

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## FIGHTING FIRE WITH FAITH IN THE COMMUNITY

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER and courtesy of the SEXTON FAMILY

An accidental fire at the home of Harlan and David Sexton (above) on west Fordham Street on Dec. 7 caused considerable damage to the house. Friends and neighbors gathered quickly to help the Sextons, shortly joined by the City Island community.

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, a fire alarm caught the attention of the City Island community, which quickly learned that a house on west Fordham Street was burning. Within minutes friends and neighbors of the residents, Harlan and David Sexton, arrived on the scene to offer help, and within days the entire community rallied around to help the family. As Harlan told *The Current*, the response was stunning, “even overwhelming. There’s no other place I would rather be than on City Island.”

Harlan is not ashamed to admit that she started the fire, having left a cheese board on her stove, where a very low flame was burning. She had gone upstairs to work, but when the smoke detector went off, she ran back to the kitchen and found that the fire was already out of control. She called 911 immediately and then ran to get her dog, Ace, and take him outside. The fire trucks showed up within minutes and put out the fire, but the damage was considerable.

Fortunately, Harlan’s family was not at home. Her husband, David, who teaches physics and chemistry, was at school; their son, Gregory, was working in California, and their daughter, Emily, was at work. But neighbors immediately notified David and Emily and stayed on the scene when the Emergency Medical Service insisted that Harlan be taken to Jacobi Hospital to make sure her racing heart was stable. She was soon able to return home, or at least to the neighborhood, where help was already under way. Carol and Rick Fitzpatrick offered a second-floor apartment that a long-term tenant had just left in the building next to the Sextons, who will be able to live there for the next several months

until their house is restored.

The good news is that the house can be saved, at least the exterior, although the west side will need new siding. The interior will be completely gutted and reconstructed as soon as a settlement has been reached with the insurance company, plans are approved, a contractor hired, and permits obtained. All of this could take anywhere from 8 to 24 months. Harlan was especially impressed by the fact that at the suggestion of another Islander, the family engaged the services of Atlas Adjustments, a public adjuster that immediately secured the house and began negotiating on behalf of the Sextons with the insurance company. Atlas will undertake an inventory of what was lost and what can be saved, arrange for the disposal of debris and storage of what can be salvaged, and supervised the rental of furniture that they will require over the next few months.

Almost immediately after news of the fire spread throughout City Island, donations started pouring in, a Go Fund Me page was put up, and groups gathered to provide whatever help the Sextons needed. As much as the Sextons regret the loss of mementos and other possessions that were destroyed in the fire, they are incredibly grateful to the community for its support. Indeed, Harlan has a remarkably positive attitude in spite of the disaster. Unhappily, their dog died soon after the fire, but she points out that he was 13 years old and failing and would have found living on a second floor difficult if not impossible. She is also quick to consider her family exceptionally fortunate in spite of the disaster, especially in comparison to the families in Kentucky and other

parts of the country where tornadoes have destroyed entire communities where the neighbors are unable to help each other.

Speaking of the City Island community, Harlan explained that she and David moved here in January 1996. She had grown up in New Jersey, David in Queens, but they moved to Pelham Bay when they married in 1988. David was teaching sailing at the New York Sailing School on City Island, and when they decided to buy a house, they moved here. Harlan at that point was working as an urban planner, and when the NYC Department of City Planning undertook a maritime study of City Island in 2000, she was engaged to help arrange for residents to be interviewed about their views on local issues such as zoning and housing.

Since that time, both Harlan and David have contributed greatly to the Island as volunteers. David spent years running the buildings and grounds committee for Grace Episcopal Church and is now grounds manager for the Harlem Yacht Club. Harlan originated the Quilters by the Sea group that creates quilts for veterans as part of her leadership role in the American Legion Auxiliary.

This experience with disaster here and with the amazing support shown by the City Island community, however, was not the first for this family. In 2010 when Emily Sexton was very badly injured on the avenue by a drunk driver, Islanders responded by donating blood and offering whatever support the family needed. Even here, Harlan finds a positive result in a terrible situation, because Emily’s weeks at Jacobi observing the ways in which her caregivers worked together as a team led her to a career in nursing, and as of next month she will join Jacobi’s staff as a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Last November Harlan worked at P.S. 175 as an Election Day worker, and she was delighted to realize that she knew nearly everyone she saw there, young and old alike. She told *The Current* that she was tempted to tell the entire younger generation here what a special place City Island is and how they should get involved and become a part of it. The fact that she can find so much joy and feel such gratitude here after such difficult experiences speaks volumes to her positive nature, but it also reaffirms the strength of this very special community.

## Covid Cases Spike Again on CI

BY KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

Covid cases surged again on City Island following the 2021 holidays. Islanders scrambled to obtain rapid and PCR tests, including from a Tesfast van stationed on City Island Avenue at Fordham Street starting Jan. 12.

As predicted by many scientists, the infection rate on City Island, as well as much of New York City, spiked to unprecedented levels following the December holidays. The seven-day average percent positivity was 41.7 percent of those tested for Covid-19 (most likely the highly contagious Omicron variant), during the week ending Jan. 1, 2022, higher than the rate for New York City overall (35%).

This spike was despite the high vaccination on City Island of 83 percent (at least one dose) and 76 percent fully vaccinated during the same period, higher than the Bronx and overall city rates. The high vaccination rate among Islanders likely helped to keep symptoms relatively mild in those testing positive, and hospitalizations and death rates down (zero deaths were reported on City Island during the same period).

As Covid infections surged, many residents tried frantically to be tested, but experienced long lines at test sites and frustration trying to purchase home

tests. New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi responded to the lack of available testing and arranged for testing on City Island. A Tesfast mobile testing van appeared on City Island Avenue at Fordham Street starting Wednesday, Jan. 12, and many Islanders lined up for either a rapid test (results available immediately) or a PCR test (results later) or both. The staff was very helpful to residents who needed to upload their health and personal data to the site, and the rapid test results came through right away as promised.

However, the more sensitive PCR test results were promised in 24 to 48 hours. As *The Current* went to press, many Islanders had still not received their results from having been tested over a week or more earlier. Some tried calling the number given by Tesfast only to hear music for 30 minutes. There was not even a recording to explain the delay. Residents who were tested off City Island experienced similar delays of over a week to obtain the results.

Continued on page 3



**BRIEFLY...**

**BLOOD DRIVE** at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, from 1 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2. Call the New York Blood Center at 1-800-933-2566 to make an appointment in advance.

**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2021 and January 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – LOST PROPERTY

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Dec. 1, 2021, to Jan. 19, 2022.

12/23/21 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 4:40 p.m., a female employee told police that a former male employee returned to the business demanding his paycheck. He then destroyed some property in an act of criminal mischief and brandished a knife, causing alarm.

1/2/22 – On City Island Avenue at 1 a.m., an off-Island female reported being assaulted by off-Island male, who struck her with a beer bottle and then fled the scene on foot.

1/4 – An Island male stated that he was harassed and threatened by an off-Island male on City Island Avenue at 5 p.m.

1/13 – On Carroll Street at 10:30 p.m., a male Islander returned to his parked vehicle to find it missing, in an act of grand

larceny auto. The vehicle was later recovered near Pelham Parkway by police from the 49th Precinct.

1/14 – An Island female reported her car stolen from King Avenue at 4 p.m. The victim parked her vehicle but left it unlocked and returned the next day to find it missing.

1/16 – At 3 a.m. on City Island Avenue, a male Islander was struck in the face multiple times by an off-Island male. The assault is being investigated by police from the 45th Precinct.

**CORRECTION**

In the December 2021 issue, the name of Jerry Landi was inadvertently omitted from the list of individuals who live on City Island and serve on Community Board 10. *The Current* apologizes for this error.



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## Covid Surge

*Continued from page 1*

As one Islander said, “it was pointless to find out you were positive one week after PCR testing. Rapid tests showed you negative by that time.”

Fortunately, the positivity rate decreased as January progressed. For the week ending Jan. 17, the rate for zip code 10464 had dropped to 20 percent, less than half of what it was early in the month. It is important to note that the reported positivity rates throughout this surge do not include those Islanders, including this reporter, who tested positive using a home rapid test and did not report the results (it was unclear how to do that even if one wanted to). Some residents tested positive early in the month and experienced mild cold-like symptoms, but were negative using the same home tests about six to twelve days later.

Other Islanders returned to isolating and taking the recommended steps to prevent getting infected with the new variant. Many residents changed their holiday plans and limited family gatherings to only those vaccinated and testing negative. Others stopped eating out at restaurants and attending in-person gatherings, such as church services.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises that regardless of vaccination status, you must isolate if you test positive for Covid-19, and if you are experiencing symptoms, you must isolate for 10 days. If you have tested positive but are asymptomatic, stay home for five days. If you have no symptoms or your symptoms have resolved after five days, you can leave your house, but you should continue to wear a mask around others for five additional days.

If you are exposed to Covid-19, even if you have had the vaccines, wear a mask around others for 10 days. Get a Covid-19 test on day five, if possible. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home. Vaccines are still widely available at no cost in New York City and remain highly effective and safe, and offer excellent protection from severe consequences of coronavirus infection. Find a vaccine appointment online or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) to schedule one.

FDA-authorized at-home rapid antigen tests may now be ordered from [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov), which the federal government will send out at no cost, even for shipping. Postal workers will build and label millions of the testing kits for mail delivery, perhaps as many as two million kits a day. If you



**Islanders were promised results from Tesfast in 24 to 48 hours as the e-mail above shows. Many residents were still waiting for their PCR test results more than one week later.**

don't have internet access, you can call- 800-232-0233 or TTY 1-888-720-7489 or order test kits or need further information. Each residential address is limited to four free tests from the program unless you can show that you are at high risk.

The federal government will be sending 400 million free non-surgical N95 face masks to distribution sites throughout the country by early February and these should be available from pharmacies, community centers and other locations.

For those who cannot leave home, New York City offers in-home Pfizer Covid-19 vaccinations to any homebound resident of New York who requests one, including seniors and individuals with disabilities. Fill out the form at [nyc.gov/homebound](https://nyc.gov/homebound) or call the NYC Vaccine Hotline at 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692). Even if you received your first dose through a different program, such as a clinic or mobile vaccination site, you can receive the second or booster dose in-home. Your completed form will be shared with city agencies coordinating this effort, such as the Vaccine Command Center and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and you should receive a call within a week from the city's in-home vaccination provider to schedule an appointment.

It's a prudent decision to continue virtual practices until this post-holiday wave passes. If you want to learn more about positivity and vaccination rates for City Island and other New York neighborhoods, check out the maps on the NYC Department of Health COVID site: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page#maps>.

