 | Fri 01 |
| 02 Sat | 0355 | 1.11 | 1002 | 7.24 | 1559 | 1.40 | 2215 | 7.63 | Sat 02 |
| 03 Sun | 0436 | 0.86 | 1042 | 7.46 | 1638 | 1.09 | 2249 | 7.80 | Sun 03 |
| 04 Mon | 0511 | 0.61 | 1113 | 7.67 | 1711 | 0.74 | 2310 | 7.97 | Mon 04 |
| 05 Tue | 0539 | 0.35 | 1131 | 7.91 | 1740 | 0.39 | 2332 | 8.16 | Tue 05 |
| 06 Wed | 0603 | 0.11 | 1152 | 8.18 | 1814 | 0.06 | | | Wed 06 |
| 07 Thu | 0006 | 8.32 | 0632 | -0.11 | 1226 | 8.45 | 1852 | -0.18 | Thu 07 |
| 08 Fri | 0044 | 8.39 | 0708 | -0.23 | 1305 | 8.63 | 1933 | -0.30 | Fri 08 |
| 09 Sat | 0127 | 8.34 | 0748 | -0.23 | 1347 | 8.69 | 2018 | -0.26 | Sat 09 |
| 10 Sun | 0213 | 8.15 | 0832 | -0.08 | 1434 | 8.61 | 2107 | -0.08 | Sun 10 |
| 11 Mon | 0304 | 7.84 | 0920 | 0.19 | 1525 | 8.38 | 2203 | 0.22 | Mon 11 |
| 12 Tue | 0359 | 7.46 | 1015 | 0.56 | 1622 | 8.06 | 2314 | 0.55 | Tue 12 |
| 13 Wed | 0504 | 7.10 | 1120 | 0.92 | 1728 | 7.74 | | | Wed 13 |
| 14 Thu | 0101 | 0.67 | 0632 | 6.91 | 1306 | 1.09 | 1900 | 7.57 | Thu 14 |
| 15 Fri | 0220 | 0.49 | 0814 | 7.09 | 1437 | 0.84 | 2040 | 7.74 | Fri 15 |
| 16 Sat | 0323 | 0.16 | 0920 | 7.47 | 1543 | 0.41 | 2145 | 8.03 | Sat 16 |
| 17 Sun | 0419 | -0.18 | 1016 | 7.87 | 1639 | -0.04 | 2240 | 8.28 | Sun 17 |
| 18 Mon | 0511 | -0.44 | 1106 | 8.20 | 1731 | -0.39 | 2330 | 8.43 | Mon 18 |
| 19 Tue | 0558 | -0.56 | 1153 | 8.40 | 1819 | -0.59 | | | Tue 19 |
| 20 Wed | 0016 | 8.43 | 0642 | -0.52 | 1236 | 8.46 | 1904 | -0.61 | Wed 20 |
| 21 Thu | 0100 | 8.29 | 0724 | -0.33 | 1316 | 8.38 | 1947 | -0.45 | Thu 21 |
| 22 Fri | 0141 | 8.05 | 0802 | -0.01 | 1354 | 8.19 | 2028 | -0.15 | Fri 22 |
| 23 Sat | 0220 | 7.74 | 0834 | 0.37 | 1428 | 7.94 | 2105 | 0.25 | Sat 23 |
| 24 Sun | 0258 | 7.41 | 0853 | 0.77 | 1458 | 7.67 | 2139 | 0.67 | Sun 24 |
| 25 Mon | 0335 | 7.10 | 0911 | 1.11 | 1530 | 7.40 | 2204 | 1.06 | Mon 25 |
| 26 Tue | 0417 | 6.84 | 0948 | 1.42 | 1609 | 7.16 | 2238 | 1.40 | Tue 26 |
| 27 Wed | 0516 | 6.65 | 1034 | 1.71 | 1659 | 6.97 | 2335 | 1.64 | Wed 27 |
| 28 Thu | 0634 | 6.60 | 1128 | 1.92 | 1805 | 6.87 | | | Thu 28 |
| 29 Fri | 0111 | 1.72 | 0738 | 6.71 | 1234 | 1.98 | 1949 | 6.94 | Fri 29 |
| 30 Sat | 0213 | 1.60 | 0832 | 6.94 | 1406 | 1.82 | 2044 | 7.14 | Sat 30 |
| OCTOBER 2017 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 Sun | 0302 | 1.36 | 0917 | 7.23 | 1509 | 1.45 | 2126 | 7.38 | Sun 01 |
| 02 Mon | 0344 | 1.02 | 0953 | 7.54 | 1555 | 0.99 | 2157 | 7.65 | Mon 02 |
| 03 Tue | 0419 | 0.66 | 1018 | 7.87 | 1635 | 0.50 | 2227 | 7.91 | Tue 03 |
| 04 Wed | 0451 | 0.28 | 1044 | 8.24 | 1713 | 0.02 | 2302 | 8.15 | Wed 04 |
| 05 Thu | 0525 | -0.05 | 1119 | 8.58 | 1753 | -0.37 | 2342 | 8.32 | Thu 05 |
| 06 Fri | 0603 | -0.30 | 1158 | 8.84 | 1834 | -0.64 | | | Fri 06 |