## Nautical Museum and Community Center Suffer Water Damage

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by LAUREN NYE

**Board members of the City Island Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center spent hours coping with water damage and flooding caused by a broken pipe on the third floor of the building at 190 Fordham Street.**

When the temperature dropped precipitously on Friday night, Jan. 14, 2020, the water pipes in an apartment on the third floor at 190 Fordham Street froze and burst, allowing water to cascade down through the interior of the building to cause severe damage to both the City Island Nautical Museum and the Community Center in the basement. Because these non-profit organizations are tenants in the building, they are insured for such damage by their landlord, and it is hoped that the insurance will cover the considerable cost of remediating and restoring the interiors.

The water damage was first noticed by Cheryl Riordan, President of the Community Center, who was on site to enable an organizer of the blood drive scheduled for Feb. 2 to evaluate the facility. Cheryl called Barbara Dolensek, who asked fel-

low trustee Lauren Nye to check out the museum. When Lauren reported excessive damage (see photo), Barbara joined her and they tried to rescue what they could from the flooded lobby and hallway. The good news is that the exhibit rooms, the art closet and the back office were not affected, although they are now serving as drying-out places for rescued objects from the museum shop, and the museum will be unable to reopen until further notice. Luckily, the Center damage will not affect activities in the main rooms, so that the blood drive can be held on schedule.

When Gary Cottam was called, he responded immediately, bringing with him several young men who cleaned the debris out of the museum and tried to sweep out the water, which was still cascading from the ceiling. He managed to check out the Community Center as well, and was able to confirm that the apartment on the third floor was the source of the flooding, so he shut off the water to the apartment. Calls were placed to the landlord and the building manager, but since it was a holiday, nothing was followed up on until the next day. In the meantime, the museum staff arranged with two firms that specialize in water damage to examine the premises and determine the best way forward.

As of press time, further work in either the museum or the center cannot proceed until the organizations have been advised about insurance coverage.

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A STORY ABOUT THE HORTON HOUSE. DID YOU HEAR WHO LIVED THERE?	AND THE OYSTERS WERE NESTLED ALL SNUG IN THEIR BEDS WHILE VISIONS OF OYSTER REEFS DANCED IN THEIR HEADS.	JUST THINK. IN 10 YEARS THIS WILL JUST BE ANOTHER ARCHIVE IN THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM'S COLLECTION.	IT TOOK A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO GET MY "RAPID RESULT" COVID TEST BACK. I'VE BEEN QUARANTINING JUST IN CASE & HAVE NOW TESTED POSITIVE FOR CABIN FEVER.	
				



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

**Thank You, City Island**

To the Editor,

On Dec. 7, our home of 26 years burned. Since then, we have had astonishing comfort from our beloved Island community. We lost much, but we realize that we have so much more of lasting value. From the first moments of the fire, when friends and neighbors poured down Fordham Street to help, we have been carried on your shoulders. Generous gifts of money, household items, clothes, cards, photos, acts of service and furniture showed up immediately. Prayers and conversations greeted us whenever we were out. Dozens of individuals and local groups helped however they could.

At the risk of forgetting some, we want to thank the entire American Legion family, the Harlem Yacht Club, St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Grace Church and all the Go Fund Me participants. We also thank the FDNY. They saved our house and made sure that our neighbors' homes remained safe from the flames.

City Island, your gifts and uplift are already returning us to a regular life. When we see the devastated families in Kentucky and the Bronx, we know how much we still have. We know how blessed we are to live here, amongst open-hearted, can-do Islanders. Thank you.

**David and Harlan Sexton**



David and Harlan Sexton posted a sign of their thanks on the porch railing of their home which was devastated by fire.

The NYC Department of City Planning has laid out three objectives to guide this project: "vibrant communities," "connected communities" and "working communities." We believe our proposal would complement these objectives. It would strengthen walking connections near the station, while also helping to ensure that neighboring communities are able to access the benefits of this new service. It would also improve transit options from Co-Op City to surrounding communities, such as City Island, allowing individuals to easily use public transportation or walk to access this new station. Finally, it would allow those commuting to or from City Island to be able to access the connection via a short walk and the soon-to-be 24/7 bus line.

In order for the 4,500 residents of City Island to fully utilize this station, along with the approximately 10,000 who visit during peak traffic times on weekend evenings, it is imperative that this walking path be well lit and visible. Safety, both real and perceived, is essential to ensuring this transportation route is acceptable for all who wish to access this resource.

We welcome any future opportunities to discuss developing or supporting this proposal. Thank you for your interest in making this service successful and improving transportation options in our Borough of the Bronx.

**City Island Rising**

**Thanks for the Holiday Lights!**

To the Editor,

The City Island Chamber of Commerce would like to acknowledge the following donors for helping pay for the holiday lights along City Island Avenue: former Councilman Mark Gjonaj; Sammy's Res-

taurant Group; Paladino Realty, in memory of Helen McMahon; Louise Del Giudice of Century 21 Realty; Anthony Roccamo, CPA, Chamber treasurer, in memory of Christianna Roccamo; Cormac McEnery, Esq; All Pro Marine; Evyonne Baker; Maria Caruso, Chamber head of tourism; City Island Discount; Hailing Port; Kaleidoscope Gallery; Bayview Glass (formerly A Quality Glass); *The Island Current*; Bill Mueller, and all those who utilized the Chamber donation bucket at the Fall Crafts Fair and in Kaleidoscope Gallery.

We would also like to thank Cottam Heating for the loan of a 12-foot ladder to help us get the lights on the holiday tree in Hawkins Park.

Thank you all for the bright, welcoming lights in these winter months.

**Paul Klein, President, City Island Chamber of Commerce**

**A Tribute to Jack Ullman One year later**

To the Editor,

As he entered his ninth decade, Jack, along with his beautiful wife Inge, had become a regular at Clipper Coffee. He brightened many an afternoon by sharing his prose and poetry as one of the City Island writers. He was a spirited being who, with sparkling eyes, would reach out to dance with Inge, anywhere, at any time. He lived many, many lives in his nine decades. Now, one year after his passing, we remember him as our dear friend.

**L. Pollard Boyle**

**Support for Metro-North East Bronx Expansion Project**

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

Department of City Planning  
Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study Team

To Whom It May Concern:

We, City Island Rising, write to you today with excitement for the upcoming Metro-North East Bronx Expansion Project. This project has the potential to be truly transformative for our region and we hope our suggestions provided below only add to that potential.

As the leadership of our organization has shared with representatives of the NYC Department of City Planning, we believe the best way for the City Island community to access the Co-Op City Station (the closest station to our community) is to construct a well-lit, visible walking path from Pelham Parkway by Interstate 95 to Erskine Place. If done properly, this path could connect to our Bx29 bus while providing a short five-minute walk for commuters to ride this train. Enclosed please find a rough diagram to further illustrate our proposal.



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# 2021 Recap: CI Resurfaces (Partly) from COVID

BY KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of UN/ESKINDER DEBEBE, THE ESPOSITO FAMILY, RON TERNER and KAREN NANI. The year 2021 will be remembered for the partial return to normalcy following the Covid-19 crisis of 2020. Vaccines became available to all adults, and Islander Dr. Jeannine Giacovelli vaccinated United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in January (top left photo). The historic year included joyous events, like the birth of Olivia Esposito in April (above) and the wedding of Emi Economas and Fortunato Capomolla Jr. in July (above right), as well as the tragic fatal shooting of Lizbeth Mass in April (right). City Island traditions, such as the Halloween parade in October (bottom photo, left), stepped off once again as many in-person events resumed.



Like other neighborhoods in New York City, 2021 was still an unusual year for City Island, but some pre-pandemic traditions returned safely. *The Island Current* marked its 50th anniversary with examples of past reporting that reminded readers of life before the coronavirus crisis.

Last year began with continuing coverage of the impact of Covid-19 on Islanders and there is an eerie similarity to the 2022 story in this issue about the high positivity rates on City Island (see page 1). In February 2021, we reported that City Island “led the entire city in the percentage of positive tests results at 12.8 percent.” Vaccines had just become available for those 65 and older, but distribution was in a “state of chaos. Limited vaccine doses and locations, confusing websites and endless waits on hold have all conspired to confuse, infuriate or discourage those who want to be vaccinated against this disease.”

Thanks to the persistence of residents with support from relatives and neighbors, by September 2021 City Island had the second highest Covid vaccination rate in the Bronx (64 percent), which has risen to 83 percent in 2022. *The Current* contin-

ued to feature and recognize those working on the pandemic front lines, including Islanders Brendan Delaney, FDNY; Denise McGarry, RN; Dr. Jeannine Giacovelli; former Islander, Kathleen Silard, CEO of Stamford Hospital; and those working hard to keep Island businesses open and serving the community.

By April 2021, with vaccinations on the rise, some welcome activities resumed featuring masked participants. City Island Little League president Dom Esposito yelled “Play Ball!” on April 3, and the Chamber of Commerce’s Spring Arts and Crafts Fair resumed on June 5. After a successful series of webinars produced by the City Island Historical Society, the Nautical Museum opened its doors in June for the summer. The City Island Community Center also opened up for certain programs, and in-person graduations took place for kindergartners and eighth-graders at P.S. 175 in June. In-person worship resumed at several Island houses of worship in time for Easter, and the Legion’s Memorial Day parade marched along City Island Avenue once again in May. The annual Blessing of the Fleet sailed again in June, and the Halloween parade stepped off with more than 200 costumed revelers in October.

Sadly, in April 2021, the fatal shooting of a woman near the City Island bridge stunned residents. There had not been a fatal shooting on City Island in 24 years when Lizbeth Mass, a well-liked flagger for the contractor working on the water-main replacement project on the avenue, was shot multiple times by an off-Island handyman, Jose Reyes, on April 14, 2021. According to the Bronx District Attorney, Mr. Reyes became enraged when he learned she had a

boyfriend who had visited her at the work site. The defendant was charged with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter, and criminal possession of a weapon.

Meanwhile, Islanders continued to navigate around the Department of Transportation (DOT) construction zones related to the water main project throughout 2021. In April, Con Edison announced it would begin replacing the gas main when the water main project was completed, guaranteeing the presence of work crews, cranes, bulldozers and other impediments on the avenue well into 2022.

Island real estate sales and rentals picked up in 2021 after a downturn in 2020 because of the pandemic. *The Current* recognized a number of hard-working realtors among the many business owners on City Island, including Betty Esola, Maureen Hraska, Louise Del Giudice and Maria Swieciki.