World War Woodpecker

Last spring, we were on Hunter Island in Pelham Bay Park, hunting, as it were, for three fledgling owlets. It was an especially satisfying experience because of all the hooting going on between mother and young. That is something you just don't hear around here very often. But the experience was about to get a whole lot more satisfying with word that a red-headed woodpecker was in the area.

Having never seen a red-headed woodpecker in the park, we were, at first, inclined to doubt the bearer of the news. We assumed he had probably mistaken a red-headed woodpecker for a red-bellied woodpecker. We may have even allowed ourselves to feel a tiny bit superior, as if we knew something about birds that he didn't. Lucky for us we kept it to ourselves, because it was true. Much to the chagrin of at least one red-bellied woodpecker, there was indeed a red-headed woodpecker—a family of them, in fact—last spring, in Pelham Bay Park.

The red-headed woodpecker is easy to distinguish from the red-bellied woodpecker. Both have red heads, but the red-headed's is more like a hood. The red-belly, on the other hand, has a red spot on the back of its head (and another, harder to spot wash of red on its belly, hence the name). Telling them apart by sound is another matter, one that requires practice. Both have a yodel-like quality to their most common call, but the red-headed woodpecker's call is weaker and a bit higher in pitch than the red-bellied's. Knowing one without the benefit of the other to compare it with is the trick. Suffice it to say, though, that if you hear what sounds like a little yodel overhead, it's probably the much more common red-bellied woodpecker.

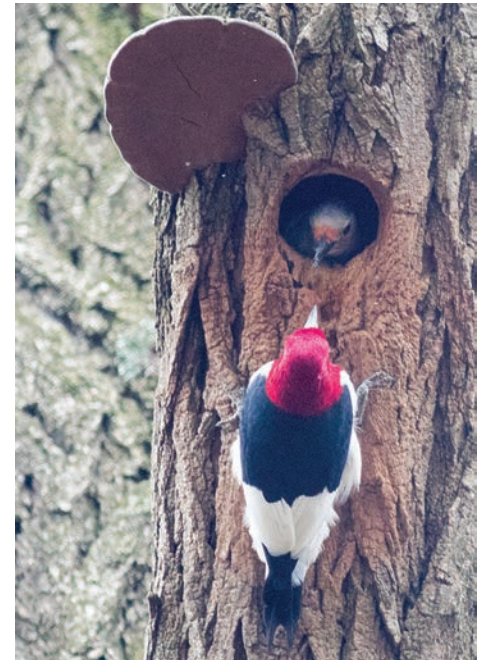


Photo by JACK ROTHMAN

Apparently, both woodpeckers prefer similar spaces for building nests. We can say this, because when we finally arrived at the place where the woodpecker had been spotted, we observed a red-headed woodpecker doing everything it could to drive a red-bellied woodpecker off its nest and out of its tree cavity. It danced around the opening, pecking beneath it, above it, and behind. It would do these things and then fly off, like that game of ring and run that kids around here used to play. Sometimes the red-bellied woodpecker would leave the nest to chase the disturber of its peace, but it would always return. We were told that this had been going on for days. We stood there transfixed, feeling not a little sorry for the red bellied woodpecker but privileged for ourselves. Almost forgotten were the owlets we had left behind.