Speaking of households, data from the 2020 U.S. Census, released in August 2021, showed that the population of City Island had increased from 4,026 in 2010 to 4,445 in 2020. According to the census data, City Island also became more diverse, and the median household income rose to \$94,519 in 2020. Some of the new babies contributing to population increases were happily featured in the *Talebearer* throughout 2021: Addison Blake Burnett, Sydney Wren Pollack, Olivia Esposito, Caden Riley Murdock McCoy, Christopher Nani and Catherine Lane Hennessy.

The Chamber of Commerce brought holiday cheer and lights to City Island Avenue in November and made sure the Hanukkah menorah and Christmas tree were lit in Hawkins Park with in-person ceremonies. The City Island Oyster Reef Project was re-energized in 2021 and held several events, including the second Water Jubilee and a well-attended Viva La Sound environmental festival. The Chamber’s annual awards dinner took place in November 2021 after a pandemic hiatus in 2020. Chamber president Paul Klein bestowed honors on Councilman Mark Gjonaj, Dr. Nancy Kheck, Sally Connolly and Community Board 10.

Love conquered all once again, and *The Current’s Talebearer* was delighted to congratulate the 2021 marriages of Emi Economas and Fortunato Capomolla Jr., Mark Nani and Lorena Nogueira, John and Michelle Hartigan, Philip Dolensek and Mary Ballard, Brian Esola and Minori Tsukagoshi, David and Alessia Butterworth, Bobby Swieciki and Krystal Garcia, and Merissa Ferrar and Bradley Nelms. Some of these weddings were scaled down from their

original plans because of pandemic restrictions.

Achievements by residents and family members were also celebrated, including the retirement of Commissioner Joe Schaller after serving nearly five decades in the New Rochelle Police Department. Island ecologist, Dr. Eric Sanderson, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and Kevin Nils, Collections Manager in Ornithology at the Bronx Zoo, was featured on the television series “The Zoo.” Rebecca Dzenis completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia, and Samantha Kucerak was selected as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. Marguerite Chadwick-Juner’s painting “Reef Music” was chosen for the cover of *Aristonish* magazine, and Linda Reville Eisenberg received top honors in the 2021 Guild Hall Artist Members Exhibition. Brandon McGaughan received the American Legion Eagle Scout of 2020 award, Joseph B. Goonan achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and his grandfather, Joseph F. Goonan, was named Grand Marshal of the 37th Annual Bronx Veteran’s Day Parade. Island dancer Robin Lobe appeared in the movie “In the Heights,” and, finally, Mike and Judy Rauh celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

In a year filled with grief for many, Islanders especially mourned the loss of several prominent clam diggers and long-time residents who passed away in 2021, including Patricia Smith, Nancy Fischer, William Lachman, Robert Callahan, Elizabeth Riordan, Catherine Ambrosini, Lucy Zec, Rev. Susan Chadwick, Rosalie Phillips, Louis Juers, Mary Bollati, Malcolm Campbell, Dorothy Cus, Holly Vincent, Valerie Fontana, Jerry Sloboda, William Werner, David Vetter, Joseph Scotti and Myra Martin.

The staff of *The Island Current*, including some who have served for more than 40 years, are proud to cover the many events and accomplishments of 2021. We could never have predicted that our 50th anniversary year would be so momentous. While newspapers around the country continued to cease publication because of the economic hardship caused by the pandemic, the steadfast support of our advertisers and many readers has kept *The Current* afloat. Thanks to all who subscribe and read *The Current*, and with your unwavering support we will keep going another 50 years!

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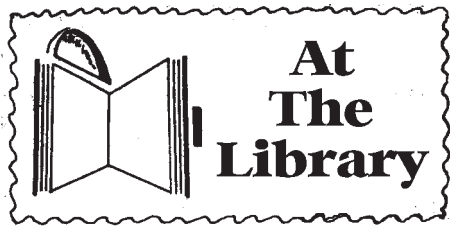
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# At The Library

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Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
320 City Island Avenue, Bronx 10464  
718-885-1703

The New York Public Library has temporarily postponed all in-person programs for February. All programs will be held virtually on line through Google Meets. Patrons must register online or by phone.

**Shelf Help:** Tell us your reading interests and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests: [www.nypl.org/shelfhelp](http://www.nypl.org/shelfhelp).

**SPECIAL:** Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics for Children 5 through 11: Saturday, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in our community room. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island>.

### FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Virtual Family Storytime:** Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favor-

ite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Online registration required. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Every Friday in February from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

### FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

For more information on Young Adult Programs, please check our website through this link: <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island>.

### FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

**Virtual On-Line One-on-One Job Support:** Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you write/format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Register at <https://www.nypl.org/adults/career-employment/virtualsupport>.

**Virtual What Are You Reading?** Calling all avid readers! Let's come together as a community to discuss what you've been reading and what you may want to read next! This is an open discussion for all genres, but each session will also include a presentation of titles related to a particular topic. Saturday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m.

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

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# 202 Years Old and Still Standing

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK

*This is the second in a series of articles about historic buildings on City Island.*

Residents and visitors here are familiar with the Lobster Box Restaurant at 34 City Island Avenue, but few realize that half of that building is actually the oldest structure on the Island, dating back to 1820.

In June 1807, a developer from Bedford, NY, named Nicholas Haight gained title to all but four parcels on the island, and on January 1, 1819, he sold 42 acres at the south end to a man named George Washington Horton, who had been born in White Plains on February 21, 1796. (He is said to have been named for the general who won the Revolutionary War because their birthdays were so close.) Horton served in the War of 1812, and in 1813 he married his step-cousin, Elizabeth Horton of Putnam Valley.

The Hortons lived in New York City, then the federal capital, but in 1819, they began to build a home on the property they had bought on City Island, which was then part of the town of Pelham. Family history has it that George organized a group of Islanders to compete in a “rock bee” to clear the land of rocks that were then used as building materials for the family house, which was built in a Dutch farmhouse style. The house originally faced Main Street but when City Island Avenue was widened about 1910, the house was moved to face Belden Street and is now behind the Lobster Box Restaurant.

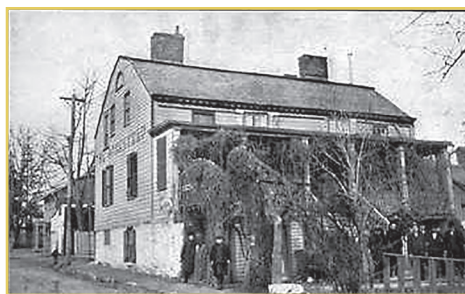
Once the house was completed, the Hortons moved in with their children Benjamin Franklin and Sarah Ann; their son Andrew Jackson Horton was the first born on City Island, followed by Stephen Decatur in January 1821, Phoebe Jane in 1824 and George Washington Jr. in 1827. George Sr. was described in 1907 by historian William Pelletreau as an “energetic and progressive citizen who during his active career contributed materially towards the growth of City Island, a most delightfully located and beautiful tract of land.” G.W. served as superintendent of highways for Pelham, and he had roads built on the Island (including Main Street, now City Island Avenue) and in what is now Pelham Bay Park. One of his main activities, according to family lore, was to travel by horseback three times a year to New York City on business and bring news back to City Island.

Like other members of his family, G. W. Horton operated a shipping business, owning schooners that sailed throughout the world, but he also farmed his property. He lived to be 74, and his death in September 1860 was followed closely by that of his wife, who died in June 1861; their monument is in historic St. Peter’s churchyard at Westchester Square. The executors of Horton’s estate were his sons Stephen Decatur Horton, who inherited the south end of the island, and G. W. Jr., who received property on the west side of Main Street from Pilot Street south to Stephen Decatur’s lot. Benjamin Franklin’s share was on the east side of Main Street above the Horton house, which appears in the 1868 map of the town of Pelham to be inhabited by a James Weaver. James may have been a rela-

tive of Henry Weaver, one of several young men who formed an organization in 1887 called the Pilots and Wreckers Association to provide assistance to City Island pilots.

In the 1860s, Stephen Decatur Horton built a large brick house on what was then called Horton Point. According to a descendant, the “Mansion” was filled with “a veritable treasure trove of curious objects brought from China, Japan, India,” reflecting his travels to the Far East as a ship’s captain. The house was bought in 1888 by a notorious financier named William Belden, who as a partner of Jay Gould had engaged in a financial scam that turned into Black Friday in 1869 and put many people out of business and into bankruptcy. Belden expanded the house by adding floors and turned it into a resort, with financing from Collis P. Huntington, the railroad magnate. When Huntington died in 1900, his estate took over the five-acre lot, and eventually through his stepson, Archer Huntington, it became the property of Columbia University. Columbia leased it for years as a men’s summer camp, a casino and restaurant, a hotel, and then the Morris Yacht Club, which bought it in the 1930s. Interestingly, the entire lot was nearly bought in 1914 by a syndicate headed by the lawyer Richard Arnow, who lived on nearby Rochelle Street at the time; he died in 1915, however, and the purchase never took place.

In 1861, George Washington Horton Jr. donated land adjacent to Pilot Street for the construction of Grace Episcopal Church by David Carll, the first major shipbuilder on City Island, and Stephen Decatur Horton and his wife donated land for a rectory. In 1873, Stephen Decatur served as president of the City Island Bridge Company, and David Carll was secretary; the company constructed the first bridge to the mainland from timbers of the USS *North Carolina* that David Carll had dismantled at his shipyard on Pilot Street after it was decommissioned. The Horton family also operated a Western Union station, a general store, and Hell Gate Pilot headquarters in a building on Marine Street, now a private house. Although we know that Stephen Horton did not live in his “Mansion” after the 1870s, he continued to reside on City Island until his death in 1900, although the census forms in those days did not recall specific addresses, merely listing “Main Street.” By that time, City Island was no longer Pelham, having become part of New York City in 1898.



The Horton Homestead, 1907

In his 1907 history of historic houses, William Pelletreau published a photograph of the Horton house, called The Homestead, in his section on the Horton family, which indicates that the building was still in the family at that time. Some historians have speculated that the house was at that time being run as a tavern, which would explain the sign on the front of the building. In 1905 New York City had decided to widen Main Street, by then called City Island Avenue, and at some point during the years that followed the Horton house was turned around to face Belden Street to the south. No Hortons are known to live on City Island now, but their memory remains strong, at least in the names of the streets—Horton Street, Pilot Street, and Rochelle Street (named for Benjamin’s son Rochelle Horton, who was a Hellgate pilot for many years and whose name may have been inspired by the fact that his father had been educated in New Rochelle).

We do not know exactly when the Horton property was purchased by the Duryea family, although it is likely to have been at some point during the 1920s. In 1923, a guide to New York City landmarks, notes

that the Horton Homestead, “the oldest house on the island,” was now being used as a restaurant. According to the 1930 census, Albert and Norma Duryea were then living at 151 Belden Street (which is the actual address of the old house); she was listed as a restaurateur and their son, Alphonse, was running a tea shop. The couple had lived on City Island since at least 1910, when according to the U.S. Census, they lived with Norma’s father, Richard Arnow, on Rochelle Street, the one who tried to buy the adjacent five acres in 1914. In 1910, Albert Duryea was listed in the census as running a stable (which was located on the mainland); 10 years later the couple lived at 81 Pilot Street, and Al’s occupation was listed as real estate. It wasn’t until 1940 that he listed himself as a restaurateur, along with his wife. At that time the Duryeas were still living at 151 Belden Street, as were their daughter, Norma, and her husband, Al Larsen, a Hell Gate pilot. It is likely that the Duryeas had during the 1930s constructed a new building facing City Island Avenue but attached to their home to serve as the restaurant, which it still does today.



During World War II, the U.S. Coast Guard was stationed at Belden Point. Note the Horton/Duryea house in the background.

In 1942, during World War II, the Coast Guard selected City Island as an ideal location for its patrol operations, mainly because of the availability of local boatyards. A temporary lease of vacant land was arranged at the southern tip of the island on which housing and operation facilities could be constructed, along with a warehouse, an armory and a recreation hall. As one can see in the Coast Guard photograph, the southernmost building appears to be what is now Johnny’s Reef, and the northernmost building is the Horton-Duryea house facing Belden Street,

with the restaurant, a separate building, facing City Island Avenue. During the war, Norma Duryea would often feed the young Coast Guardsmen by supplementing their government-issue meals. After the war ended, the Coast Guardsmen gave her an inscribed sterling-silver plate as a mark of their appreciation.

After the war, the Duryea family sold the restaurant to John Cipollero, who once ran the Riviera restaurant on the corner of Beach and CIA (now Ohana, previously Jimmy’s City Island, previously King Lobster), and he opened it in 1947 as the Lobster Box. The owner of the restaurant eventually built a large dining area attached to the original homestead, which still has traditional siding, although the restaurant itself is now covered with stucco. In a separate sale, the Duryea home at 151 Belden Street—the Horton house—was also sold to Mr. Cipollero, perhaps as a residence for restaurant employees. His stepson, Johnny Masacchia, bought the property south of the Lobster Box, which the Duryeas had leased for several years as a beer garden before the Coast Guard used it, and opened Johnny’s Reef.

After selling the restaurant, the Duryeas’ daughter, Norma Larsen, purchased property across the avenue from Columbia University and converted some of the existing Coast Guard buildings for the family’s use, which included a new restaurant called Duryea’s Pier and a fishing business. The family leased part of the city-owned dock for the business, but in the 1960s the dock was dismantled after a hurricane, and some of the timbers, as well as landfill, were used to support what is now Tony’s Pier. Diane Duryea, the only Duryea left on City Island, recalls visiting the family restaurant before it became the Lobster Box. As she wrote in an article for *The Current* in 2004: “If you stand by Johnny’s Reef and look up toward the Lobster Box, you will notice that a house stands behind the extended part of the restaurant. That house originally belonged to my grandparents. I still remember it well with its beautiful mahogany paneling in the dining room, a mahogany fireplace in the living room and a mahogany banister to the second floor.”

It might be too much to hope for, but perhaps one day the owners of the Lobster Box could be persuaded to allow historians to visit the building and share its legacy with those who cherish City Island’s past.

## OYSTER PROJECT RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING

BY SALLY CONNOLLY

On Dec. 6, 2021, the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) was thrilled to learn that the organization was awarded a significant grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project will involve the completion of design and permitting for two oyster reefs in the waters around City Island over the next two years. Several sites will be studied for their potential value as locations for the reefs and then narrowed down to two. Community residents will be involved in this research by assisting with water quality monitoring and measuring the growth of oysters at the sites being studied. Dive surveys will also be conducted to assist in this process under the leadership of Mike Carew, owner of Captain Mike’s Dive Shop.

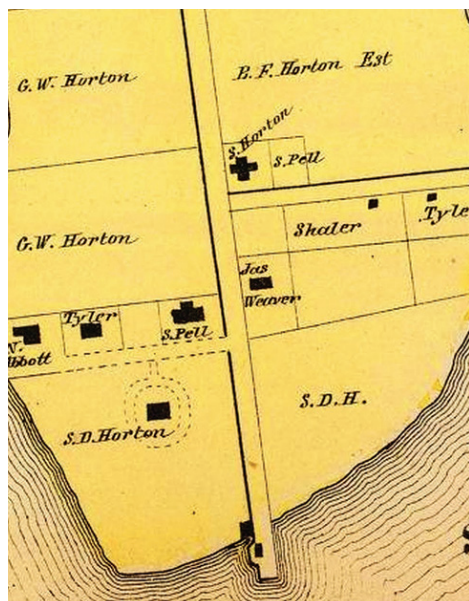
The various sites will be selected based upon the suitability of each area to support the increase of an oyster population and enhance biodiversity, protect the shoreline from erosion and storm surges and support the cleaning of local waters. A key aspect of this project will be to provide environmental education for the public and to sponsor activities that will involve the local community. This will include the expansion of an educational field station behind P.S. 175 to teach students of all ages the importance of protecting coastal habitats and the health of Long Island Sound.

Principal organizations that will be

partnering with the City Island Oyster Reef include the Billion Oyster Project, Save the Sound and the Hudson River Foundation, all of which have made great progress in oyster reef restoration and cleaning our waters in New York.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) describes Long Island Sound as “the second largest estuary on the East Coast and one of North America’s most biologically diverse. . . . These grants support efforts to test innovative approaches to conservation, deliver transformative projects and support people and communities who value the Sound and take a direct role in its future.”

This important achievement for CIOR has been made possible by the generous commitment of time, expertise and energy from the City Island community, as well as from its board members and advisers. Without the extraordinary teamwork of neighbors and residents, restaurants and like-minded partners, this grassroots effort to restore the Sound would not have been possible. The NFWF grant represents an exciting and important step forward for CIOR and provides many opportunities for interested members of the City Island community to participate in this important work. For those interested in getting involved, you can visit the CIOR website at [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org).



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM  
1868 map showing Horton property



## 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.

### City Island Civic Association

It is still our tradition that there is no meeting in December. As of January 1, 2022, our elected officers are Bill Stanton, president (one year); Fred Ramftl, first vice president (two years); Bill Clancy, second vice president (one year); Tom Smith, treasurer (two years); Stu Sorell, corresponding secretary (two years); Kim McGaughan, recording secretary (one year). The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 22. You will be notified of the location.

Our board members continue to post resources for the community on Facebook, and we continue to circulate the petition for our own police sector. The Civic was represented at the Municipal Services Committee meeting at the Community Board where the study for the renovation of Shore Road was presented. We continue to reach out to our elected officials to help us with Covid testing on City Island. And we are contributing to and volunteering for Trinity Church food pantry.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. You can also e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken street light or graffiti is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Additionally, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

Dues for 2022 are now due. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or by PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Jane Protzman

### AARP Chapter 318

The latest regulations from the National AARP stipulate that no more than six people can attend a meeting, and that proof of vaccination will be required and possibly masks worn by all. So for the foreseeable future there will be no meetings. As soon as the six-person regulation is lifted, we will make an announcement. In the meantime, if you haven't gotten vaccinated, please do so.

Carroll A. Reid

### Trinity United Methodist Church

TUMC will continue in-person worship and children's Sunday school at 10 a.m. Every effort is being made to clean the facility thoroughly after the service. Trinity understands these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will be live-streamed and recorded for YouTube. To request information about the live stream, e-mail Pastor Dave at [david.jolly@nyacum.com](mailto:david.jolly@nyacum.com).

The Budget Shop is open, and Trinity is thankful for the many donations of gently used items arriving weekly. Normal hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Feb. 27, Bishop Bickerton will be in worship with us and bring the message for the day and to mark the 250th anniversary of Rev. Francis Asbury preaching here on City Island, the first seeds of Methodism coming to this place.

Trinity has added the safe electronic giving option of "Givebutter." The web address is [givebutter.com/trinitydonations](http://givebutter.com/trinitydonations). A screen will give you many choices. All former ways of giving remain available and are much appreciated, and this is one more option.

The Food Pantry, now named The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, has expanded its hours. The new times are Sunday and

Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thank you to the many generous people who have stepped up to help those in need.

Rick DeWitt

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. During February and March come and see our Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day themed items. We will be closed from March 17 to March 26 and reopening on March 31 with our Spring Collection.

Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our monthly Holy Hour will take place on Friday, Feb. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Out of an abundance of caution, as well as keeping safe from the always unpredictable weather during the winter months, we have decided to conduct our Religious Education classes on line for the month of February. We will revisit the return to in-person classes at the end of February.

Wednesday, March 2, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

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

Rosette Dietz

### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting is Sunday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. by Zoom; an in-person meeting option will be determined as the date gets closer. Members will be alerted by telephone. Dues are past due—\$55 for the 2022 year. Please drop the dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

I wish to offer a special thanks to the owner of City Island Laundromat, for assistance in repairing the Veterans Memorial Triangle Flag.

The following are dates and upcoming events:

Jan. 30: Football Championship Weekend event scheduled from 3 to 8 p.m. A donation of \$10 affords attendees an "array of delectable delights." There will be prepared and potluck offerings as well as catered food.

Feb. 6, at 12 noon: American Legion meeting at the Post.

Feb. 14: Happy Valentine's Day to all Legion family members.

Feb. 26: Pig's Knuckle Party at 6 to 10 p.m., hosted by Squadron 156; \$30 per person; please sign up and pay in advance.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The American Legion held its well-attended Holiday Fair on Dec. 18, 2021.

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street. You can also watch our service on YouTube via a link that is distributed weekly. To be added to the distribution of this link, please contact us at [gracecityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gracecityisland@gmail.com). The link is also found on the Grace Church website: <https://www.gracecityisland.net/>.

Bible reading over coffee and tea is held on the second Sunday of each month. We have started a new gathering of parishioners and friends of Grace to read a chapter of the Bible together and discuss it right after the church service, around 11 a.m., under the leadership of Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies.

We will be holding Sunday School sessions periodically in preparation for special services such as Palm Sunday (presentation of The Passion of Christ) and Father's Day (Youth Service). If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

The Grace Choir is looking for more singers! For the upcoming months, we will be working on new music for our regular worship cycle. There are no formal auditions, and reading music isn't a requirement; you'll learn the basics as a member of the group. If you have singing experience, great, but if not, that's okay. The choir members also play hand chimes for special occasions. The ability to juggle two or three hymnals is a requirement and will be mastered with practice.