About a week later, we learned that the red-headed woodpecker had ultimately been successful in driving out the red-bellied woodpecker and taking over the nest. How it had finally accomplished this was yet another icy cold reminder of the laws of nature: it had flown into the nest and removed the incubating eggs one at a time, destroying them.

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

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Organization News

Continued from page 9

American Legion Auxiliary

Members from Unit 156 will be attending the ALA Mission Training in Hartford, CT, on Oct. 21. We continuously strive to be more effective in working the ALA mission within our community for veterans, military and their families. If you know of a veteran or family member who needs assistance, please contact the Auxiliary at the Leonard Hawkins post or our president, Laura Booth, at lanc2051@verizon.net.

As the world's largest women's patriotic

service organization, the strength and influence of the American Legion Auxiliary is derived from its members. It is that time of year that we encourage new members to join us and current members to renew their 2018 memberships. We promise to offer you something of value to your life. For membership information or an application, please contact Doreen Wall at americanlegionmembership156@gmail.com.

Our first meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leonard Hawkins Post. All are welcome.

We will be having a bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Post. Proceeds to go to veteran programs.

Joanne Valletta



Photo by FRANCINE ALHEID

On July 11, 2017 members of the Garden Club of City Island refreshed the planter boxes up and down City Island Avenue by putting in colorful summer annuals. Four of the volunteers were (l. to r.) Melanie Benvenue, Kathy Gibbons (chair of the beautification committee), Ellen Murphy and Carol Hansen.



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Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack were married on Aug. 5, 2017, at the New York Botanical Garden.

Happy September birthday to Mike Rauh, who is training for his 39th New York City Marathon!

Birthday wishes also go to Dan Wright and to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan. Love, Judy.

Congratulations to Nicolette Lotrionte and Andrew Pollack, who were married on Aug. 5 at the New York Botanical Garden. Nicolette is the daughter of Nancy and Nick Lotrionte of City Island, and Andrew is the son of Mary and Bruce Pollack of San Clemente, CA. The bride and groom met in Brooklyn Law School. A magnificent time was had by all!

Welcome to Bay Street's newest residents, Nancy Nieland and Maria Theodosiadou. They love Island life!

Happy anniversary wishes on Sept. 11 to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth.

A very happy birthday to Stephen Swieciki, who celebrates on Sept. 2. With love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

Keep up the good work and congratulations to Cathi Swett, winner of the 2017 Annual City Island Yacht Club Dinghy Race.

Birthday greetings on Sept. 28 to Tina Ruggiero, with love from your family and friends.

Wedding bells rang for Danielle Lyons and Kevin Farrell, who were married on Aug. 4 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church followed by a reception at the Marina del Rey. Proud parents are Islanders Gigi and



Islander Savanna Dentico celebrated her 16th birthday on Aug. 17, 2017, with family, friends and a sea-themed cake.

Michael Lyons, and Throggs Neck resident Pat Farrell. The happy couple's first dance was to "History in the Making," and they honeymooned in Bali.



Danielle Lyons and Kevin Farrell were married on Aug. 4, 2017, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

A very happy birthday to Nicolette Lotrionte as she celebrates her special day on Sept. 16.

Happy Sweet 16 to Islander Savanna Dentico, who celebrated her birthday on Aug. 17 at Scavello's on the Island. Her sister, Brianna, made a fabulous sea-themed cake, and Savanna was joined by cousins and friends for photos at the City Island Yacht Club.

Happy birthdays to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson, who all celebrate on the same

day—Sept. 12.

Happy Sept. 5 birthday wishes to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire.

Anniversary greetings to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who celebrate on Sept. 5, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Diane Carmody, who celebrates her big day on Sept. 4, with love from your family and friends.

Another clam digger is on television! Former Hawkins Street resident Matt Dolce was featured on two episodes of NBC's "American Ninja Warrior" on July 17 and Aug. 28. Matt competed through two rounds held in Denver, CO, and just missed making it to the national final. He is currently a pharmacist living in Salt Lake City, and his nickname during the competition was "The Flying Pharmacist." He loves mountain biking, so he decided to try out for the competition and was accepted. Way to go, Matt!

Happy birthday hugs and kisses to our "fearless" Hunter, who turns four on Sept.



Matt Dolce on "American Ninja Warrior."

17! You're growing up so fast! With lots of love, Nonni and Pop.

Wishing all our returning students a very successful, safe and happy school year!

Maria Swieciki

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