The expected commitment will include regular attendance at Sunday worship service and arrival before the service (usually 9:15 a.m. to review and warm up. Also, rehearsals after coffee hour (from about 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first and last Sunday of every month. If you'd like to give it a try, or have any questions, please contact Caroline at [geccimusic@gmail.com](mailto:geccimusic@gmail.com) or see her after Sunday service.

The GraceTones are rehearsing for upcoming shows planned for late spring. If you play a musical instrument, such as

guitar, harmonica, flute or fiddle, and you'd like to join in rehearsals, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com) or text to 917-566-1296.

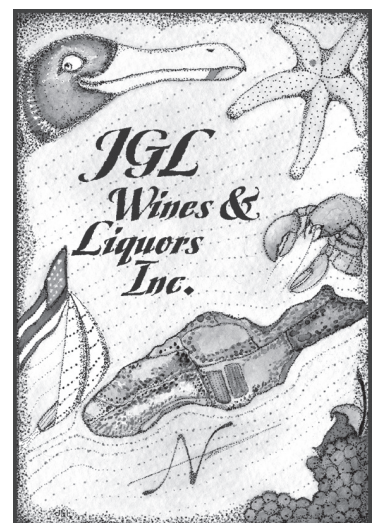
Sandy Dunn



### Quilters by the Sea QOV

QBTS will hold its first 2022 Sew Saturday at the American Legion Post on Feb. 5, National Sew Saturday. This spring the Quilts of Valor Foundation will award its 300,000th Quilt of Valor. Our group will designate one of our own QOVs in honor of this milestone. Please contact [harlan.sexton1@gmail.com](mailto:harlan.sexton1@gmail.com) if you're interested in working with Quilters by the Sea.

Harlan Sexton



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

Winter greetings and Happy New Year from the board of the City Island Community Center. We hoped 2022 was off to a good start, until the Martin Luther King holiday, when we discovered extensive damage caused by a frozen water pipe that had burst in the apartment on the third floor above the Center. The main room suffered water damage to our ceiling, floors and storage area. We are working with the Nautical Museum and condominium management to assess all damages and handle it with the appropriate insurance company.

Nevertheless, on Feb. 2, the Center will again welcome the NY Blood Center for its annual blood drive on City Island. The Covid-19 pandemic has put a tremendous strain on blood reserves, so the drive is critical to helping the Blood Center secure a safe supply of blood donations. Please see page 2 of this issue of *The Current* for event details.

Our Center programming continues. Below are our current offerings:

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

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**Culinary Club (virtual):** Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m. We are always looking for exciting new recipes and new faces. Kenny, 917-533-7873.

**City Island Civic Association:** Last Tuesday of the month (except December), 7:30 p.m.

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

**Yoga:** Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. with Joann. Call 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Girl Scout leader Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

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

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

We are NOT currently offering rentals for private functions. We will review this policy in the spring and make a decision based on updated safety protocols and Center staffing capacity. We appreciate your understanding!

For up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook!

Have a happy and safe winter.

Melissa Cebollero

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. All Temple offerings are online via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

For the month of February, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night Shabbat services on Feb. 11 and 25 on Zoom

only. Other services will be community led on Zoom on Feb. 4 and 18. Please see our online calendar for our community-led Havdalah services, which begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday nights, except Feb. 5. All services are held in a joyful celebratory manner.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer to the community weekly online meditation and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

On Feb. 6, TBE joins with our "cousins" at Congregation Beth Israel of North Adams, MA, for a monthly book club to discuss "Small Island: A Novel" by Andrea Levy. We meet one Sunday night a month at 7 p.m., led by Rabbi Pamela Jay Gottfreid. We welcome you to join us from February to May 2022. Fee for members is \$72; for non-members it is \$120 for the entire series.

On Feb. 5, join us as we journey to Emelin Theater in Mamaroneck, NY, for a concert with Nefesh Mountain, an interesting mix of Jewish, bluegrass, country and folk music. Tickets can be purchased at <https://emelin.org/event/nefesh-mountain/>.

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

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends and family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us. Join us on the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. for a Healing Circle on Zoom.

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

The entire TBE community offers gratitude toward the community, prayers and best wishes to all as we continue through the cold and dark winter nights of February looking toward the subtle signs of spring.

Lillian Winard

### Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club cancelled its in-person meeting in January because of the rapid uptick in infections from Covid-19, and we had little time to switch gears. However, the club has remained busy with planning for the upcoming year. It will hold its next meeting on Feb. 7 via Zoom, when we welcome NYBG instructor Daryl Beyers back to present "Designing for a Succession of Bloom." In addition to teaching courses at the New York Botanical Garden, he is their program coordinator. His PowerPoint presentation will have lots of photographs of beautiful gardens and should be fun. Members who need help in connecting by Zoom should contact Ellen Murphy.

Garden Club members installed winter greenery in our planter boxes on City Island Avenue. Special thanks go to Kathy Gibbons, Susan Strazzera, Melanie Benvenue and Vicki Tramontana, who did a great job. The greenery should last until our spring planting.

Thanks go to the businesses and residents near the containers and tree pits who help us with watering them and with removing trash. If you see trash in any container, please help us by removing it. Thanks also to everyone who contributed so generously to the beautification fund this year. We are moving ahead with using those donations for community projects. Future donations can be sent to the Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. We hold meetings the first Monday of every month (except July and August). Our next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

July Judson

### PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island Center is partially open at this time. A mask must be worn at all times (except when eating). At this writing only 21 members are allowed in the center at one time.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information.

The Center will be closed on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 21.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m. "Inspiring Walt Disney: The Animation of French Decorative Arts," an Encore Virtual Video Presentation will be shown at the Center and online (call for information or to reserve a spot).

Please note that NYC-210 School Tax forms are available at the Center.

Below is the current schedule:

#### Mondays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote)

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan, remote and in person

1 p.m. Nutrition or Health Classes, a different topic each week; remote or at the center

#### Tuesdays

9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary in person

11 a.m. Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy q, Scrabble, cards, mah jong or Monopoly.

1:15 p.m. Bingo on Feb. 8 and 15

#### Wednesdays

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)

1 p.m. Happy Crafters Club

1:30 p.m. Zoom Video presentations on the Arts and Sciences. Check with the center for program updates.

#### Thursdays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois in person

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays remote and in person

1:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Monitoring

#### Fridays

10 a.m. Tech Class

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:30 p.m. Music Listening Hour

Transportation: Transportation is available daily. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the February trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Only three people are allowed per trip, and masks are to be worn at all times. Temperatures will be taken when boarding and you must sit in the assigned seats. The windows will remain open to circulate air.

If you have any class suggestions, now is the time to speak up! We're still deciding programming for the coming months.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

### Sons of the American Legion

The SAL wants to thank all our members and supporters for a great year in 2021. We are looking forward to another productive year in 2022. This past year our organization donated to the VA gift shop, which helps hospitalized and disabled veterans. We support our veterans at all times, whether it be Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or the many other events that honor our veterans.

The SAL contributes to the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, the scouting program, the very successful Legion band project and various other causes that become necessary in our community.

This coming year we will be hosting NFL playoff games every weekend, especially the championships on Jan. 30. Our 72nd Annual Pigs' Knuckle party will be on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m.

We will release dates of more upcoming events as the year goes on.

As always, our dues are \$30 for the year (\$11 for junior members), and can be dropped off at the Post or mailed to 550 City Island Avenue. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing our members drop by the Post during the year to participate in our many endeavors. Thank you and keep supporting our veterans.

Tom Vivolo



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### In Dreams

The subject of dreams in the cinema has ranged from a classic musical to bizarre horror and everything in between. The former, **The Wizard of Oz** (1939), is a classic film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy, who while seeking shelter from a tornado, hits her head and finds herself swept away from her Kansas home to the mythical mystical Land of Oz. There she finds ruby red slippers on her feet and is terrified by the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), who wants them for herself. Dorothy is sent by Glinda the Good Witch (Billie Burke) on a journey to Emerald City by following the Yellow Brick Road. There she hopes to ask the great Wizard (Frank Morgan) to help her get home. On her way she befriends the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), the Tin Man (Jack Haley) and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who join her on her quest.

**Lady in the Dark** (1944) stars Ginger Rogers as successful magazine editor Liza Elliott, who is plagued by anxiety. She finds herself on the edge of a breakdown while juggling her feelings for three prospective suitors, played by Ray Milland, Warner Baxter and Jon Hall. In desperation, she seeks the assistance of a psychiatrist (Barry Sullivan), who analyzes her dreams, which are wonderful musical numbers. A mink dress by designer Edith Head is quite a scene stealer.

Filed in black and white, **Dead of Night** (British, 1945) is the story of architect Walter Craig (Mervyn Johns), who goes to Pilgrim's Farm to see a potential client. When he arrives, he feels certain that he has been there before. Once inside, he meets a group of people and tells them that he has dreamed about each one of them. Walter's revelations inspire each member of the group to relate tales of their own dreams and encounters with the supernatural.

Alfred Hitchcock looks at dreams in his thriller **Spellbound** (1945), in which a psychiatrist performs dream analysis to help a disturbed amnesiac. The film stars Ingrid Bergman as Dr. Peterson the analyst and Gregory Peck as Dr. Edwardes, the new director of a psychiatric institute. Anyone familiar with the work of artist Salvador Dali will easily recognize an intriguing dream sequence that he created.

**The Lathe of Heaven** (1980) is a film adaptation of the 1971 science fiction novel by Ursula K. Le Guin. It was produced in 1979 as part of a NYC public television Experimental TV Lab project, and Le Guin was involved in the casting, script planning, re-writing and filming of the production. This is the story of a psychiatrist (Kevin Conway) who becomes obsessed with changing the world through George Orr (Bruce Davison), a man whose dreams literally come true.

**Still of the Night** (1982) is a murder mystery starring Roy Scheider as Dr. Sam Rice, a psychiatrist who is smitten with Brooke Reynolds (Meryl Streep), the girlfriend of his recently murdered patient George Bynum (Josef Sommer). Brooke works at Crispin's auction house, where Hitchcock-like suspense scenes are evoked. Jessica Tandy is wonderful as Sam's psychiatrist mother, Dr. Grace Rice; and their "shrink to shrink" discussion is lots of fun. The unraveling of the mystery of "whodunit" is helped along by a rather intriguing dream.

**Risky Business** (1984) stars a young Tom Cruise as Joel, a high school senior worried about his future. When his parents are away, he is goaded by his friends (Bronson Pinchot and Curtis Armstrong) into trying the services of a prostitute, Lana (Rebecca DeMornay). When a series of catastrophes seriously threaten Joel's future, he and Lana cook up a scheme

wherein they can "introduce" their friends to each other and make a considerable sum of money. There are some very interesting dream sequences, which are certainly an adolescent male's erotic nightmares. The soundtrack by Tangerine Dream is excellent.

**Dreamscape** (1984) is a sci-fi fantasy thriller about a government-funded project that inserts people into other people's nightmares to help them fight their demons. It stars Dennis Quaid as Alex Gardner, a particularly gifted psychic who is enamored of Dr. Jane DeVries (Kate Capshaw), assistant to the director of the dream lab, Dr. Paul Novotny (Max von Sydow). The project was intended for clinical use to diagnose and treat sleep disorders, particularly nightmares, but is taken over by powerful government agent Bob Blair (Christopher Plummer), who has a sinister plan for Gardner's talents.

For fans of the horror genre, **Nightmare on Elm Street** (1984) is Wes Craven's classic slasher film, in which several Midwestern teenagers fall prey to Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund), a disfigured man who preys on the teenagers in their dreams—which, in turn, kills them in reality. After investigating the phenomenon, Nancy (Heather Langenkamp) begins to suspect that there is a dark secret involving her parents which may be the key to unraveling the mystery. Can Nancy and her boyfriend Glen (a very young Johnny Depp) solve the puzzle before it's too late? The film spawned one gay and lesbian documentary called **Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street** (2019) and five sequels, which were all dreadful with the exception of the surprising #3: **Dream Warriors** (1987).

Terry Gilliam's controversial satirical black comedy **Brazil** (1985) is set in a heartless bureaucratic dystopian future. Low-level bureaucrat Sam Lowry (Jonathan Pryce) escapes the monotony of his day-to-day life through a recurring daydream of himself as a virtuous hero saving a beautiful damsel. While investigating a case of the wrongful arrest of an innocent man instead of wanted terrorist Harry Tuttle (Robert De Niro), Lowry meets Jill Layton (Kim Greist), the woman from his daydream. Ian Holm appears as Lowry's boss, Mr. Kurtzmann, and Katherine Helmond is Lowry's well-connected vain mother, Ida. There are at least three different versions of **Brazil**: the original 142-minute European release; a shorter 132-minute version prepared by Gilliam for an American audience; and another nicknamed the "Love Conquers All" version, from Universal's then boss Sid Sheinberg, who altered the ending against Terry Gilliam's wishes.

**Dreams** (Japan, 1990) is a magical film consisting of eight vignettes written and directed by Akira Kurosawa, who claimed to have had them repeatedly in real life. Assisted in raising funds from George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, Kurosawa drew from his own recurring dreams to tackle his views on topics like childhood, spirituality, death and disaster. Each vignette has stunning, unforgettable cinematography.

Set in 2084, **Total Recall** (1990) is the story of Douglas Quaid (Arnold Schwarzenegger), a bored construction worker who has recurring dreams of being on Mars. He visits Recall, a company that plants false memories in people's brains, in order to experience the thrill of Mars without having to travel there. However, something goes wrong during the procedure. Quaid discovers that his entire life is actually a false memory and that the people who implanted it in his head now want him dead. Sharon Stone appears as his wife, Lori, and Rachel Ticotin as Melina, the subject of some of his dreams. This version is far superior to the 2012 remake.

Tim Robbins gives a remarkable dramatic performance in **Jacob's Ladder** (1990), an intriguing story of a divorced Viet Nam veteran, Jacob Singer, who lives in New York City with his postal co-worker girlfriend Jezz (Elizabeth Pena). He has increasingly strange nightmares that include his war experiences, with visions of his dead son, Gabe (Macaulay Culkin), as a counterpoint. This is a complex visually fascinating, at times gory, film with sus-

pense that doesn't quit.

Annette Bening stars as Claire Cooper, a wife and mother who has a killer projecting nightmares into her head in the bloodless **In Dreams** (1999). Her airline pilot husband, Paul (Aidan Quinn), tries to bring her psychological link to a serial killer to the attention of the police, who think they are both crackpots. This is an average but diverting film, with excellent performances by the two leads.

Demi Moore stars in **Passion of Mind** (2000) as a woman who is Marty in New York when she goes to sleep, but is Marie in Paris when she wakes up, and vice versa. This is a complex story of a woman who does not know which is her real life and which is her dream, but each of her "selves" is aware of and remembers what happens to the other in this thought-provoking strange film.

In the brilliantly executed and complex **Inception** (2010), Leonardo DiCaprio plays Dom Cobb, a professional thief who commits corporate espionage by infiltrating the dreams of his targets. He is offered a chance to reclaim his children (in the care of their grandfather played by Michael Caine) as payment for an impossible task: "inception," the implantation of another person's idea into a target's subconscious.

Cobb is hired by businessman Saito (Ken Watanabe) to break up the energy conglomerate of ailing competitor Maurice Fischer (Pete Postlethwaite) by planting the idea of dissolving the company in the mind of Fischer's heir and son, Robert (Cillian Murphy). Cobb's team includes Eames (Tom Hardy), a conman and identity forger; Yusuf (Dileep Rao), a chemist who concocts the powerful sedative for a stable "dream within a dream" strategy; Ariadne (Ellen Page), an architecture student tasked with designing the labyrinth of the dream landscapes; and business partner Arthur (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). The biggest threat to the mission is the unexpected, distracting appearance in dream sequences of Cobb's late wife, Mal (Marion Cotillard).

**On Body and Soul** (Hungarian, 2017) is set in a slaughterhouse wherein CFO Endre (Géza Morcsányi) and newly hired meat-quality inspector Mária (Alexandra Borbély) meet at work. Each has a handicap: Endre has a useless left arm and Mária has characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome. As they begin to know each other, they discover that they have the same dreams at night, leading to an unlikely romance.

And until next time, sweet dreams and happy viewing...

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

**What's New in 2022**

It's a new year and that means new tax laws and other tax changes. Below are changes that take effect this year, along with other tax-planning information.

**Filing deadlines.** First, the deadline to file individual tax returns is April 18. Other deadlines are: *January 17, 2022:* 4th quarter 2021 estimated tax payment due; *March 15, 2022:* Partnership and S corporation returns for calendar year 2021; *April 18, 2022:* 1st quarter 2022 estimated tax payment due; *April 18, 2022:* Last day for individuals

to make a 2021 IRA contribution and C corporation tax returns for calendar year 2021; *May 16, 2022:* Not-for-profit returns for calendar year 2021; *June 15, 2022:* 2nd quarter 2022 estimated tax payment due; *September 15, 2022:* 3rd quarter 2022 estimated tax payment due; *October 15, 2022:* Extended individual tax returns due; *January 15, 2023:* 4th quarter 2022 estimated tax payment due.

**Tax brackets and other inflation-adjusted numbers.** For all the 2022 inflation-adjusted tax brackets and other inflation-adjusted numbers, see the website for Thomson Reuters Checkpoint: Official inflation-adjusted tax rate schedule and other key tax figures for 2022.

**Reporting by third-party settlement organizations.** Congress has tightened the de minimis exception to tax reporting by third-party settlement organizations (TPSOs, such as PayPal, Venmo, Zelle) by requiring reporting of transactions that exceed \$600 (and eliminating the 200-transaction threshold). The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) also clarified that TPSO

reporting obligations are limited to transactions involving goods and services. This means that, beginning in 2022, if you run a business where customers pay you via a TPSO, and you receive more than \$600 in total during the course of the year via a TPSO, the TPSO is required to report that amount to the IRS—regardless of how many customers are paying you—and to send you a Form 1099-K, Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions.

**Charitable deductions.** The Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 extended two charitable giving changes enacted by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The law allows you to deduct up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in qualified charitable donations if you plan to itemize your deductions. Nonitemizers, i.e., those taking the standard deduction, may claim an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 for married filing jointly) for charitable contributions made in cash.

**Child tax credit.** The big change in 2022 is that both the advanced payment of the child tax credit (CTC) and the extended CTC comes to an end in 2022. For more details, go on line to <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/2021-child-tax-credit-and-advance-child-tax-credit-payments>. But the effects of the advance payment of

the CTC during 2021 will still be around in 2022. Families who received advance payments will need to compare those advances with the amount of the CTC that they can properly claim on their 2021 tax return. Taxpayers who received less than the amount for which they are eligible can claim a credit for the remaining amount of CTC on their 2021 tax return. Taxpayers who received more than the amount for which they're eligible may need to repay some or all of the excess payment when they file. To determine if a taxpayer has to repay some or all of the excess payments, go online to the IRS FAQs on Reconciling Your Advance Child Tax Credit Payments on Your 2021 Tax Return.

The IRS will send Letter 6419 with the total amount of advance CTC taxpayers received in 2021. People should keep this and any other IRS letters about advance CTC payments with their tax records.

**Stimulus payments and recovery rebate credit.** If you didn't qualify for the third economic impact payment—commonly referred to as a “stimulus check”—or didn't get the full amount, you could be eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit. You'll need to file a 2021 tax return, even if you don't usually file, in order to claim the credit. The IRS will send Letter 6475 in early 2022, which contains the total amount of the third stimulus payment.

**Happy Valentine's Day From**  
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**City Island Yacht Club**

**2022 WINTER-SPRING EVENTS**

**Open House**

**Saturdays, Feb 27, April 23, April 30**  
**10:30am-3:30pm**

Come to CIYC and learn about programs for boat owners, time share in our club boats, the new kayak membership, and social membership. ASA courses at CIYC start at the basic (101) level and go up to advanced cruising. We have an award-winning junior sailing program as well. This program also features training for future racers.

**Spring Seminars**

**FREE Wednesday Night Public Seminars**

**April 13 through May 4 via Zoom**  
**Check [cityislandyc.org](http://cityislandyc.org) for details!**

Sharpen your sailing skills and prepare your boat before the season starts. Expert presentations on:

- Boat maintenance
- Racing
- Cruising

Seminars start at 7:30pm.  
Please RSVP (718) 885-2487

**Big Tom Racing General Meeting**

**Wed, May 11, via Zoom**

After an award-winning season, Big Tom is back! Learn more about this successful Wednesday night series and the plan for 2022. Please RSVP at:

**BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org**  
or (718) 885-2487 for zoom link.

**Racing starts on**  
**Wed, May 18**



**City Island Junior Sailing 2022**

**Full Day Program 9am-4pm** (With optional extended care.)

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

**2022 Program Schedule**

Session I June 28 - July 1  
Session II July 5 - 15  
Session III July 18 - 29  
Session IV Aug 1 - 12

Gala Awards Dinner  
Aug 11 (additional fee)

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

Contact us at:

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## 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.



### Michael James Costello

Former Island resident Michael Costello passed away at his home in Florida on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 25, 2021, at the age of 71.

Michael was born in the Pelham Bay area of the Bronx on April 17, 1950, to Thomas and Anne Costello, and lived most of his life on City Island. His family moved here in 1955, first to Minneford Avenue and then to Tier Street. Michael left the Island in 1975 but moved back in 2000.

He attended high school at Mount St. Michael in the Bronx and graduated from Southern Connecticut University with a double major in history and English. He planned to be a teacher but found his true calling with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He left City Island when he married his first wife and was transferred to Houston with the FBI. He married Gayle Moore in 2004, and they moved to the Tampa Bay area in Florida.

Michael served as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 32 years, from 1973 to 2005. His career involved kidnapping, bank robberies, Russian organized crime and worked with the Special Operations Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF), participating in the arrest of several terrorists on American soil. In October 1979 he was assigned to the detail protecting Pope John Paul II during his visit to New York City. He also worked the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, taking in as many of the events that he could, even running into a cousin who was working the food service there. Michael never wanted accolades for performing a job he loved and was very humble, the epitome of a Special Agent for the FBI. After retiring from the FBI, Michael worked as a substitute teacher for the school district in Stamford, CT.

Michael's first love was his family, followed closely by his religion and his devotion to the New York Yankees and New York Giants. He loved golf and played with a 6 handicap, even achieving a hole in one, of which he was very proud. He served as president of the Men's Club for Mount St. Michael during the time his son attended the school. He supported his children in all facets of their lives by attending sporting events and school functions. He was proud of their accomplishments and gave encouraging words when needed.

In 2000, Michael fulfilled a lifetime dream and took a trip to Ireland to visit relatives and see the family homestead. During his visit, he climbed the religious mountain Croagh Patrick, in Westport, County Mayo, climbing the rocky, slippery mountain in his bare feet, as St. Patrick had done so long ago. He completed the stations of the cross along the climb and at the top of the mountain surrounding the chapel.

He is survived by his wife, Gayle

Moore; his daughter, Kathleen Costello and two grandsons, Thomas and John Costello; his estranged son, Michael; his sisters Marianne (Frank) Quattrociocchi and Marie (Paul) Inserra; his brother, Thomas (Donna); numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Anne (McKeon), and his sister Regina (Stephan) Knapp.

A memorial service will be held in Worcester, MA, in the late spring. Those who wish to make a contribution in his memory may donate to his favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).



### Myra L. Martin

Myra L. Martin, a City Island resident for 77 years, passed away on Nov. 29, 2021, following a brief illness. She was 95.

Born in London, England, on Dec. 28, 1925, Myra was the oldest daughter of Violet and William Mackenzie and sister to Babette and Marigold. Myra's father, an actor, served in World War I, where he was gassed, an incident that resulted in his death from stomach cancer when Myra was 9 years old.

After her father's death, Myra and her sisters attended a boarding school specifically for children whose parents had been connected to theater. Located in the English countryside, the school was called The Actor's Orphanage.

The sisters were happy there until September 1940, when German bombs began falling on London and World War II was suddenly right on their doorstep, close enough that they could hear the bombs dropping. The parents of English school-children had to make the difficult decision to evacuate their children to foreign lands in order to keep them safe. That is how Myra, her sisters and all their classmates ended up in the United States in October 1940. The evacuation of their school was organized by playwright Noel Coward, who was president of the school at the time. Each child was sponsored by well-known actors and actresses of the day. Myra's sponsor was Mary Pickford, a silent film actress in the 1920s and founder of United Artists, as well as the Motion Picture Academy.

After a treacherous journey zigzagging across the Atlantic to avoid torpedoes, the children arrived in Canada and took a train to New York, eventually ending up in the Bronx on Stillwell Avenue just off the Pelham and Hutchinson River Parkways, at what was then known as the Edwin Gould Foundation.

Myra attended Christopher Columbus High School, where she met Albert Martin. In the spring of 1944 some of the children started returning to England, but Myra and Al decided to marry and were wed the day after D-Day, June 7, 1944. Myra and Al moved to City Island, where they raised six children and had 52 years together until Al's sudden death in 1997.

Myra worked in retail at Bloomingdale's in New Rochelle in the layette and infant department. She also worked for

many years for Lillian Vernon after the store opened a small shop in Mount Vernon as its mail order/catalogue business took off. She moved on to customer service and worked for the company until her retirement in the early 1990s.

She also worked for many years preparing desserts in the Black Whale during its heyday and might well be remembered for her delicious strawberry cheesecake. Myra was a long-time, active member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where she served as Church School Treasurer for many years, as well as co-coordinator of the church's Budget Corner Thrift Shop. She was a tireless worker at church fairs making hand-knit, craft and needlework items. She was also known for her homemade macaroni salad and bread and butter pickles, which she made each year from cucumbers she grew in her garden.

One of the great joys of Myra's life occurred in 1987 when she returned to Great Britain after nearly 47 years. She spent one week with her sister Marigold in England and another with her sister Babette in Scotland. She went on to make many more trips in the years that followed.

Myra loved her life on City Island, especially the summer months, when she could go to the beach or spend time in her garden. She made many friends during her lifetime and kept in touch with them. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and embraced life fully. She had a wonderful sense of humor, enjoyed a good party and a good laugh, and even liked a good strawberry daiquiri by the pool! She will be missed by her family and her many friends and neighbors.

She is survived by her children, Susan Winter, Deborah Martin, Cheryl Koller (Frank), Myla, Christopher and Babette Martin. She is also survived by her grandchildren Thomas Winter (Lea), Melissa Byrnes (Edward) and Frank Koller Jr. (Ryan Ann), as well as her great-grandchildren, Catherine Winter, Ryan, Liam and Erin Byrnes.

A celebration of Myra's life was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Dec. 12, 2021. Donations in her memory can be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464 or to Calvary Hospital, Att: Calvary Fund, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461.



### Patricia Quinn

Patricia "Patti" Quinn, a resident of City Island for more than 38 years, passed away on Dec. 30, 2021, at the age of 68.

Patti was born Patricia Carney in the Bronx to Edward and Theresa Carney on March 25, 1953. She married Kevin Quinn on Aug. 10, 1974, and was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Patti had a smile that lit up a room and always selflessly put the needs of others before her own, giving all she had to help anyone in need. This tied into her life's work, as a registered nurse for over 40 years. She was dedicated to her career and forged many lifelong friendships along the way.

She loved spending time with her family and friends. Trips to the Jersey Shore and Pine Lake Manor were something Patti looked forward to every year.

Patti is survived by her husband, Kevin Quinn; her sisters, Christine Valentino and Karen Southard, and her brother-in-law Edward Valentino; her children, Casey, Nolan and Courtney; her son-in-law Michael Higginbotham, and grandchildren Emma and Luke, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



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

FEBRUARY 2022									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0538	-0.55	1134	8.21	1817	-1.23			Tue 01
02 Wed	0009	7.65	0630	-0.70	1225	8.15	1904	-1.15	Wed 02
03 Thu	0057	7.75	0720	-0.70	1315	7.94	1949	-0.91	Thu 03
04 Fri	0144	7.71	0809	-0.54	1404	7.60	2033	-0.54	Fri 04
05 Sat	0231	7.56	0859	-0.27	1454	7.18	2118	-0.11	Sat 05
06 Sun	0321	7.34	0952	0.07	1548	6.75	2203	0.35	Sun 06
07 Mon	0414	7.09	1048	0.42	1647	6.38	2252	0.77	Mon 07
08 Tue	0512	6.88	1147	0.69	1749	6.14	2349	1.10	Tue 08
09 Wed	0613	6.76	1247	0.83	1849	6.06			Wed 09
10 Thu	0049	1.30	0711	6.77	1344	0.84	1946	6.13	Thu 10
11 Fri	0147	1.35	0806	6.87	1436	0.75	2039	6.31	Fri 11
12 Sat	0238	1.28	0855	7.03	1524	0.59	2126	6.54	Sat 12
13 Sun	0324	1.12	0939	7.20	1605	0.41	2209	6.76	Sun 13
14 Mon	0403	0.90	1016	7.35	1642	0.23	2244	6.95	Mon 14
15 Tue	0436	0.65	1043	7.48	1712	0.07	2310	7.13	Tue 15
16 Wed	0503	0.38	1101	7.61	1735	-0.10	2326	7.35	Wed 16
17 Thu	0532	0.09	1128	7.73	1757	-0.26	2350	7.60	Thu 17
18 Fri	0607	-0.17	1202	7.80	1827	-0.39			Fri 18
19 Sat	0024	7.83	0646	-0.33	1241	7.75	1903	-0.43	Sat 19
20 Sun	0103	7.97	0728	-0.37	1325	7.58	1943	-0.35	Sun 20
21 Mon	0146	7.99	0814	-0.26	1412	7.27	2028	-0.13	Mon 21
22 Tue	0234	7.88	0906	-0.02	1504	6.87	2117	0.20	Tue 22
23 Wed	0327	7.65	1006	0.29	1603	6.45	2213	0.58	Wed 23
24 Thu	0427	7.38	1128	0.56	1715	6.13	2322	0.91	Thu 24
25 Fri	0539	7.17	1320	0.48	1858	6.11			Fri 25
26 Sat	0112	0.98	0717	7.18	1432	0.13	2025	6.48	Sat 26
27 Sun	0242	0.62	0844	7.48	1532	-0.30	2127	6.97	Sun 27
28 Mon	0345	0.12	0946	7.83	1624	-0.67	2219	7.43	Mon 28
MARCH 2022									
01 Tue	0439	-0.35	1039	8.07	1713	-0.90	2307	7.79	Tue 01
02 Wed	0529	-0.69	1127	8.17	1758	-0.97	2352	7.99	Wed 02
03 Thu	0616	-0.86	1213	8.09	1840	-0.87			Thu 03
04 Fri	0033	8.03	0700	-0.83	1256	7.86	1920	-0.61	Fri 04
05 Sat	0114	7.93	0743	-0.61	1337	7.52	1956	-0.24	Sat 05



**IMAGINE**

Here at Sights and Sounds, we've had water-quality issues on the brain ever since the transition from the temporary water main to the new, permanent one was begun in earnest. That was about when we began hearing the stories about smelly drinking water. Since then the scuttlebutt seems to have died down, which may have had something to do with all of the bottled water that City Islanders seem to be drinking these days. Or perhaps it is the comfort there is in knowing how committed NYC remains to treating and testing the quality of our water. About a half million tests are performed annually up and down the waterline, from the reservoirs to the individual sampling stations.

But this month we want to turn our attention to the quality of our salt water. According to NYC's 2021 Beach Surveillance and Monitoring report, testing was scaled back for the 2021 beach season (5/29-9/12) because of Covid-19. Despite that, there were more beach closures as well as warnings, which are recommendations against swimming and wading, than in prior years. The report goes on to note that the increase was probably due to "excessive flooding from multiple tropical storms (Elsa, Henri, and Ida) that impacted the New York City shoreline."

In the past, where City Island beaches are concerned, we have let our own experience be the judge. If the water did not seem right for swimming, we didn't go. Happily, the water was as inviting as ever in 2021. We indulged at every opportunity. And were not alone! We even heard that City Island's own Polar Bears were still indulg-

ing after beach season, in early January.

By all accounts, the water is at its clearest when it is coldest. We have often marveled at how far down into the bay you can see on a winter's day. This seems to have something to do with the survivability of organisms as water temperatures change. As temperatures get too far below a species' preferred lower limit, the number of individuals decreases. Fewer plants and animals, big and small, even the microscopic ones, mean more clarity. And while clearer water does not necessarily mean cleaner water, it is worth noting that cold salt water can hold more dissolved oxygen (DO) than warm salt water. This is significant because studies have shown a correlation between more DO and less of the bacteria that scientists look for when testing for water quality.

Nature's ability to clean itself notwithstanding, people have played an important role in the improving water quality in our area. Just last December, for example, the DEC opened more than 6,000 acres of Western Long Island Sound waters to shell fishing for the first time since the 1970s (although not the City Island part of the Sound, not yet anyway). This probably would not have been possible without the Clean Water Act of 1972.

Other efforts are ongoing, although we wonder sometimes about simpler strategies that do not seem to get the kind of attention they deserve. Imagine if you would a world where people picked up the things they see in the water, on the beaches, or in the streets, for that matter, instead of leaving them there. Imagine how much cleaner the world would be if everyone took better care of their own little part of it.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo from Rosemary Verey, "The Garden in Winter" Captain Rawes

## Thoughts on Unusual Evergreens

I asked my grandson, who is 6, what his favorite tree was; immediately he said evergreens, so I asked him why. He said because they are beautiful in the winter when everything else is bare. A boy after my own heart. Aside from the ubiquitous arborvitae, box, yew and ivy, there are many other broad-leaved evergreens that we can choose to enhance the winter garden. They add beautiful foliage, as well as flowers and fruit, throughout other seasons of the year.

Holly brings nobility to the garden. The leaves sparkle and twinkle in the light, and the red berries are a welcome accent used in wreath-making. Ilex aquifolium, or English Christmas holly, is very beautiful. I also like the variety dragon lady, which is pyramidal in shape and grows to 15 feet. The young twigs are dark green, and the leaves are extra glossy with downward tips. Blue prince and china girl are also very lovely with slightly

larger leaves. Plant in groups as a hedge or one as a specimen.

Euphorbia robbiae (Miss Robb's spurge) is a small perennial with leathery leaves that does well in drought and deep shade. The flowers are chartreuse and come in late March through May. A useful, slow-spreading plant for the base of trees or as a groundcover. Another ground cover worth its weight is lamium maculatum; the "white nancy" variety is a perennial and provides wide mats of pewter-colored leaves with white flowers from June to July.

Leucothoe fontanesiana is a special broad-leaved evergreen shrub good for partial to full shade. Its leathery leaves gracefully arch to the ground to four feet. The "rainbow" variety has pink and white strokes swirled on its leaves, which turn purple during the winter months. A great plant for winter interest.

Black lily turf, or Ophiopogon planiscapus 'negrescens', is grasslike and in the lily family. In full sun it forms the darkest leaf color. Combined with silvery plants and white variegated ones, it forms a striking, contrasting composition. It can also be used with dark foliage plants and flower colors for a different palette.

Now to the plant that I cannot rave about more: mountain box, or Pachistima canbyi. It is native to eastern North America. A shrublet to 8 inches with finely textured leaves that spread outward and down if hanging over a wall. A weed suppressor, it will work in dry shade to sun and will grow where many other plants cannot. It is like a miniature yew, but relaxed. It can be sheared or left to creep among other plants such as epimedium. I have it skirting white rhododendrons in my garden, and I love it.

On to the viburnums, a vast kingdom of a family. Some of the greatest shrubs for the larger garden are here, including the double file and the early bodnantense 'Dawn'. The richness of the foliage alone is reason to add a few to any garden. The leather leaf vibur-

num, V. rhytidophyllum, is an evergreen and handsome with narrow, deeply veined, leathery leaves. They produce flowers and fruit, as do all of the species. There are no finer foliage plants, and all can be pruned to reduce their size. Use them in foundation mixed plantings around the house or as a backdrop to winter flowering plants.

No list of broad-leaved evergreens would be complete without the sumptuous camellia. On City Island I know of a few fantastic large specimens that produce the most gorgeous rose-shaped blossoms in late March and April. The dark, shiny, waxlike leaves are ovate and enhance the blossoms because of their deep green. I am partial to the white ones with yellow anthers, but the pink- and

rose-colored varieties are so romantic. Site carefully, for they do get quite large, like a small tree. Partial shade is a must; no direct sun. You can mix them with rhododendrons, as their leaves are quite similar.

Pairing these plants with trees that have interesting peeling bark, such as birch or cinnamon paperbark maple, would be enough to make a complete picture. Add to that some ubiquitous boxwood, and I am happy like my grandson, my ever-loving evergreen lover.

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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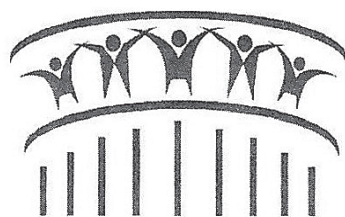
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# Setting Goals for Our Children and Ourselves in the Time of Covid Fatigue

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

“New Year’s Resolutions” have become a part of the pop culture, usually in the context of “how long will it take before I am back to my old habits?” At the gym, staff members often wink at one another as the crowds file in every Jan. 2, only to have things settle back to normal in a few weeks. Nevertheless, I still make goals in January, if only to have some sense of the journey for the next 12 months. I am reminded of this every year at this time: I use two daily meditation books for morning readings, and that sense of starting over each Jan. 1 (back to page one...) is a very real metaphor for the cycles of life.

This year—after a promising return to “near normalcy”—we are back in the world of Covid restrictions and uncertainty. There is a potential for despondency and regression, for both children and adults, and a renewed need for hope, resilience and goal-setting.

Children often do well with goals, especially with some modeling and help from parents. Just as we adults might need concrete and tangible reminders of our progress—a list on the fridge, daily weigh-ins, marks on a calendar, a regular deposit into a special account—children benefit from tangible reminders as well, such as stickers on a chart for the days when we accomplish our goal, marbles in a jar for jobs well done (with

a marble taken out for days we miss our target) and money earned in the piggy bank for a special purchase that will take a long time to afford.

So how do we set goals with our children?

- Be both **realistic** and **optimistic**: make sure at least some of the goals are easily attainable, while others might be idealistic dreams.

- Write goals that use **positive language** and speak to what we want rather than negating what we do not want. For example: say “pay attention to your pet’s needs” rather than “don’t forget to walk the dog.” (This involves neurolinguistic programming [NLP], which is a fascinating topic to explore all on its own.)

- Think in terms of **long-term** rather than **short-term** goals. Setting our sights on more distant achievements (getting a degree for an adult, or qualifying for the Olympics for a child) can build resilience and perseverance, even when there may be eventual disappointment.

- **Write your goals down** and share them with others in your family and your close friends. The list can be posted in a prominent place, and others can provide support and encouragement.

- **Start small**: one goal for yourself, one goal for your child, and try to accomplish that goal within one month. Then move on to a new goal for each of you, maybe incorporating some long-term goals along the way, and see how things progress.

- **Bounce back with style**. Make a good effort to show your child how to come back from initial defeats. With honesty, humility and a good sense of humor, we can certainly model the optimism we are trying to develop with goal setting. “Well, that was hard. No big surprise, huh? “I guess I didn’t try hard enough to really change my eating habits and lose the weight, but I do believe I can make this goal happen in the next month with renewed efforts!” Let’s support one another as we work to improve ourselves, our children and our families.

**Stop waiting for the City Council to lower its budget; we still need more TOUCHSCREEN SUBWAY KIOSKS.**

**Stop waiting for Albany to lower the state annual budget; they need to deal with the rising costs of the TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE.**

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



Aidan Hanley-Piri (l.) and Ryan Amos (r.)

Belated special birthday wishes to my grandson, Joe Penny, on turning 13 on Oct. 24. With lots of love, Grandma Penny.

Congratulations to Carroll Street's Ryan Amos, middle linebacker from Archbishop Stepinac High School, and to Earley Street's Aidan Hanley-Piri, quarterback from Cardinal Spellman High School. They were chosen to participate in the Catholic High School Football League's Senior Bowl on Dec. 4. They met in preschool at St. Mary's, graduated from P.S. 175 in 2018, and played Warrior Football together.

Happy Valentine's Day birthday to Angela D'Allara and her mother, Rose Booth, who celebrates on Feb. 4.

It's a milestone! Birthday greetings to Johnny Egdorf who turns 90, with love from Isabelle and family.

Happy Feb. 1 birthday wishes are being

sent across the miles to Virginia DiGregorio, with love from the Swieciki crew. We miss you!

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) volunteers, who were thrilled to learn that their organization was awarded a significant grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Way to go!

Happy birthday on Feb. 20 to Hawkins Street's Reid "Swampy" Travers, with love from Lori and friends. Enjoy your special day!

Kudos to City Islanders, once again, on having a higher vaccination rate than the Bronx and New York City. According to New York City statistics, 3,551 Islanders are vaccinated (82.86%). Keep up the good work!

Happy anniversary on Jan. 3 to Bay Street's Patrice Delaney and Mitchell Talavera.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day!

Maria Swieciki

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# ISLANDERS WELCOME HOLIDAY CHEER AGAIN



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT, LEAH NANI and RON TERNER

After many traditional holiday events were curtailed in 2020, the light of the season was aglow once again on City Island in 2021. The holiday tree and Hanukkah menorah were lighted in Hawkins Park (top photos), attended by in-person Island revelers and carolers. Trinity United Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church held their Christmas pageants (middle photos). The crèche at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church was beautifully decorated with care (bottom photo) as parishioners practiced social distancing during holiday services.



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